



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY-JUNE 2026 £1.00



The Gift of Family

Recently I enjoyed a weekend with my siblings – we hadn't been together for quite some time as we live in 4 different areas of the country and with growing families who need our time! We enjoyed a very special time together and it got me thinking about the importance of family.

I also, on May 3rd, had the privilege of baptising Hugo, Esmae and Erin, the great grandchildren of Dennis & Mary Cook, who were such stalwarts of our church family at St Leonard's. That sense of continuity of the generations of folk, who have been part of our church is so important – in fact I will have been part of this community for 50 years and Dennis was the first person to greet me!

Family is one of those words that can feel both warm and complicated at the same time. For some, it brings to mind laughter and shared stories and the comfort of belonging. For others it may carry memories of strain, absence or loss. Yet, in all its forms, family remains one of the most important places where our lives are shaped and our faith is lived out.

At its heart, family is about relationship. It is where we first learn how to love and be loved, how to forgive and be forgiven, how to share, how to listen and sometimes how to disagree agreeably! These are not small lessons; they are the very foundations of a life that reflects something of God's own love.

In the Christian story, family matters deeply. Jesus, as we know was part of a family, which he honoured - even from the cross, ensuring that his mother would be cared for. Yet he also stretched the idea of family, reminding us that it's not just about blood ties, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." In other words, family. That is why the church is often described as a family; not a perfect one – far from it – but a place where we belong to one another. In a world that can feel increasingly individualistic and fragmented, this sense of belonging is precious. It reminds us that no one is meant to journey through life alone.

Family life, and that includes our church family, is not always easy. It requires patience, sacrifice and a willingness to keep going when things get difficult. It asks us to put others before ourselves, to speak kindly when we are tired and to choose forgiveness when it would be easier to hold onto hurt. With this kind of love we are drawn closer to God, because we begin to reflect something of his faithful, enduring love. Families come in all shapes and sizes and what matters most is the presence of love within them.

This sharing of love cherishes and nurtures the families we belong to and can become something deeply holy: the sharing of love reflects the very heart of God.

May our loving God bless you and all the families you belong to.

Amen.

Reverend Maggie.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the latest edition of the Parish Magazine, the last two months have been pretty hectic and there is a lot to catch up on.

Easter came and went and we must thank everyone for all their hard work, the clergy team did a great number of services over the period, and we thank them but also the flower arrangers. Following Peter Hearsom standing down as leader of the flower arrangers his role has been taken over by Liz Adams and the team produced some spectacular displays in memory of members of the congregation that have sadly passed.

There were two very successful events held, namely the Quiz Night and the Barn Dance which combined raised over £1200 towards church funds and we have more to look forward to with a coffee morning and the Summer Fete.

As summer approaches let us hope for many more positives and enjoyable weather.

Mike.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the JULY-AUGUST edition:

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

Please submit items to the Editor
email: 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.

Visit us online at www.johnfowlers.co.uk
info@johnfowlers.co.uk



JOHN FOWLERS

SOLICITORS

**Your Local Colchester
Solicitor**



01206 576151 | Town Hall Chambers, St Runwald Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1DS

MAY-JUNE DIARY

Saturday 2nd May

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 3rd May – 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL-AGE EUCHARIST with Baptism of Hugo, Esmae and Erin Wallis

Tuesday 5th May

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

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

Wednesday 6th May

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 7th May

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 10th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm Messy Buildings

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Monday 11th May

6:15pm Eucharist

7:00pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 13th May

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 14th May

7:30pm Eucharist for the Feast of the Ascension

Saturday 16th May

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 17th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

3:00pm SLYC in the hall

Wednesday 20th May

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 21st May

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 24th May – Pentecost

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

1:30pm Baptism of Margot King

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Tuesday 26th May

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 27th May

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 28th May

8.00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

SUNDAY 31st May –Trinity Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

11:45am APCM Meeting

3:00pm Together for the Church of England

Tuesday 2nd June

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

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

Wednesday 3rd June

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 4th June

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 6th June

8:30am Men's Breakfast

10:30am Coffee Morning at the home of Sarah Orr

SUNDAY 7th June – 1st Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL AGE PARISH EUCHARIST

Wednesday 10th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 11th June

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 14th June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Wednesday 17th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 18th June

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 20th June

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 21st June – 3rd Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST

Wednesday 24th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 25th June

8.00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

Friday 26th June

10:00am Church open for Fete Donations

Saturday 27th June

11:00am Summer Fete

SUNDAY 28th June – 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

12:00pm Baptism of Rhaenyra Hagger

1:30pm Baptism of George Henshaw

Crossword

(Solution next time)

APCM - SUNDAY 31ST MAY 2026

All are welcome to attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will take place in church at 11:30am on Sunday 31st 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 24th 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 17th 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 24th 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

Sadly our 1st advert for a new Priest-in Charge was not successful and no-one suitable applied. This is not unusual and the advert was re-posted at the end of April with a deadline of 21st May. Should anyone suitable come forward interviews will be held in early July.

Roof Repairs

Work on the roof began in January and the first month was spent erecting the scaffolding and plastic tent that covers the nave. This was to ensure we could continue our normal pattern of worship and events throughout the project. The work involves replacing a large number of slate tiles over the nave, repairs to much of the roof leadwork, repairs to the chimney and replacement of the rainwater pipe. Good progress has been made; the chimney repair work is complete, the slates on the roof have been replaced and the leadwork repairs tackled. We have also asked for a small amount of extra work to be done while the scaffolding is up.

The project was originally estimated to cost £150,000 including VAT. The extra work will push this nearer to £155,000.

Raise the Roof Campaign

The fundraising campaign was launched at the beginning of February. We committed £75,000 of our church reserves to the project and sought to raise £75,000 through grants and donations. We have been awarded £41,100 in grants from four charities. Donations under our "Raise the Roof" campaign have come in at an amazing rate. To date £28,000 has been pledged. As we are a charity, we are able to recover Gift Aid on much of this resulting in a further £6,500 from HMRC. Hence the total donated and committed comes to over £150,000. Donations continue to come in, and we have recently sent out an appeal to local businesses to help. Our grateful thanks to everyone who has given so generously.

Nick and Mike



MOUSE TAILS

St. Leonard's Church mice had the most wonderful Easter, all of the community came together for the special celebration. The Woods cousins had, as usual, come with their ever-increasing family, through the special tunnel pulling their sledges loaded with their contributions; elderflower wine and cordial, acorn beers, watercress and fresh herbs. The youngest mice were seated on the sledge. It was a jolly expedition, they were all singing and laughing and looking forward to their Easter get-together.

Once they arrived at the Hall they were greeted by all of their cousins, the Halls, Outsiders and all of the Church mice. Everyone hugged and chatted, thrilled to be together again. As always the mice worked around the human's schedule and Grandad outlined what the activities and schedule would be for them.



On Easter Sunday, after the human congregation had gone home, they had the Church to themselves and held a special Easter Service with Grandad officiating as usual. They sang along with the Church mouse choir, accompanied by Tommy Mouthorgan and his little band. After the Service they all wandered around the Church admiring the wonderful flower arrangements and looking out for any scraps of food or seeds to be found.

Grandad was heard to mutter that 'it's like herding kittens' as he attempted to get some 59 plus mice to process up to the Hall. Once there the youngsters proudly exchanged handmade cards and donned their special Easter bonnets. They had all worked hard on these, the girls had trimmed their bonnets with scraps of ribbon and



flowers whilst the boys chose twigs and leaves for theirs. They did a little parade around the Hall and amid much clapping and cheering Grandad declared that ALL of the hats were superb and the best ever.

Whilst the Mums worked together combining all the contributions to create an amazing buffet the Dads were sorting out drinks for everyone (sampling a few as they went!) The centrepiece of the feast was a huge cake made up of crumbs of different cakes and fresh berries and seeds; it was a truly wonderful sight.

The youngsters played their favourite games - pin the tail on the cat, blind mouse bluff, musical chairs and generally hurtling around the Hall and letting off energy until the Mums announced that the feast was ready. All of the mice applauded the Mums for producing such a splendid feast and happily found a seat and tucked In.



After the feast they had a bit of quiet time to catch up with each other's news and the youngsters had a little nap, truth to tell some of the adults snatched 40 winks as well!

Once everyone was ready, Tommy Mouthorgan and his band started playing favourite dancing tunes and all of the mice, young and old, happily bounced up and down the music. Eventually, everyone needed to sit and catch their breath. Grandad took this time to update everyone on forthcoming events. One that they were all interested in was a Barn dance to be held in the Hall and they were looking forward to that and maybe copy some of the ideas to stage a dance for themselves.

The youngest mice were falling asleep where they sat so the Mums rounded them all and took them to their nests, shortly all the mice were fast asleep with full bellies and dreaming of the great day they'd all had.

CT



PARISH BREAKFAST SATURDAY 4th April

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parish Breakfast on Holy Saturday, it was a wonderful way to celebrate Maureen's life. Special thanks to Maggie, Julie, Peter, David and Esther for their efforts in the kitchen and to the flower team for their patience and understanding when we got in the way of their creative endeavours! Over £380 was raised towards the Raise the Roof fund, a fitting tribute to a wonderful lady.



Tony Gurney 1926-2026

Antony Archer Gurney, or Tony as he was always known, passed away on 14th April after a short stay in Alderwood Care Home, aged nearly one hundred. After cremation, Tony will join his late wife Muriel in the Lexden Garden of Rest.

Tony's father was the Rector of Great Bromley and he was one of seven children. After school and serving with the Wiltshire Regiment in Europe at the end of the Second World War, Tony embarked on a career in horticulture and for most of his working life he looked after the grounds of NHS hospitals in and around Colchester.

Tony and Muriel moved to Lexden in 1954. Daughter Patsy was born in 1948 and son David six years later. They lived at Lexden House Cottage, then on London Road, followed by Henley Court and finally Straight Road for nearly fifty years.

From 1954 onwards the family attended St Leonard's very regularly. Between them, Tony and Muriel helped with the Youth Club, churchyard maintenance, grew plants for church fetes, joined in Open Gardens, supported the Drama Group, got involved in many other church activities and contributed to the various fund-raising appeals over the years.

The church, and St Leonard's in particular, were very important parts of Tony's life. In his final years at home he always looked forward to receiving communion, getting cards from the Junior Church and watching Songs of Praise on television.

Patsy and David Gurney



Christian Aid week takes place from 10th – 16th May.

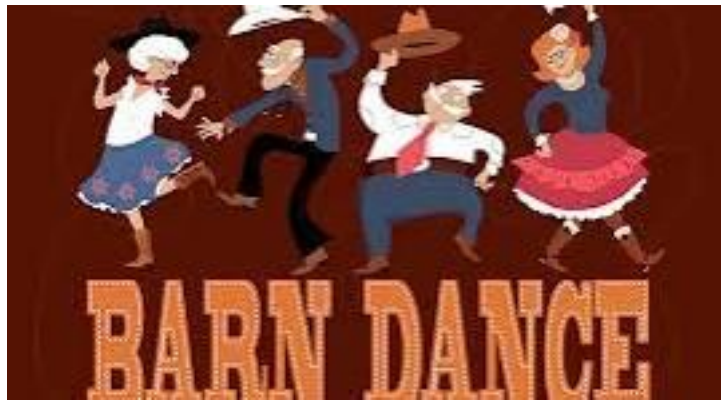
Count Your Blessings

Below is a list of things we do often but may take for granted. Many people around the world do not have the basics of life. There are no doubt many of things you could add to the list to make it personal. These are suggestions only; choose as few/many as you like but set aside a certain amount of money each time you

- Have a drink of water
- Flush the toilet
- Wash your hands
- Have a hot drink
- Take a bath or shower
- Read a book, magazine or newspaper
- Write something
- Watch TV
- Listen to radio
- Use your phone
- Use a tablet, laptop or computer
- Take medicine
- Get into a nice warm bed
- Buy a non-essential item
- Socialise with friends

On Sunday 17th May, the end of Christian Aid week, please bring whatever you have managed to collect to Church. There will be the usual coffee and tea at the end of the service but there will also be CAKE!! If you cannot attend you can put your donation through the door of 20 Wordsworth Road, Lexden, CO3 4HR. Together we can help the world's neediest people.

Thank you, Rosemary Elden.



Thank you to everyone who came to the Barn dance in April. As you can see a great time was had by all and over £800 was raised for Church funds.

Huge thanks to Nick and Mandy for organising such a fun night and to Judith and Ellen for their help on the night.



We hope to hold another one next year so watch this space!

NP NICHOLAS PERCIVAL

Incorporating **BS BIRCHALL
STEEL**

Residential & Commercial Estate Agents
Property Management | Chartered Surveyors



A multi award-winning practice,
covering North Essex & South Suffolk

01206 563222

Call us today to see how
we can help get you moving

info@nicholaspercival.co.uk | www.nicholaspercival.co.uk

Visit us at Beacon End Farmhouse, London Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 0NQ



MEET TOGETHER!



For the Church of England

Meet Together in the Diocese of Chelmsford

Gather for worship and discussion about moving towards a more diverse, equitable and inclusive Church of England.

A chance to meet others and find out how to get more involved. Light refreshments provided.

St Leonard's Church
Lexden
Colchester CO3 4BL

Sunday 31st May
3 - 4:30pm

Travel and access information can be found here:
www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/contact/

Email: chelmsdio.together@gmail.com

Website: <https://togethercofe.org.uk/>

Facebook Page: Together in Chelmsford Diocese

Easter

As always, we were treated to an incredible display of Easter Flowers



Flowers

Thank you to
Liz and her
team for all
you do to keep
the Church
looking
beautiful





SAVE THE DATE



Christian Aid week takes place from 10th – 16th May.

Please take a flyer and “Count your Blessings” – we will be collecting your donations after the 9:45am service on 17th May in exchange for cake!



SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

Coffee morning hosted by Sarah Orr.



SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 11:00am

St Leonard’s Summer Fete.

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



SATURDAY 25TH 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 4th 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 28th 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 Church News!

Each year St Leonard's takes part in the UK Messy Church Network Survey which gives a snapshot of what Messy Church looks like around the UK. This is helpful for the UK Messy Church organisation as it gives an insight on how and when Messy Church is happening across the country, and importantly, helps to identify areas where more support and resources are needed.

The survey is also useful for our own church as it makes us think more analytically about our own Messy Church worship and helps us to compare our Messy Church with others around the country.

This year 207 churches took part in the survey.

The average attendance at a Messy Church session is 43 people.

The age profile is 52% children and 48% adults.

For nearly 50% of people who attend Messy Church it is their only church.

This is very much in line with our own church except we have a higher percentage of people who only attend Messy Church.

The 2024 survey showed that 50% of churches had no youngsters attending in the 12-16 years age group. Interestingly this has dropped to 34% this year. We find ourselves in this group but the survey doesn't allow us to record the children who attend our SLYC youth group. As a church we try hard to provide opportunities for older children to meet together and to continue their spiritual growth in a safe and nurturing environment. Youngsters might consider they are too old for Messy Church and Junior Church, and SLYC provides an alternative.

This year we have been lucky enough to have had the help of one of our young people at our Messy Church sessions, working alongside the leaders. The Messy Church organisation had obviously seen this as an area for development and there is now a Messy Young Leader's Award Scheme. The aim of this is to make an opportunity for the discipleship of under-18s to develop through taking part in the leadership of a Messy Church. We are very much at the beginning of setting this up but it is an exciting development and we will let you know how it goes!

The Messy Church Team

Messy Building

Sunday 10th May at 3pm
at St Leonard's Church
Lexden



Crafts
Activities
Songs and Food

Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Please email to let us know if you are coming:
juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk





What's on for Children and Families in May and June

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. We will be taking a half term break on Wednesday 27th May but look forward to welcoming you on the remaining Wednesdays.

3rd May

All Age Eucharist at 9.45am

10th May

Junior Church at 9.45am

Also, Messy Building at 3pm in the church. Please book at juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk

17th May

SLYC youth group for youngsters in Year 4 and above, meets in the hall from 3-5pm. Please book at juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk

24th May

Junior Church at 9.45am

Tuesday 26th May

Brick Club in the hall from 10-12 noon. Just turn up and build!

31st May

7th June

All Age Service

14th June

Junior Church at 9.45am

21st June

Saturday 27th June

Summer Fete with lots of children's activities - see poster

Sunday 28th June

SLYC youth group for youngsters in Year 4 and above, meets in the hall from 3-5pm. Please book at 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

JUST TURN UP AND BUILD

ST LEONARD'S

BRICK CLUB

- Tuesday 26th May, 10am-12noon
- St Leonard's Church, Lexden
- Free of Charge. All Welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult



ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, LEXDEN

SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 27th June

11:00 to 14:00



- Live music **Ice cream** **BBQ**
 - Café** Puzzles and books **Cakes**
 - Tombola** Plant stall **Nearly new**
 - Crockery smash **Bar** Coconut shy
 - Raffle** **Children's stalls** 50/50
 - Crochet** **Chutneys and jams**
- And many other stalls**

Proud Sponsor

NP NICHOLAS
PERCIVAL

nicholaspercival.co.uk

The annual Summer Fete takes place this year on 27th June between 11:00am and 3:00pm.

In order to make this a successful (and profitable) event we are looking for donations of the following items

Non-perishable items

- Bottles (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) for the tombola
- Small pre-used items
- Jigsaws (complete)
- Board games
- Paperback and children's books
- Raffle prizes

Perishable items

- Cakes, sausage rolls etc. for the cake stall and cafeteria
- Plants – clearly labelled please

Thanks in advance for your help and generosity.

Donations of non-perishable items can be brought to Church now, perishable goods can be delivered on Friday 26th June from 10:00am or on the day.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Nick nick@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Mike mike@stleonardslexden.org.uk

•Cards•
•Framing•
•Gallery•

SEBASTIAN WARNER *Framing*

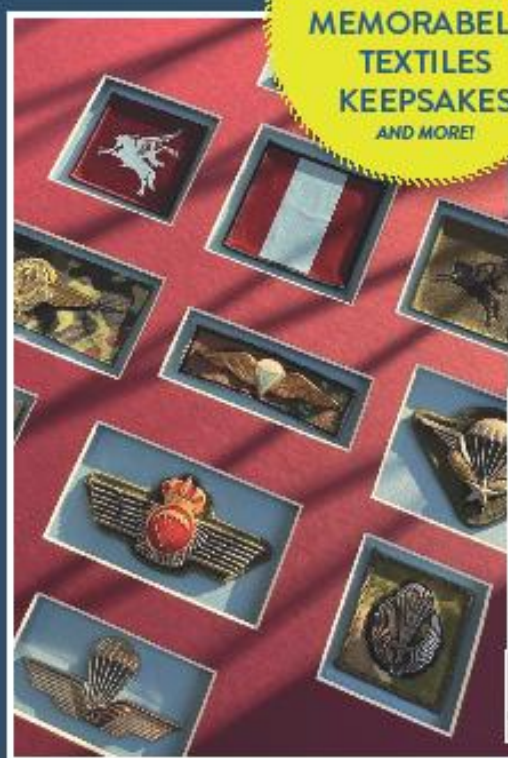
UNIT 8, KINGSFORD BUSINESS CENTRE, LAYER RD,
COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO2 0HT



**I FRAME
ART
PHOTOGRAPHS
MEMORABELIA
TEXTILES
KEEPSAKES
AND MORE!**

*Please visit my
website for
opening hours*

Free parking



Workshop: 01206 738700 | **Mob:** 07787503397
Email: sebastianwarnerframing@yahoo.com
www.sebastianwarnerframing.co.uk



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

or

admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk



The Church of England
in Essex and East London

Diocese of Chelmsford



What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) manages regular Direct Debit and one-off giving, designed to support churches to fund their mission and ministry. It reduces the burden of work on church volunteers and provides a simple and secure service to givers.

The service is freely available to all parishes, their churches and donors.

How it works

Givers can set up a Direct Debit with PGS online, over the phone or by filling in a paper gift form at church. This can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Each gift is restricted to a parish church chosen by the giver and cannot be used elsewhere. The gift will be passed back to the church by 10th of the month. Any eligible Gift Aid will be sent separately once it has been received from HMRC.

A unique feature of the scheme is the option for the giver to commit in principle to increase their gift annually in line with inflation. This is entirely at the giver's discretion on an opt-in basis, but it is proving popular - with approximately half of the donations received currently index-linked.

Key benefits

The individual benefits from:

- Retaining control of how much they give, how often and to which church

- Using a simple giving method that provides regular financial support to their church
- The option to increase giving annually to protect their gift against inflation
- Anonymity, if preferred
- Peace of mind that the Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme protects their gifts

Givers can choose to give regularly online, by phone or by post (using the PDF gift form available from your Parish Administrator) or make one-off gifts via the PGS website.

The treasurer benefits from:

- Reduced administration and paperwork
- Easy access to monthly and annual (both tax and calendar year) statements
- Saving time; for themselves and those who count the money from plate collections

The church benefits from:

- Stable and often increased planned giving, by launching PGS alongside a Giving Review
- Efficient and regular reclaim of Gift Aid, improving cashflow
- Protection against static giving, by offering givers the option to inflation-link their gift

Once you have decided on your gift amount, you can set up your regular gift to St Leonard's either:

- Online, visit www.parishgiving.org.uk.
- By phone, call 0333 002 1271, quoting code **080608476**.
- By post, ask Esther for a paper form.

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



BAPTISMS

19th April

Thomas Browning

26th April

Matilda Evans

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.'

**Crossword Solution
(from last magazine)**



From the Archives

Lexden's pre-Eighteenth Century Rectors

It was Cannon Lester who installed the boards that show the names of the Church's Rectors from the earliest recorded incumbent. Cannon Lester took it upon himself to remind the congregation that they were the inheritors of the church and its medieval predecessor. Sadly, Cannon Lester was unable to verify all those who had served the Parish and congregation over the years and several gaps appear in his history of the Church.

It was the custom of the time for the Lord of the Manor to appoint the incumbent, at this time the manor of Lexden was in the hands of the Fitzwalter family and the first recorded rector was Robert Gynon who was presented in 1325 by Robert Fitzwalter; little is known at this time about Robert Gynon except he seems to have served as Rector until mention is made of a certain Thomas in 1356. This means that Robert Gynon had probably survived the Black Death that swept through England in 1348 killing between a third and a half of the population.

It is stated that Rector Thomas was witness to an indenture of apprentices. If my reading of the records is correct this links to the Ordinance of Labourers in 1349 and the Statute of Labourers in 1351 introduced by the King. These laws were introduced to try and reassert the control the ruling classes had over the working people of this country. Following the massive loss of life caused by the Black Death working people realised that they now had the power to demand better conditions. The ruling classes still had to provide the King with money and the only way they could do it was to pay higher wages, which in turn meant ordinary people could in theory move around to find better paying work. As can be imagined this did not go down well with the ruling classes who tried by these laws to reassert the wage structure of 1346. It met with resentment from ordinary people, also some of the ruling elite chose to ignore the laws and paid higher wages, just to

maintain a workforce. The more those ruling the country tried to reassert power, the more the ordinary people began to get angry. This culminated in the Peasants revolt which was led by a priest called John Ball and Watt Tyler, both of whom have tenuous links to Colchester.

Rector Thomas was replaced by John Richard who held the living until 1367. John Richard was replaced by Stephen Balton, both John Richard and Stephen Balton had come from the Parish of Abberton. Stephen Balton was replaced in 1371 by Robert Ward from the parish of Ardleigh, he in turn was succeeded by Ralph Henman from Peldon and he was at Lexden until 1384. Thus, seeing at first hand the Peasants Revolt, we know that in Colchester the revolt resulted in the destruction of many ancient documents. The next Rector Richard Thirde died within a year of taking up his post and was succeed by Henry Makesey who was rector until 1398.

During these years it was the Fitzwater's as Lords of the Manor who continued to present the new rectors, in fact it was the widow of Lord Walter Fitzwalter who presented Robert Ward, Peter Alfrith was presented by the guardian of Walter heir, he probably served as the minors tutor, During the heirs minority Thomas Percy, Henry Winton and others are named as Fitzwalter's minority. They appointed William Casse in 1398, Thomas Hilbrand, date of incumbency unknown and Robert Prytt in 1422. No patron is named for Richard Papy in 1424 but in 1426 the new Lord Fitzwalter presented William Ragdale and two years later Ralph Copyng who stayed until 1440 when he moved to Wimbush. During this time the male line of the Fitzwalter family had died out, and it was Elizabeth who was Baroness Fitzwalter in her own right. Her title was taken by her Husband Sir John Ratcliffe. Sadly, Sir John died in the Wars of the Roses while his son was still a minor.

I will pick this up in the next magazine when we will look at how the Fitzwalter line continues.



Women's Breakfast



3rd 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

Men's Breakfast



1st 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

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

MAY

Long, Emily Jane	4 th May 1892 – 16 th May 1968
Cook, Agnes Frances	18 th September 1906 – 15 th May 1988
Long, Maurice Donald	28 th October 1927 – 3 rd May 1992
Rowe, Valerie Doris	9 th June 1932 – 13 th May 2000
Niblett, Harry George	21 st July 1911 – 23 rd May 2003
York-Moore, Aline Rosemary	7 th July 1925 – 20 th May 2004
Walden, Gwendoline Irene May	13 th May 1917 – 7 th May 2006
O'Keefe, Frank Dennis	3 rd May 1931 – 21 st May 2007
Claxton, Cyril Arthur	4 th September 1913 – 18 th May 2008
Highfield, Peter Martin	5 th August 1961 – 27 th May 2009
Rhodes, Christopher John	4 th September 1944 – 31 st May 2011
Adamou, Gertrude	5 th January 1916 – 5 th May 2010
Ellis, Vera Jessie	5 th November 1928 – 17 th May 2001
Cook, Mary Elizabeth	13 th May 1929 – 11 th May 2020
Hall, Maureen	13 th August 1927 – 4 th May 2024

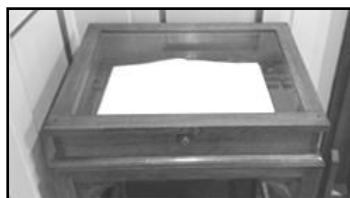


If you would like the name of a relative added to the Book of Remembrance, you will find forms with instructions on the bookcase beside the north door.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

JUNE

Scrimgeour, Freda Evelyn	11 th August 1941 – 3 rd June 1992
Teggin, Margaret Ellen	8 th November 1924 – 13 th June 2000
Breens, Cyril Arthur	3 rd June 1915 – 13 th June 1986
Shepherd, Queenie	5 th December 1928 – 6 th June 2005
King, Betty Doris	12 th March 1924 – 29 th June 2006
Green, James Bisdee Malcolm	27 th January 1910 – 27 th June 2005
Marchington, Arthur Henry	27 th August 1922 – 1 st June 2007
Long, Ernest John Walker	30 th April 1924 – 22 nd June 2008
London, Betty Florence	8 th December 1914 – 18 th June 2009
Bareham, Peter Harold	29 th July 1923 – 18 th June 2011
Hull, Mary	July 1922 – 15 th June 2012
Yeats, Roy Walter	18 th March 1930 – 26 th June 2012
Cook, Ralph Harvey	24 th June 1923 – 19 th June 2017
Niblett, Miriam Emily Lucy	19 th March 1920 – 6 th June 2016
Lappage, Pamela Dorothy	21 st May 1938 – 22 nd June 2022



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.

REGULAR SERVICES

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