



Welcome to St Leonard's. If you're here for the first time or visiting, please say hello.

The nave will usually be open for private prayer & reflection on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings, and some Sunday afternoons.

Please note that this may be subject to change at short notice.

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 1st - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

2:00pm Digital Skills Course.

TUESDAY - we pray for staff and residents at Cheviot Nursing Home.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot.

7:30pm Medley House Group.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for all Hospital Chaplains Revd Linda Peall, Head of Chaplaincy, Mrs Sarah Amos, Revd Dennis Mahon, Revd Keith Ponsford.

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee.

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands.

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

12:00pm Day of Prayer for Roof Project

THURSDAY - we pray for our Junior Church team.

8:00am Eucharist.

FRIDAY - we pray for all who work in our local shops.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents of De Vere Road & Richardson Walk.

8:30am Men's Breakfast.

Services next Sunday

8th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

12:00pm Day of Prayer for Roof Project

5:30pm Evensong & Sermon

THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICES

8:00am **BCP Holy Communion**

9:45am **All-Age Christingle & Parish Eucharist**

(113, 721, 110, 429, 396, 808)

3:00pm **SLYC in the hall**

NEWS AND EVENTS

Prayer Ministry is available at the 9:45am services. If you would like someone to pray with you or for you please go to the Lady Chapel following the service.

Raise the Roof - We are launching our fundraising project for the roof repairs with 2 days of prayer on Wednesday 4th and Sunday 8th February. Please pop in if you are able to pray for our Church as we undertake this huge project.

SLYC is back! Fun for Year 4 children and above featuring the ever popular Tuck Shop! This afternoon, from 3-5pm in the church hall. Email to let us know that you are coming to: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org

Men's Breakfast takes place next Saturday, February 8th, in the Nicholls Room.

Palm Crosses – Please bring any old palm crosses to Church by Sunday 15th Feb so they can be used for the Ash Wednesday services.

Messy Pancakes takes place on Sunday 15th February at 3:00pm. Free activities and crafts, food and fun! All children must be accompanied by an adult. Email to let us know that you are coming to: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk.

Ash Wednesday Services - There will be two services with Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, at 10:00am & 7:30pm.

Liz Adams would be glad of any LARGE glass jars (e.g. empty Coffee jars) you can spare to use in flower arrangements. Please bring to Church and she will collect.

Mandy Allston will be selling raffle tickets after the 9:45am service in aid of **Brain Cancer Research**, £1 a ticket.

Our 9:45am service is usually live-streamed to include those who are unable to join with us. It is filmed from the balcony, and only the chancel area is visible during broadcast. The camera will be turned away during the giving of communion to avoid members of the congregation being visible.. We are happy to provide Communion to you in your pew, just let a steward or warden know.

Among those for whom we pray are:

Chris Andrews, Margaret Cox, Simon Eavery, Fiona Hunt, Robert Messinger, Margaret Smith, Angela Sargent, Dick Verrier, Richard, Johanne Bresch, Lionel Simpkins, Brian Root, Katrina Light, Joseph, David Moxon, Kim Harding, Graham Tyler, Jenny and Peter Hazlewood, Frances Bonner, Antonia Loxley, Janice, Kim Kite, Hugh and Mary Beavan, Michael Eavery, Freddie Woolard, Jan Buckley, Tony Gurney, Shirley Everitt, Stella Llewellyn, Pat Hughes, Doreen Mayes, Holly Donovan, Freda and Ernest Jenkins, Pam Hatherly, Owen Shepherd, Frances Dowson, Joan Collis, and those others known to us.

Those who have died & those who mourn them: James Blythe

COLLECT & READINGS (The Presentation of Christ)

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Malachi 3.1–5 (Old Testament, p926)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hebrews 2.14–end (New Testament p234)

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22–40 (New Testament p63)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.