

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.

THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICES

8:00am BCP Holy Communion
9:45am All-Age Parish Eucharist
 (94, 96, 98, 68, 103, 105)

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 4th - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Upper Shire: The Church of Central Africa.
 8:45am Morning Prayer.

TUESDAY - we pray for staff and residents at Woodland Drive Care Home.
 8:45am Morning Prayer.
 11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot.
 7:30pm Medley House Group.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for the Parish of St Luke's, Highwoods PIC Revd Hannah Cooper.
 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.

THURSDAY - we pray for the Anglican Communion.
 8:00am Eucharist

FRIDAY - we pray for all who work in local industry.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents of Clairmont Road and Piper Road.
 12:00pm Friendship Lunch.

Services next Sunday

11th January – The Baptism of Christ
 9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church
 5:30pm Evensong and Sermon

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.

Friendship Lunch is back on Saturday 10th January. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church or via the Parish Administrator - call 01206 575565 or email admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk.

Church Fundraising – Mike is setting up a Fundraising Committee to look at how we can raise money for Church funds. He is holding the 1st meeting at 7pm on Monday 19th January in the Nicholls Room. If anyone is interested in helping with this very important work please speak to Mike or just turn up on the night.

The next **Bible Study** group takes place on Wednesday 14th January at 7pm. Any queries contact Maggie on: maggiew234@gmail.com

Digital Services - The North East Essex Digital Access Support Team will be running a series of sessions aimed at helping people to improve their digital skills on Monday afternoons in the Nicholls room, starting at 2pm on Monday 19th January. There will be 8 sessions covering subjects such as how to use your smart device, using apps, online safety and many more. These sessions are completely free, if you think you may be interested in attending please speak to Esther who can give you more details.

The next **Women's Breakfast** is on Saturday 17th January in the Church. Contact maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk for more details.

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 the chancel and the front five rows of the nave are visible during broadcast. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit behind this area. We are happy to provide Communion to you in your pew, just let a steward or warden know & we will bring it to you.

Among those for whom we pray are:

Fiona Hunt, Robert Messinger, Ann and Paul Redfern, Phyll Wood, Margaret Smith, Angela Sargent, Dick Verrier, Richard, Derek Cowie, 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 Epiphany)

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 60.1–6 (Old Testament, p717)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalms 72.1–15 (Old Testament, p563)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

May he live[a] while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
May his foes[b] bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba

bring gifts.

May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Long may he live!

May gold of Sheba be given to him.
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.

Ephesians 3.1–12 (New Testament p206)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2.1–12 (New Testament p1)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.