



THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

**ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.**



**PARISH MAGAZINE**

**MARCH-APRIL 2026 £1.00**



# Finding Time for God

As I look out today to write this piece the sun is shining and, although it's quite cold, it's not raining! This has been a feature of the last few weeks, and I hope that by the time you read this we are a little nearer to warmer weather.

We will certainly be in the time of Lent and then Easter and I hope that you will be finding time to just be with God and, perhaps, are attending the Lent courses which are taking place. If you can't make it to the church yourself perhaps you would like to follow the course by buying the book we are using, which is 'Dancing to the heartbeat of God', the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2026.

However, you choose to make Lenten time that little bit different from the usual I hope that you find it fulfilling. Please make it more than giving up chocolate, or sugar. Make it something personal between you and God. Perhaps, more prayer time, or bible reading time. More time given over to helping others.

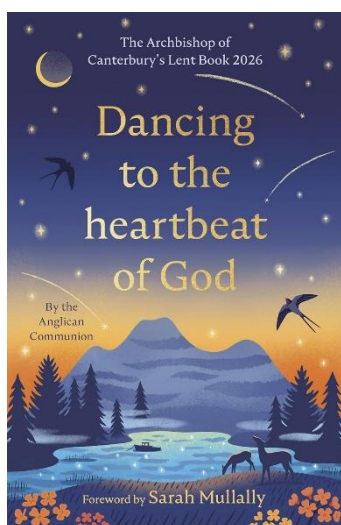
Time is a precious commodity and, if used wisely, can benefit many people including yourself. We all know that our time here on earth is not infinite and therefore we do need to live in the moment as much as possible, not wasting a minute. This doesn't mean rushing around and doing, doing, doing. Sometimes it means stopping and thinking and praying – just being.

Jesus said, 'Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.' This is a difficult thing to do. We often feel that we have all the cares of the world on our shoulders. The news distresses us and we see so many of our friends and family in need of help. But again, Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

And Lent is a good time to look at our burdens; many things which we worry about but cannot do anything about and worrying doesn't solve them or make them go away. Take them to Jesus at the foot of the cross and give them up to Him. Perhaps have a little bowl of water beside you as you pray. Get some little stones, each one representing a worry and as you pray let each stone slide into the water, slide from your heart and in doing so give that worry to God.

I wish you a happy and peaceful Lent and Easter. God bless,

**Reverend Jacquie.**



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 Wednesdays throughout Lent. We look forward to welcoming you.

# FROM THE EDITOR

Changes galore, since the end of January we have had the scaffolding go up to replace the roof on the main body of the church. It has taken to scaffolders 4 weeks to construct the lattice work of steel to protect our builders and enable us to continue to use the Church for our services. Not just services but Messy Church, a Chapter meeting, our Lent course, Men's and Women's breakfast, Loose Ends. The list goes on.

During the next two months we will have our Easter services and various fund-raising events. Fund raising has been split into two parts. one part for Raising the Roof which is self-explanatory and the other for our general running costs. So, we can look forward to a quiz night and a barn dance during the months of March and April.

So, watch this space

**Mike.**

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the MAY-JUNE edition:

SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Please submit items to the Editor  
email: [magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

Please include your name with any submission  
and limit text to 500-600 words maximum.  
Longer articles may be edited. Thank you.

# NP NICHOLAS PERCIVAL

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# MARCH-APRIL DIARY

## **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL-AGE EUCHARIST**

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

## **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 07954 138674)

## **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

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 in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

## **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

8.00am Eucharist

## **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

8:30am Men's Breakfast

## **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**5.30pm Evensong & Sermon**

## **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

6:30pm Eucharist

7:00pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Baby & Toddler Group Service for Mothering Sunday

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March

7:00pm Church Spring Quiz

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST for Mothering Sunday**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March

8:30am Women's Breakfast

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Passion Sunday**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**3:00pm Messy Easter**

**5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

8:00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST with procession of palms.**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

10:00am Brick Club in the Hall

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April -Maundy Thursday**

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist

9:00pm The Watch

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Good Friday

10:00am All Age Service for Good Friday

2:00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

8:30am Parish Breakfast

8:00pm The Easter Vigil and Blessing of the New Fire

*Incense will be used at this service*

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church and Blessing of the Easter Garden followed by Bonnet Parade and Egg Rolling**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

10:00am Brick Club in the Hall

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 07954 138674)

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April

7:00pm Barn Dance in the Hall

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**5:30pm Evensong & Sermon**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

8:30am Women's Breakfast

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

8.00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**12:00pm Baptism of Matilda Evans**

**5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

8.00am Eucharist

2:30pm Pop-Up Café in Church

## APCM - SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

All are welcome to attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will take place in church at 11:30am on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The financial statements and the parish reports relate to the calendar year 2025. Once completed and agreed, paperwork will be posted on the APCM area of our website by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. There you will find the notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting, nomination forms for election to the Parochial Church Council, nomination form for election to the Deanery Synod, and a nomination form for Churchwardens.

Notice of the meeting will also be displayed in church from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, when hardcopies of the forms will also be available at the back of the nave.

The 2025 financial statement and report is required to be available for at least 7 days before the meeting. By Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, hardcopies will be available at the back of church, and digital copies posted at <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/apcm/>

**We strongly encourage you to use the digital versions if you are able to.**

# From the Church Wardens

## **Vacancy Update**

As promised we said we would keep you up to date with our search for a new Priest in Charge. There is not a lot to report; the Parish Profile was submitted to the Arch Deacon; this was accepted with some minor changes. Since then, an advert has been placed in the Church Times, it will appear for a few weeks with a closing date about the middle of March. Hopefully we will have some applications and can proceed.

## **Roof Repairs**

Since the end of January, the builders have been constructing scaffolding, which is costing almost as much as the job itself. Thankfully the roofers are now in the process of doing the actual work; the old slates have been removed and are waiting to be sorted to find the best ones to go back on the roof so they can be seen from the road. The rear will have new Spanish slate, this was a directive from the Diocese, so we did not have an option. By the time the next magazine is published the roof should be finished.

## **Raising the Roof**

Thanks to David Burrows and his team we are pleased to say we have received some sizable grants to enable us to get on with the repairs, our envelope appeal is going well with people from both within and outside of the church contributing amounts of money as it stands at the moment we have raised over £41,500 towards our £75,000 target. Our grateful thanks to everyone who has given so generously.

## **Damage to the Church Yard**

As many of you will have seen the scaffolders were very careful about limiting damage to the church yard by putting down a protective matting. In view of the heavy continuous rain we have experienced since the start of the year, the ground is very soft and waterlogged and is easily churned up. We would respectfully ask that cars are not parked by the war memorial or other parts of the church yard. We do not have a problem with members of the congregation being dropped off at the main door, but please do not leave vehicles there as it is a fire exit.

**Nick and Mike**



## MOUSE TAILS

January and February always a bit dull for the St Leonard's mice community after the excitement of Christmas. However, there was a bit of adventure for the youngsters. Rupert and Molly awoke one morning and were thrilled to see SNOW!

Once they were muffled up in hats, scarves and gloves to Mum's satisfaction the twins scampered off to fetch their cousins and friends from various parts of the Church then rushed up to collect the Hall youngsters and collect all the sledges that the Dads had made for them over the years. Although the snow wasn't very deep it was certainly deep enough for the young mice who pulled the sledges to the top of the big slope leading from the Hall. Some of the dads had come along too to make sure the mice played safely. They all had a wonderful time and agreed that they would go out sledging every day while the snow lasted.



Grandad had kindly switched lessons to the afternoons whilst it was sledging weather, so all the youngsters trooped into the Hall for lessons. On one day each week they had arts and crafts session, and this was one of the favourite lessons for everyone. They learnt knitting, sewing, woodworking and made some wonderful things.

Easter would be in early April this year, so all the mice community had agreed to hold a meeting once the snow had gone to make arrangements. Of course, their activities had to be when the humans had left the Church.



Molly asked if they could have an Easter Hat parade again and that was agreed. Grandpa said he'd get as much information as possible about the human activities so they could work around them. There would be their own Easter Sunday Service, and the choir would sing their favourite - 'We plough the fields and scatter the goose seed on the ground' accompanied by Tommy Mouthorgan and his little band. It was agreed that they would have the usual feast in the Hall which would depend on what could be scavenged at the time, but they were hopeful of some boiled egg and watercress salad and maybe, even some chocolate and cake.

Everyone left the meeting buzzing with anticipation and planning what each of them would do and all agreed they were looking forward to Easter very much.

**CT**



# **Crossword**

## **(Solution next time)**

Visit us online at [www.johnfowlers.co.uk](http://www.johnfowlers.co.uk)  
[info@johnfowlers.co.uk](mailto:info@johnfowlers.co.uk)



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## Christingle Service

It was wonderful to see so many people in Church at our annual Christingle Celebration service which took place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Thanks to everyone who came to the service and donated to the Children's Society; we raised over £315.

Julie would also like to thank her wonderful team of Christingle makers who worked so hard to create our Christingles – thank you ladies!



# *Community Barn Dance*

St Leonards Church Hall

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Live music with caller provided by local band Ducking and Diving, ensuring a fun and engaging experience for all.

19:00 until 22:30, with doors opening at 18:30.

## *Admission and Refreshments*

£15 per person

including your choice of a hot dog or burger  
(plant-based alternative is available), as well as a hot drink.

Licensed bar

Raffle

*For tickets call Mandy on 07717197188*

*or email: [alchildminding@hotmail.com](mailto:alchildminding@hotmail.com)*

# THE FRIENDSHIP LINE

When the Friendship Line was started just 2 years ago, we just didn't know where it might lead or if even if people wanted to use it. Well, the Holy Spirit had other ideas!

The work of Friendship Line has led me to discover that there is a huge network of amazing people at St Leonard's who visit and care for so many members of our community - thank you and may God bless your ministry.

Some of the people we support need practical help; **one of our community is looking for help with their garden, especially as spring is approaching. If you know of a reliable gardener please get in touch with me so I can pass on details.**

## On a completely different note ...

As you will be aware we have enjoyed, for many years, the nativity scene created by Graham Tyler in our churchyard during the Christmas season.

The figures need to be replaced and unfortunately Graham feels he cannot undertake the necessary work due to his health problems.

If you, or someone you know, could undertake this task then please contact me or speak directly to Graham, who I know will be pleased to support in any way possible.



Take care & God bless,

**Rev Maggie**

maggiew234@gmail.com 07968958145

## February Friendship Lunch

A record number of guests attended the February Friendship Lunch which had a very definite Valentines Day theme with heart shaped serviettes, chocolates and lovely light decorations. Our group has gradually grown over the months, and we have been very pleased to welcome members of the local walking group. It's lovely to see Friendships blossoming and to hear the conversations happening around the tables. On the gloomy wet days, the delicious homemade soups have warmed us up, and the cakes and tarts are always a real treat. Thank you to all our caterers. Your hard work is very much appreciated. We have one more Friendship Lunch this spring on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 12 o'clock. Then we are back again in September. It would be lovely to see you so please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or ring the Parish Office if you would like to come.



# Friendship Lunches

**St Leonard's Church  
Lexden** welcomes you to its  
**Friendship Lunches**

Join us for delicious  
homemade soup and cake.

Every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday from **September to  
March** at 12pm

Please book by emailing  
[admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk)  
or phoning the Parish Office on **01206  
575565** or use the sign up sheet in  
Church.

**Donations welcome on the day.**

# SAVE THE DATE



## CHURCH SPRING QUIZ

Come and test your knowledge at a fun packed evening!!!

**Venue:** St Leonard's Church Hall, Lexden

**Date:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026



## SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> April 8:30am

Parish Breakfast in aid of the Roof Appeal.



## SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 7:00pm

Join us for a fun evening of live music with caller provided by Ducking and Diving.

£15 a ticket includes refreshments, licensed bar available



Christian Aid week takes place from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Every May, churches, and individuals across the UK, Republic of Ireland and the world host a huge range of fundraising events, making Christian Aid Week one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in the British Isles.



## SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Coffee morning hosted by Sarah Orr.



## SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 11:00am

St Leonard's Summer Fayre.

All the usual stalls, games, bar and lunches in church.

Plus entertainment from 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brass.



**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

Garden party hosted by Liz and Mick Adams.  
Please come along and support if you can.

# Harvest Supper

Venue: St Leonard's Church

Date: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October



## Remembrance Singalong

Come and join us in singing some of your favourite  
wartime songs!!!

**Venue:** St Leonard's Church

**Date:** November, More details to follow nearer the  
date.

## St Leonards Church Lexden

**CHRISTMAS MARKET 2026**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**In the Church Hall**

**11:00am to 2:00pm**

**Come and join us for our Annual Market  
All the usual stalls plus some new stalls, including  
Refreshments, Gifts, Christmas Fare, Cakes,  
Kiddies Corner, Tombola, Raffle and Father Christmas**



# Messy Pancakes!

It seems that everyone loves pancakes! We got through masses of pancakes, lemon juice, sugar and chocolate in our Shrove Tuesday celebrations. We ran pancake races, flipping pancakes as we ran, and had competitions to see who could toss the most pancakes in a minute. Our winner nearly managed one per second - amazing! We used paper plate pancakes, so it wasn't messy and they also made really good frisbees to throw and to catch in our pancake box. We discovered some really interesting pancake trivia - the largest pancake ever made measured 15 metres in diameter and weighed as heavy as a rhino! Did you know that in the UK we use over 50 million eggs on Pancake Day?



It was great to hear the children share their understanding of Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent. Some had been talking about it at school, and others remembered previous Messy Pancake sessions. We talked about Jesus going into the wilderness to prepare himself for his ministry and we shared a book called

*The Circles All Around Us* by Brad Montague which helped us to understand the part we can play in sharing God's love that is found within each one of us.



So, then it was time for our activities based on our theme of widening the circles around us as we share and care for more and more people. We made a card to send, a game to play with a friend, we showed ourselves in a circle of love and lastly made a pocketful of kindness filled with ideas

of sharing and caring to take us through the 40 days of Lent.



We hope everyone (nearly 80 of us) will come back to have more fun at Messy Easter on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March!

**The Messy Church Team**



## What's on for Children and Families in March and April

The Baby and Toddler Group takes place in the hall every Wednesday in term time at 9.30am or 11.00am. These sessions are identical. Our last Spring Term session is Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. We restart on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Just turn up!

<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>  <b>All Age Eucharist at 9.45am</b>  <b>SLYC youth group for youngsters in Year 4 and above, meets in the hall from 3-5pm. Please book at <a href="mailto:juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk">juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk</a></b></p>	
<p><b>8<sup>th</sup> March</b>  <b>Junior Church at 9.45am</b></p>	
<p><b>11<sup>th</sup> March (Wednesday)</b>  <b>Baby and Toddler Group's Mothering Day mini service in church at 10.45am. The two groups run as usual at 9.30am and 11.00am.</b></p>	
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b>  <b>All Age Mothering Sunday Service 9.45am</b></p>	
<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>  <b>Junior Church at 9.45am</b>  <b>Messy Easter in the church from 3-5pm</b>  <b>Please book at <a href="mailto:juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk">juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk</a></b></p>	
<p><b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>  <b>Palm Sunday with procession of palms starting from the hall at 9.45am</b></p>	
<p><b>31<sup>st</sup> March (Tuesday)</b>  <b>Brick Club in the Hall from 10-12noon. Just turn up and build!</b></p>	
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>  <b>Good Friday All Age Service at 10.00am, followed by hot cross buns!</b></p>	
<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>Easter Sunday at 9.45am, with Junior Church followed by Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Rolling after the service</b></p>	
<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> April (Tuesday)</b>  <b>Brick Club in the Hall from 10-12noon. Just turn up and build!</b></p>	
<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>Junior Church 9.45am</b></p>	
<p><b>26<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>Junior Church 9.45am</b></p>	

**May date for your diary - Messy Church 10<sup>th</sup> May!**

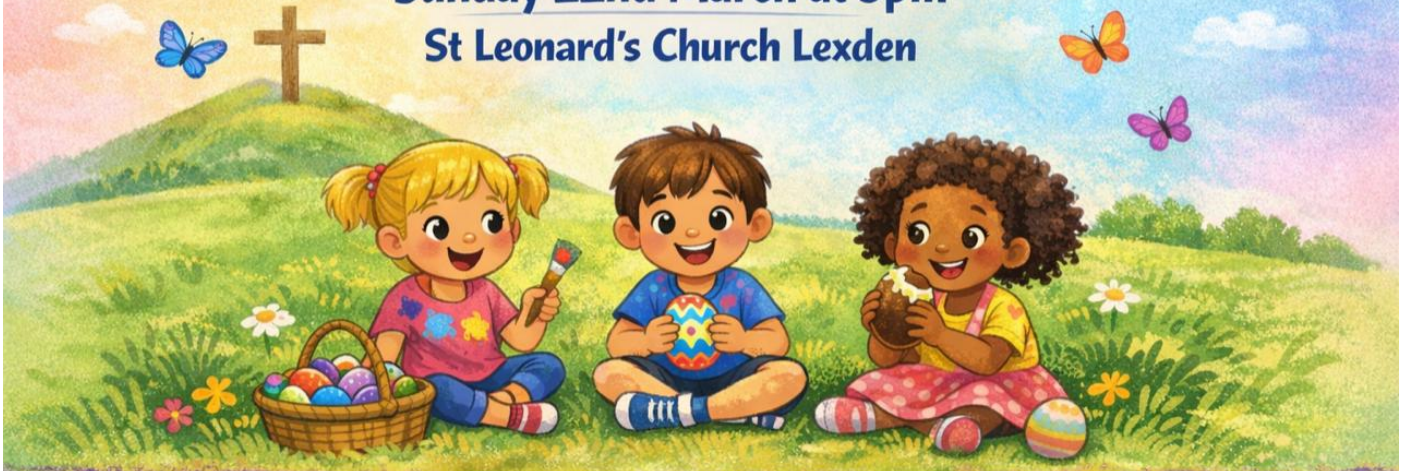
# Messy Easter



Fun crafts, activities and food!

Sunday 22nd March at 3pm

St Leonard's Church Lexden



Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please email to let us know if you are coming: [juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

## Baby and Toddler Group



Every Wednesday during term-time  
in the Church Hall

Session Times – 9:30am and 11:00am



Find us at [www.facebook.com/stleonardsbabyandtoddlergroup](https://www.facebook.com/stleonardsbabyandtoddlergroup)

## REVIEW OF THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2026

In preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on May 17th, we shall be reviewing the Electoral Roll. This is not a full review; if you have filled in an application form in the last six years, no further action is required. If you would like your name to be added to the roll, please complete a form and return it to the Parish Office by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Forms and a collecting box will be available in church from 5<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like some help with obtaining, completing or returning your form, please contact Esther Heptonstall (electoralroll@stleonardslexden.org.uk), or ask one of our Church Wardens or a member of the Ministry or Pastoral Teams.

You may wish to use an electronic version of the form. Please contact: electoralroll@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Please ensure that all forms are returned by **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April.**

You should be aware that information entered on your application form will be held on a computer database. It will be used only for the purposes of St Leonard's Church and will not be made available to outside organisations. We are required to display lists in church, which include names only.

\*If you are baptised and aged 16 or above, you are entitled to have your name on the roll if you either (a) live in the parish and are a member of Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, (b) live outside the parish but are such a member and have attended worship at St Leonard's regularly for six months, or (c) live outside the parish, are a member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity but which is not in communion with the Church of England, and are prepared to declare yourself a member of the Church of England having regularly attend public worship at St Leonard's for six months.



At a...

**"LOOSE  
END?"**

Just drop in to  
our "pop-up" cafe  
on the

**last Thursday of  
every month**

**@ 2:00pm**

Further details from:  
[maggiew234@gmail.com](mailto:maggiew234@gmail.com)

or

[admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk)



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  

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Diocese of Chelmsford



## **A Huge Thank You for Your Generosity!**

Our Church Leaders and Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed financially to our church's mission and ministry over the past year. Your giving is a vital enabler of all that we do together at St Leonard's.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a real difference. Your generous support is an essential contribution to the life of our church, both within our building and out in the community we serve.

Your giving also enables us to contribute our parish share; a contribution from every parish across the Diocese of Chelmsford, which helps fund local parish ministry across Essex and East London as part of our shared life together.

A new video, published by the Diocese of Chelmsford, has been produced to thank people for their generosity and explain how parish share works, pointing out that:

*"More is spent directly funding ministry in local parishes than is received in Parish Share"*

The video also dispels some myths and explains what parish share doesn't pay for.

Michaela Southworth, Chief Executive and Diocesan Secretary for Chelmsford Diocese, commented:

“This new video resource explains what happens to the money that is so generously given by people in our church communities across East London and Essex. We are thankful for this generosity which is vital to keep the ministries of our local parish churches running.”

To watch the video, scan the QR code below.



If you would like to speak to someone about regular giving to St Leonard's please contact Esther, our Parish Administrator on 01206-575565 or e-mail [admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026

## **PASSION SUNDAY** (22<sup>nd</sup> March)

*9:45am* PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

*3:00pm* MESSY HOLY WEEK

Mess! Fun! Food! Free kids' crafts, activities, games, stories & songs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No need to book, but - if you can - email [juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk)



*5:30pm* EUCHARIST FOR WHOLENESS AND HEALING

## **PALM SUNDAY** (29<sup>h</sup> March)

*9:45am* PARISH EUCHARIST & PROCESSION OF PALMS

## **MONDAY** (30<sup>th</sup> March)

*7:00pm* COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

## **TUESDAY** (31<sup>st</sup> March)

*10:00am* BRICK CLUB in the hall

*7:00pm* COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

## **WEDNESDAY** (1<sup>st</sup> April)

*10:00am* EUCHARIST followed by coffee

*7:00pm* COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (2<sup>nd</sup> April)

*7:30pm* EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER with foot washing

followed by the 'Watch,' a vigil of silent prayer until midnight

## **GOOD FRIDAY** (3<sup>rd</sup> April)

**10:00am ALL-AGE WORSHIP**, a service suitable for children and those of any age, followed by hot cross buns

### **Noon-2:00pm GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION**

A time of reflection— drop in and out as suits you

### **2:00pm THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY**

& Veneration of the Cross, with the Liturgy of the Sacrament

## **HOLY SATURDAY** (4<sup>th</sup> April)

### **8:00pm THE EASTER VIGIL & BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE**

A beautiful service of readings and symbols of new life

*Incense will be used at this service*

## **EASTER DAY** (5<sup>th</sup> April)

### **8:00am HOLY COMMUNION** (Book of Common Prayer)

### **9:45am EASTER EUCHARIST & BLESSING OF THE EASTER GARDEN,**

with Junior Church, and followed by egg rolling and an Easter bonnet parade

### ***Especially suitable for Children:***

**MESSY EASTER** (22<sup>nd</sup> March 3-5pm)

**ALL-AGE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** (3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10am)

**EASTER DAY EUCHARIST** with Junior Church (Easter Day, 9.45am)

Children are welcome at all our worship – got a question?

Email [juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

•Cards•  
•Framing•  
•Gallery•

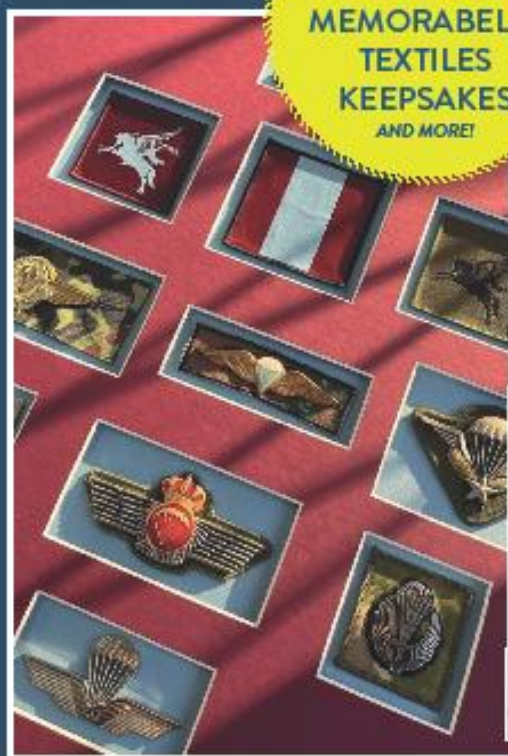
# SEBASTIAN WARNER *Framing*

UNIT 8, KINGSFORD BUSINESS CENTRE, LAYER RD,  
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## CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

Our planned Spring Clean on 28<sup>th</sup> March has been postponed until the work on the roof is complete.

Once we have a new date agreed we will let you know. Many hands make light work so if you can help please speak to Julie.

## Crossword Solution (from last magazine)



## From the Archives

For this edition of the magazine, I thought it would be good link to an event that took place in 1894 and in its way relates to the work we are carrying out on the Church Roof now. The following is taken from reports describing the Consecration of the new Chancel at St Leonards Lexden.

On a Thursday in late July of 1894 the new Chancel was consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese who also dedicated for use in the Divine Service some special gifts, unfortunately, what these gifts were is not mentioned in any detail.

When the church was built in 1822 the number it could hold was stated as 600, it would have been very tight even though the population was much thinner and smaller than we are now. When you study those attending, you realise that over 100 hundred invited were honoured guests, which included civic dignitaries and visiting clergy, before we take in to account the general congregation there would likely have been over 350 people in the church. To put this into context at our 4.30pm Service of Light service on Christmas Eve we got between 250 and 275 attending and that was very tight!!

The reports go on to mention the stained-glass window in the East end; it was constructed by Messers Heaton, Butley and Bane and was the special gift of the family and friends of the late Rector the Revd. J Papillon. The floor was the gift of Mrs J Papillon and is made of Devonshire red, Irish green and Italian white marble and was the work of Messers. Martinenghi and Gilhardi of Milan who introduced some of

their new mosaic. The then Rector Rev. Cannon. Lester donated the Holy Table and the Litany desk carved from dark English oak.

Among those attending were, the High Sheriff Mr Horace Egerton - Green his wife, the Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester Mr. and Mrs H. Goody, The Rev. T.L. Papillon son of the late Rector, and Mr. Round M.P..

The service started with a processional hymn as the choir and surpliced clergy entered the Church led by the Bishop, Cannon Lester and the Bishops Chaplain the Revd. C.A Jones followed by fourteen visiting clergy including the Rev R.A. Mitchell carrying the Pastoral Staff.

The Litany and a suffrage on behalf of the Chancel was given, followed by the consecration prayers and the dedication sentences by the Bishop. The bishop's sermon was a discourse on the subject of Christian worship. The Bishop spoke at length on how people worshipped but made the point that the necessity for worship was laid by God upon all Christians.

After the Sermon a collection was taken on behalf of the Chancel Fund and realised £41. The service concluded with a thanksgiving hymn "Now thank we all our God". The Bishop pronounced the blessing, the Clergy and choir left the church singing the recessional hymn.

It was estimated that prior to the dedication service £90 was still owed for the building work it was hoped that this would quickly be paid as the debt had been reduced to £49.

An estimate shows that the church obtained something like £5 per service from collections.



## Women's Breakfast



3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month in Church.  
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there...  
If you have any questions please contact  
[maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

## Men's Breakfast



1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month in Church.  
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there...  
If you have any questions please contact  
[davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

## FUNERALS

25<sup>th</sup> February  
Patricia Thomas



*'Rest in peace and rise in glory.'*



## CHURCH SPRING QUIZ

Come and test your knowledge at a fun packed evening!!!

**Venue:** St Leonard's Church Hall, Lexden

**Date/Time:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm

**Size of teams:** minimum 2 people, maximum 6

**Cost:** (cash only please) £10 per person / £5 for under 16s

**Tickets:** available at the back of Church during Sunday morning Services. Price includes a light buffet supper and drink. You can also bring your own drinks if preferred.



*Steve Whiteman*

Steve Whiteman, Quiz Master



Contact for any queries by email:  
[stevewhiteman211@gmail.com](mailto:stevewhiteman211@gmail.com)



# BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

## MARCH

Jenkinson, Edith Charlotte	26 <sup>th</sup> March 1880 – 27 <sup>th</sup> March 1882
Geernaert, Joseph John	12 <sup>th</sup> May 1828 – 28 <sup>th</sup> March 1885
Ferrett, John Sydney (Jack)	21 <sup>st</sup> June 1919 – 16 <sup>th</sup> March 1993
Pugh, James	25 <sup>th</sup> February 1922 – 21 <sup>st</sup> March 1993
Smith, Alan	17 <sup>th</sup> July 1926 – 21 <sup>st</sup> March 1987
Pudney, Norman Allan	28 <sup>th</sup> August 1926 – 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2005
Potter, Janet Mary	28 <sup>th</sup> March 1920 – 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2005
Henderson, Bryan William	7 <sup>th</sup> June 1934 – 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2006
Green, Frances Marjorie Lois	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 1914 – 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2004
Lomas, Olive Mary Elizabeth	26 <sup>th</sup> October 1914 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2008
Wiffen, Douglas Charles	18 <sup>th</sup> April 1928 – 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
Epsom, Doris Eileen	30 <sup>th</sup> September 1916 – 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2013
Taylor, Ida (Elsie)	1 <sup>st</sup> January 1916 – 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Gregory, Thomas Arthur	20 <sup>th</sup> January 1950 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016
Cooper, Paul Desmond	20 <sup>th</sup> December 1950 – 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2013
Potter, Robert	20 <sup>th</sup> December 1922 – 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Crockett, Brian	19 <sup>th</sup> March 1934- 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024



*If you would like the name of a relative added to the Book of Remembrance, you will find forms with instructions on the bookcase beside the north door.*

# BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

## APRIL

Epsom, Gordon John	13 <sup>th</sup> January 1919 – 19 <sup>th</sup> April 1985
London, Stanley Arthur James	4 <sup>th</sup> September 1910 – 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2003
Wright, Paul Middleton	25 <sup>th</sup> December 1940 – 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2003
Twydell, Horace Walter	13 <sup>th</sup> April 1922 – 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2004
Wellsted, Rod Edward	27 <sup>th</sup> March 1937 – 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2005
Gaunt, Rober George Armstrong	28 <sup>th</sup> June 1922 – 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2005
Moxon, George	13 <sup>th</sup> May 1916 – 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
Van Shaik, Paul Nicholas	27 <sup>th</sup> July 1951 – 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
Arkininstall, Betty	16 <sup>th</sup> January 1924 – 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
Baker, Mary	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 1909 – 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
Ireland, Paul Giuseppe	19 <sup>th</sup> December 1965 – 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
Pudney, Jean	31 <sup>st</sup> January 1924 – 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2010
Parker, Jenny	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 1953 – 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
Bradley, Michael	26 <sup>th</sup> May 1931 – 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
Cole, Mark Richard Morris	27 <sup>th</sup> December 1940 – 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
Burrage, Ruby	19 <sup>th</sup> August 1921 – 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2002
Kitson, Joan Rose	28 <sup>th</sup> August 1931 – 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
Isherwood, Dr. Michael Colin	16 <sup>th</sup> June 1945 – 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
Watkins, Maureen	29 <sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

# REGULAR SERVICES

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.00am 1662 BCP Holy Communion</b> (1st & 3rd Sundays) <b>9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays) <b>Or All Age Eucharist</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month) <b>5.30pm Evensong and Sermon</b> (2nd Sunday) <b>5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness &amp; Healing</b> (4th Sunday)
<b>Monday</b>	8:45am Morning Prayer
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:45am Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00am Eucharist
<b>Thursday</b>	8.00am Eucharist

## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

We offer a magazine subscription service.

If you wish to subscribe please pick up a form from the back of the Church and return to the parish administrator.



## PARISH BREAKFAST SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> April 8:30am

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.