

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**

(494, 595, 748, 135, 4, Lent prose, 667)

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

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

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

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Toamasina: The Province of the Indian Ocean.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

2:00pm Digital Skills Course.

TUESDAY - we pray for staff & 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 Parish of Lexden (St Leonard's) Associate Priests Revd Viv Mendham, Jacque Messinger & Maggie Whiteman.

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.

11:00am Lent Course.

7:00pm Lent Course.

THURSDAY - we pray for the Roman Catholic Church.

8:00am Eucharist.

FRIDAY - we pray for all in our farming communities.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents Firstone Drive and Shakespeare Road.

8:30am Men's Breakfast.

Services next Sunday

8th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

5:30pm Evensong & 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.

Our **Lent Course** this year is based on the book Dancing to the Heartbeat of God - Stories of Discipleship: The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2026. Sessions take place in the Nicholls Room at 11:00am and 7:00pm on Wednesday and continue on 11th, 18th & 25th March. We look forward to seeing you.

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, March 7th, in the Nicholls Room.

If Maureen Watkins was still with us, we know that she would want to be part of the fund-raising initiative for the roof repairs. With that in mind the Women's & Men's Breakfast Groups are running a joint **Parish Breakfast on Easter Saturday**, 4th April at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up on the form at the back of the church by Sunday 29th March. Donations on the day will go to the Raise the Roof fund.

Our **Church Spring Quiz** takes place on Friday March 13th starting at 7:00pm in the Church Hall. Tickets are priced at £10 (£5 under 16's) and include a light supper. They will be available from Steve Whiteman after the 9:45am service.

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:

Mick Adams, Joy Harman, Margaret Cox, Simon Eavery, Fiona Hunt, Robert Messinger, Eddie Allston. 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, 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: Patricia Thomas, Doreen Mayes, Revd Henry Heath

COLLECT & READINGS (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Genesis 12.1–4a (Old Testament, p10)

The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Romans 4.1–5, 13–17 (New Testament p164)

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed

to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3.1–17 (New Testament p100)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.