

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

9:45am **Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**
(584, 762, 682, 426, 429, Lent Prose, 761, Addington)
5:30pm **Evensong & Sermon**
(595, 634, 156, 387, Psalm 40)

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 8th - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Toronto: The Anglican Church of Canada.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

2:00pm Digital Skills Course.

6:30pm Eucharist.

7:00pm PCC Meeting.

TUESDAY - we pray for staff & pupils at Home Farm School.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for the Parish of Myland (St Michael) Associate Priest Revd Hazel Greenland.

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

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee.

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

11:00am Lent Course.

7:00pm Lent Course.

THURSDAY - we pray for the Old Catholic Church.

8:00am Eucharist.

FRIDAY - we pray for all in our Armed Forces.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents Fitzwalter Road and Shelley Road.

12:00pm Friendship Lunch.

Services next Sunday

15th March – Mothering Sunday

8:00am BCP Holy Communion

9:45am All-Age Parish Eucharist for Mothering Sunday

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 18th & 25th March. We look forward to seeing you.

Easter Flowers – if you would like to donate towards the Easter flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion please speak to Liz Adams 01206-549521.

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.

Friendship Lunch is back next Saturday 14th March. 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

Messy Easter takes place on Sunday 22nd March 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

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 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, 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: Angela Sargent

COLLECT & READINGS (3rd Sunday of Lent)

Collect

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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

Eternal God,

give us insight

to discern your will for us,

to give up what harms us,

and to seek the perfection we are promised

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Exodus 17.1–7 (Old Testament, p68)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Psalms 95 (Old Testament, p579)

Romans 5.1–11 (New Testament p165)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4.5–42 (New Testament p101)

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'