



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY-AUGUST 2026 £1.00



Carpe Diem!

Here we are, half way through 2026 already. For many of us, the time has flown by, while perhaps for others the days seem to pass slowly. Our experience of life can seem to be beyond our control, but some recent events served to remind me of that old adage, *carpe diem* – seize the day.

Some people love surprises – not me. I'm happiest when I know what to expect, am well prepared, and the way ahead is clear. But during a recent holiday, unforeseen events took me out of that comfort zone.

The ten-day itinerary had been carefully planned, with flights, accommodation and excursions all thoroughly researched and booked. Only the weather was outside our control... Mid-holiday we were due to fly to another destination, but dense fog - unprecedented in summer, according to the locals - descended on the little airport. No planes were landing or taking off. The fog took three days to clear, then descended again on the day we were due to fly home. We finally departed two days late, having spent several days in the airport, interspersed with single nights in various hotels. Living out of suitcases, our routine became: turn up, queue, check in, wait several hours, flight cancelled, reclaim our luggage, try again tomorrow!

But still we had a wonderful holiday. It may not have been the trip we had planned, but in our adventure there were many moments of unexpected joy. And we had fun! We met warm-hearted people, we had time to chat, we were never bored, and we laughed a lot. Each day at the airport we would greet familiar faces; in the companionship of our fellow travellers, the good humour of the hard-pressed airport staff

and the helpful local travel agents, we encountered the best of human nature, kindness and resilience.

Children were particularly impressive in their adaptability to hours of waiting around. As eventually we all trudged wearily across the tarmac towards our long-delayed plane, a little boy in front of me jumped all the way, hopscotch-style, on the white lines, spontaneously creating his own little game. He was, for that moment, fully absorbed in the present, simply and innocently seizing the day and finding some joy. That little boy was instinctively making the most of life *as it was*.

Jesus knew the value of such uncomplicated thinking and urged his followers to become like children (*Matthew 18.1-5*). The present is the only time of which we can be certain; we can't recapture the past or control the future. Worry changes nothing, nor does discontent; they just make our lives miserable and close our eyes to the small joys around us. Jesus also said, in his Sermon on the Mount, 'Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own' (*Matthew 6.34*). We don't know what's ahead, but we can choose to make the best of today.

We are coming up to a year without a priest-in-charge, but we are not diminished or disheartened, and with everybody working together, St Leonard's continues to worship, serve and flourish. I believe that we as a congregation are doing our best to seize the day as it is and live our best lives in the here and now, where there is joy to be found.

Viv

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the latest edition of the Magazine, we hope you have not suffered too much with the extreme weather and sleepless nights. Among other things, this edition contains information about our successful Summer Fayre and the Coffee morning held at the Home of Sarah Orr.

As we enter the summer months many of our regular events take a break, but our Services continue as will Men's Breakfast. Through the school holidays we will run our Brick Club for younger children and in late July Liz Adams will host a Garden party.

It is great to have the church back again without its covering of scaffold poles and it is pleasing to say that the work completed should ensure the survival of the church for another 200 years.

Finally enjoy the summer, we expect another heat wave at some point so please be safe.

Mike.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the JULY-AUGUST edition:

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST

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
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JULY-AUGUST DIARY

Wednesday 1st July

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 2nd July

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 4th July

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 5th July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

Tuesday 7th July

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot
7:30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 07954-138674)

Wednesday 8th July

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 9th July

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 12th July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5:30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 13th July

6:15pm Eucharist
7:00pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 15th July

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 16th July

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 19th July

8:30am Women's Breakfast in the Church

SUNDAY 19th July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

Tuesday 21st July

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 22nd July

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

7:00pm Bible Study Group at the home of David Watkins

Thursday 23rd July

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 25th July

2:30pm Afternoon Tea Party at the home of Liz, Mick and Amy Adams

SUNDAY 26th July – 8th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Baptism of Montgomery Cook

12:00pm Baptism of Jonathan, Callie and Freddie Helbing

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Tuesday 28th July

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 29th July

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 30th July

8:00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

Saturday 1st August

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 2nd August - 9th Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST with Baptism of Finn and Seth Percy

Tuesday 4th August

10:00am Brick Club

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7:30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 07954-138674)

Wednesday 5th August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

Thursday 6th August

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 9th August - 10th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

Tuesday 11th August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 12th August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 13th August

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 16th August - 11th Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

12:00pm Baptism of Isla-Rae Ayles

Tuesday 18th August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 19th August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 20th August

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 23rd August – 12th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Tuesday 25th August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 26th August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 27th August

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 30th August – 13th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS



3rd May

Hugo, Esmæ & Erin Wallis

24th May

Margot King

21st June

Sienna Ward

28th June

Rhaenyra Hagger

George Henshaw

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

FUNERALS

3rd June

Brian Root

11th June

Owen Shepherd

26th June

Evelyn Sibley



'Rest in peace, and rise in glory.'

Crossword

(Solution next time)

APCM - SUNDAY 31ST MAY 2026

The APCM took place on Sunday 31st May and was attended by around 30 members of the congregation. The meeting was chaired by Nick Allston (Churchwarden). The following is a summary of the outcome of the meeting.

1. Election of Churchwardens. Nick Allston and Mike Firth were unanimously elected as our Churchwardens for another year.
2. The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish in general, and the Financial Statement had been made available previously to the congregation. There were no matters arising from either report and both were approved.
3. The Financial Statement. The accounts this year show income of £146,867 compared to a higher £154,395 from last year. This decrease is partly due to an inflated figure in 2024 as a result of a delayed insurance settlement for the church floor. Claiming Gift Aid on donations continues to provide a significant income, in 2025 amounting to £17,687. Expenditure for 2025 was £154,447 down from £195,763 in the previous year. The decreased expenditure was due to a reduction in maintenance costs, reduced utility bills and a reduction in Parish share. This year the accounts show a deficit balance of £7580 which is significant reduction on previous years. Thanks were expressed to Adrian and Clare as they step down from several years as members of the Treasury Team.
4. Election of Representatives of the Laity to the Deanery Synod -Julie Hinchcliffe, Deirdre Fordham and Linda Firth were elected to continue as our representatives.

APCM - SUNDAY 31ST MAY 2026

5. Election of Representatives of the Laity to the Parochial Church Council – one nomination was received for Mandy Allston who was duly elected.
6. The appointment of Independent Examiners - Peyton Tyler Mears were proposed and unanimously appointed.
7. Appointment of Child Protection Officer and Adult Safeguarding Officer - Julie Hinchcliffe continues as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and Mandy Allston as Deputy Safeguarding Officer. They were both thanked for all their work during the year.
8. Churchwardens Assistants – Peter Hinchcliffe, Steph Newland and Esther Heptonstall will continue to support Nick and Mike as Churchwarden’s assistants. Nick thanked them for what they do in making the role manageable for himself and Mike.
9. Loess Overbury-Tapper thanked the congregation for the welcome she had received since joining the Church in January.
9. Esther Heptonstall proposed a vote of thanks to the Churchwardens for everything they have done to keep the Parish operating in this time of vacancy. The Churchwarden’s role is not an easy one and it made even more difficult when a Church is in vacancy as they hold responsibility for the running of the parish.
10. Nick thanked all those who give service at St Leonard’s in any way over the last year. He added his personal thanks to everyone who has helped him in his continuing role as Churchwarden.

From the Church Wardens

Vacancy Update

Sadly our 2nd advert for a new Priest-in Charge was not successful and no-one suitable applied. Whilst this is disappointing, it is not unexpected and the advert will now re-run in August. Should anyone suitable come forward interviews will be held in October. Please continue to pray that God will guide the right person to see our advert and apply.

Roof Repairs

The work on the rood came to an end in May and should keep the Church dry for many years to come. The project was originally estimated to cost £150,000 including VAT but with some extra work being needed it has come in at nearer to £155,000.

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 another £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 totalled just over £29,000. As we are a charity, we are able to recover Gift Aid on much of this resulting in a further £6,400 from HMRC. Hence the total donated and committed comes to over £151,000. Our grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Now that the roof has been completed we are looking towards the future. Next year (2027) we will have our 5-year review (Quinquennial) of the Church. Currently a number of jobs from the last review are still outstanding which we will continue to work our way through.

We have already received two quotes to renew the hall roof and are awaiting a third, once we know what we need in the way of finance we can begin to move forward. It is also becoming apparent that the church IT systems are out of date and need to be upgraded, the first order of business there is an updated PC to run the sound system which will greatly improve its reliability and ease of use.

Nick and Mike

MOUSETAILS

The Adventures of Ethel, Bert and Thomas



One of our lovely ladies from St Leonard's Church was on holiday and visited Hereford Cathedral. Now, unbeknown to her when she returned home she was carrying three extra passengers.

When she went to Church her three passengers jumped from their hidey hole in the car and scurried into the woods on Church Lane.

Before long the mice encountered the Woods mice who took them to meet the family and have some refreshments for it had been a long journey and they were hungry, thirsty and a little bit scared about being in a strange place.

Mrs, Wood, a kind, motherly soul asked the young mice their names and how they came to be in Lexden.

The mice introduced themselves – Ethel, Bert and Thomas and said they'd been living in Hereford Cathedral with their family and one day they were playing hide and seek in the grounds. Seeing an open car door Thomas leapt in and hid quickly followed by Ethel and Bert. They had no idea that they were in a car and that they were about to embark on a long journey.

Oh, my goodness, said Mrs, Woods, your parents will be frantic with worry by now, I know I would be.

When the young mice realised that they were unlikely to ever see their family again they all became very distressed and started sobbing.

After much discussion Mr. Woods decided that, as they were all going to go to St. Leonard's to stay with their Church cousins in time for the annual Summer Fayre, they would go a few days early and seek advice from Grandpa, he will know what to do for the best.

The following day, all of the Woods family and the three new visitors, loaded up several sledges with all their possessions and headed through the tunnel to the Church. By now, Ethel, Bert and Thomas had stopped sobbing and were enjoying this new adventure.



Grandpa and the Balcony family welcomed the new mice and told them about the forthcoming Fayre but until then they invited them to stay with the Balconies and become part of the family. Rupert and Molly were delighted and took the new family members off to show them around and tell them what fun they would all have at the Fayre.

On the day of the Fayre all of the Church mice headed for the Hall as usual and quickly sorted out their nests for the next few days. Ethel, Bert and Thomas were welcomed by the Hall youngsters and soon felt quite at home and looked forward to many adventures with their new family.



After discussions with all the family, Grandpa told the little mice that they would ask Blackie, a friendly blackbird if she could fly to Hereford Cathedral, find the trio's parents and tell them where they were and that they would be safe.



The Summer Fayre was a wonderful day, lovely music and wondrous food smells, all of the mice were hiding and watching and when all of the humans had left they all rushed out to scavenge everything they could, mainly food but the youngsters also found scraps of ribbon, crayons and all sorts of shiny stuff.



As usual, all the mice gathered in the Hall to enjoy a feast, music and each others company. Tommy Organ and his band entertained them all.



It transpired that Ethel had a lovely singing voice and joined the choir. Bert and Thomas could both play the home made instruments and joined the band.

Although they felt sad about leaving their home and parents they all thought they would be very happy living at St Leonard's and with the optimism of youth looked forward to many more adventures.

*Written by CT produced
by AI*

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Crossword Solution (from last magazine)

NP NICHOLAS PERCIVAL

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Deanery Day

Saturday 10th October 2026

9:30am - 3:30pm

St. John's Church, Colchester CO4 0HP



We're looking forward to welcoming everyone to our second annual Deanery Day on 10th October. The theme this year is 'Mission' -and as the Gospel is for everyone, mission is for everyone and so is our Deanery Day.

Deanery Day

There'll be worship, seminars, talks and workshops covering the widest possible range of topics relevant to all our Church members, including mission.....
in the workplace
with young people
with those in later life
with those with any disability
in urban and rural environments
and much more.

So put the date in your diary, and spread the word in Church.
It's a Day not to be missed!



Sandra Archer

Sandra is a faithful member of All Saints but has been known to visit St Leonard's on occasion. She also helps to feed and water us at the Community Cafe at St Cedds. Here she is pictured as a fully committed fan of the England football team - I think the socks add a touch of magic. Let's hope England can work some magic and bring "football home" and the nation together. Thank you Sandra for your love and commitment to All Saints and St Cedds.



A Tribute to Brian Root

We gather today to give thanks for the life of Brian, to remember him with affection, and to commend him into God's loving care.

Brian was a private man, someone who it was difficult to get to know and yet someone you would not forget. He was not someone who sought the limelight or demanded attention. Sometimes it is the quieter people who leave the deepest impression, and Brian was certainly one of those people.

As members of this church family will know, Brian was a regular and valued part of our congregation. He was also a committed member of a house group, where he shared fellowship, friendship, prayer and discussion. One of the characters who appears in today's Gospel is Thomas. We sometimes remember him as "Doubting Thomas," but that does him a disservice. Thomas was the disciple who was prepared to ask the awkward questions that everyone else was thinking but no one else was brave enough to voice - and that was Brian.

One of the things many people remember about Brian was his love of dancing; he was so keen to get the steps right he would write them down and sometimes recite them as he moved across the floor. There was a joy in that. Dancing brought him happiness and reflected something of the spirit with which he approached life. It is a lovely image to hold onto today: Brian enjoying himself, moving to the music, fully engaged in the moment.

Another important part of Brian's life was his love for the Scriptures. Among all the passages of the Bible, his favourite reading was the opening chapter of Genesis. Those majestic words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," spoke to him of the wonder and beauty of creation. He read it so beautifully and delighted in the account of God bringing light out of darkness, order out of chaos, and life in all its richness and variety. Brian was a physicist yet accepted the story of the creation wholeheartedly.

Today we have heard words from Jesus in John chapter 14: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." These words were spoken to anxious disciples facing uncertainty and loss. Jesus offers them comfort and hope, assuring them that death is not the end of the story.

For those who trust in Christ, there is a home prepared by God. There is a place where sorrow and pain are no more, where God's love is known fully and completely. Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." These words remind us that our hope rests not in ourselves but in the faithfulness of God revealed through Jesus Christ. And this faithfulness was paramount when he travelled to the Holy Land.

Those of us who travelled with him on pilgrimage to the Holy Land will never forget his determination to be baptised in the River Jordan. For Brian, this wasn't simply about re-enacting a Bible story or taking part in a tourist experience. It was an expression of a faith that was real and personal. He wanted to stand in the waters where our Lord himself had been baptised and renew his commitment to follow Christ. (As an aside Brian had not quite thought it through as he had no towel or change of clothes!)

That moment said a great deal about Brian. Beneath his quiet and private nature was someone whose faith mattered deeply. As we remember Brian today, we give thanks for his quiet faith, for his friendship, for his participation in the life of this church, for the companionship he found in his house group, for the joy he found in dancing, and for the wonder he found in the story of God's creation.

We entrust him now to the God who created him, who loved him throughout his life, and who calls him home. And even as we grieve, we do so with hope, confident in the promise of Christ that in the Father's house there is a place prepared for all God's children.

May Brian rest in peace and rise in glory.

Revd Maggie



SUMMER

Our Summer Fayre this year was held on Saturday 27th June. Although the extreme heat of previous days was a worry, thankfully the temperature had dropped a bit and there was shade to be found in the Church and Churchyard. The event was opened by Councillor David Linghorn-Baker accompanied by a piper.



Our refreshment area was full, and everyone agreed that the food offered was excellent. Maggie and her team did a sterling job on the BBQ, despite the soaring temperatures.

FAYRE



Foot fall was down on previous years but we understood why; as yet we do not have a final figure on what was made towards church funds but it will certainly be in excess of £2,700. Although this was down on previous years it still a great result given the challenging circumstances.



At the end of the day everyone was exhausted with the heat, but the spirit of community was there. Our thanks must go to our Church Warden Nick Allston, Mandy, their family and the team of helpers who ensured a great day which as a community event far outweighed monetary gain.



SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2:30PM

Garden party and afternoon tea hosted by Liz and Mick Adams.

Please come along and support if you can.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We will be holding our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd October in Church. Please come along to support a great cause and have a look at the beautiful Harvest decorations.

Harvest Supper

Venue: St Leonard's Church

Date: Sunday 4th October



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**



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.

Summer Fun with St Leonard's Families and Children

It has been wonderful to have the summer months at last and lots has been happening with all of our groups.

Our **Baby and Toddler Group** has been very busy and is always a hive of activity. We are so lucky to have the big hall so we can have a range of activities to suit every age group. Sometimes it's the simplest of activities that are the most engaging - a tray full of pasta, jars, pots and pans and spoons and everyone is happy! We do try to have some messy activities each session and in the summer the sand and water trays get lots of use.



Junior Church is a quieter session with lots of opportunities for chat about the bible passage we are exploring. But there is always a game or a craft activity to help us to extend our understanding in a fun way.



Our summer **Messy Building** session was great fun with lots of sand and water too! Rosemary told the parable of the Wise and Foolish Men in an interactive way, with lots of building sound effects

and of course a very exciting demonstration of how not to build a house on a sandy foundation. I'm sure this will be recreated on lots of beaches in the holidays!

Our **SLYC Youth Group** continues to meet each half term and our most recent discussions were about changing classes and moving to secondary school. It's lovely to hear the youngsters chatting informally in this way and being so supportive of one



another as they experience these important events. Active games and board games always take place and we love sitting down together and playing one of Kirsty's game as a whole group. The adults can be very competitive!

Brick Club will be back again in the holidays and it's great that we can welcome a range of ages to come and use their creative skills in this way. Carers too are very grateful to grab a cuppa or join in with building.

We hope that you all enjoy the summer break and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Junior Church at St Leonard's



What's on for Children and Families in July and August

The Baby and Toddler Group runs in the hall every Wednesday in term time at 9.30am or 11.00am. These sessions are identical. The last session this term is the 15th July. Just turn up!

**5th July
All Age Service**

**12th July
Junior Church
This is the last Junior Church this term as we are taking our summer break.**

**Summer holiday Brick Clubs on Tuesdays in the hall
10am-12 noon from 28th July
Just turn up and build!**

Junior Church is back on 13th September

Messy Church returns on 20th September

**SLYC will be back in the Autumn too!
(St Leonard's Youth Club)**

GARDEN AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026

2.30PM TO 4.30PM

£15 PER PERSON



HOSTED BY:

Liz & Mick Adams

4 Landseer Road, Prettygate, CO3 4QR

Tel: 07788 864595

Safeguarding at St Leonards

I, alongside my fellow wardens and assistants, recently completed my Leadership Safeguarding training as required by the Diocese. The 1st session was opened by us being asked the question “If you did a straw poll of people leaving your church last Sunday, what percentage of them would say they felt safe?” Now obviously I hope the answer would be all of you, but it did make me wonder how many people really understand what we mean when we talk about Safeguarding and what we, as a Church, do to ensure we keep people safe.

So what is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the process of protecting vulnerable individuals from abuse, harm, or neglect. It ensures their health, wellbeing, and human rights are upheld, allowing them to live safely and free from exploitation. Safeguarding applies to everyone, but the emphasis is on those least able to protect themselves, including:

- *Children and Young People: Protecting them from maltreatment and ensuring circumstances allow for safe development.*
- *Vulnerable Adults: Individuals who need special support due to age, disability, mental health issues, or frailty*

So safeguarding is not just about children and it's not just about abuse, it's about protecting everyone and keeping them safe. The Church of England has historically not always dealt with safeguarding concerns properly and there have been some well documented cases of people in very senior positions failing in their duties to protect people. That said, there is now a very thorough set of Safeguarding Standards in place which every Church is expected to adhere to.

At St Leonards we are very lucky to have Julie Hinchcliffe as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and she, with her deputy Mandy Allston, are responsible for making sure that we comply with all the requirements. They make sure that everyone involved in any of our activities is appointed through the Safer Recruiting Process recommended by the Church of England and that they have completed all the required training associated with their role. They also listen to any concerns that are raised, discuss them with Diocesan team as appropriate and follow any recommendations. Records are stored confidentially and only shared with appropriate agencies.

If you have any concerns about an individual or a situation you have witnessed then please speak to Julie, Mandy or any of the clergy or warden team. You can be assured that anything you raise will be dealt with sensitively and effectively.

Esther

National Safeguarding Standards

Our Parish is committed to the Five Standards

1 Culture, Leadership and Capacity

Church bodies have safe and healthy cultures, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.

2 Prevention

Church bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.

3 Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk

Risk assessments, safety plans and associated processes are of a high quality and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working.

4 Victims and Survivors

Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively meeting their needs, including their search for justice and helping their healing process.

5 Learning, Supervision and Support

All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS?

- Broad statements of what the Church of England wants to achieve in its safeguarding work.
- Each one has several 'What Good Looks Like' indicators, to identify strengths as well as areas for development.
- They are constructive development of good safeguarding practice, **NOT** a compliance-based exercise.
- The Standards and their indicators have been developed over a three-year period, working with dioceses, cathedrals, parishes and victims and survivors.
- They were approved nationally in 2023.
- A series of online tools and resources have been developed - [churchofengland.org/safeguarding-standards](https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding-standards)



Contact for Parish Safeguarding Officer

Name: Julie Hincheliff
Tel: 07921 339483



© Sarah Wood

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT SERVICE
Safe Spaces Telephone 0300 303 1050

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

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 21st & 28th July and 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August
- 10am-12noon
- St Leonard's Church, Lexden
- Free of Charge. All Welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult

Friendly Voice at the End of the Phone

There are times in all our lives when the days can feel a little quieter than we'd like. Whether you live alone, are unable to get out as much as you used to, or would simply enjoy a friendly conversation, our **Friendship Line** is here for you.

The Friendship Line is a simple ministry of care. One of our friendly volunteers will give you a regular phone call, offering the opportunity to chat, share news, laugh together, or simply enjoy knowing that someone is thinking of you. There is no pressure and no obligation—just a warm, listening ear and a friendly voice.

If you, or someone you know, would appreciate a regular telephone call, we'd love to hear from you.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch. Whether you're asking for yourself, a friend, a neighbour, or a family member, the Friendship Line is here to remind us all that no one in our parish needs to feel alone.

Revd Maggie



Confirmations

We are looking at running a confirmation class in the Autumn. If anyone is interested in joining or has questions please speak to any of the clergy team.



Let's
stay
connected

St Leonard's Friendship Line
Please call the parish number on
01206 575 565
to register your interest

We're here to give a
listening ear



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



From the Archives

Rectors and Lords of the Manor

In the last edition of the Magazine, I got to the point where Sir John Ratcliffe had married Lady Fitzwalter had a child by her, but he was sadly killed in the Wars of the Roses. The story continues.

It is interesting that the child of Elizabeth Fitzwalter, the widow of Sir John Ratcliffe, did not have control over her son also called John. According to Morant the guardianship was given to Sir Thomas Cobham Kt. Sir Thomas presented to the rectory between 1440 and 1461. Which would coincide with John reaching the age of 21. During Sir Thomas period of guardianship, he presented the following to be rectors William Estrington from Birch in 1440 and upon his decease in 1442, William Tidy no date available and then Geoffrey (Galfridus) Hunt who also died in office in 1459. Geoffrey was replaced by William Samphyll from Great Tey who was followed shortly after by William Flete from St Katharine Coleman, London in 1461.

At this point the young John Ratcliffe (Lord Fitzwalter) took over, and he became the patron of John Mounford who became Rector in 1468 a position he held until his death in 1472. At this point there appears to be a gap for the next person presented was his relation also John Ratcliffe in 1492. The young John Ratcliffe (Lord Fitzwalter) during the reign of Henry VI was pardoned to enter the lands of his inheritance without livery. Shortly after he was Knighted.

In 1485 he was summoned to parliament, by Henry VII with the title of Lord Fitzwalter, at this point it looked as though he had put his family into good books of the King. Yet as many will know Henry VII had taken the crown from Richard III following the battle of Bosworth Field, John

Ratcliffe became involved in a conspiracy to put Perkin Warbeck, (Warbeck claimed to be Richard one of the Princes in the Tower) on the throne, in 1494 John was convicted of High Treason and sent to Calais where he was later beheaded following, according to some records as he had tried to escape.

The Estates became the property of the crown, however in November 1505 his son Robert Ratcliffe had the estates restored to him. During this time Rectors were still presented. In 1499 John Jackson, Edward Barnaby in 1501, Peter Kelsham in 1505. From 1505 the Fitzwater's presented the rectors. We know little of when John Collins was presented but we do know that a William Grant became rector in 1524, although by this time Robert Fitzwalter had been created the Earl of Sussex.

Roger Gorstelowe was installed in 1537 and became the longest serving rector until his death in 1567. He was a survivor, as he had to manage the religious trauma of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. We know little about Roger Gostelowe but to survive he must have kept his head down and adapted to the religious mayhem going on around him. What little we do know about him is that he started to keep a Parish Register which shows that he cared for his parishioners. Roger was followed by John Price who continued to keep the Register and from 1560 transferred the information into a parchment book and kept them until he left in 1576.

When Thomas Earl of Sussex presented Rogert Searle to living in Lexden he was the last Fitzwalter to exercise this right. For with increasing debts and fines the Fitzwalters were forced to sell the estate and advowson to the Lucas family, all that is left to remind us of the Fitzwalters and the Ratcliffes are roads in the Lexden area and some graves in the churchyard.



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



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 2nd
Saturday from **September to
March** at 12pm

Please book by emailing
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.

Friendship Lunch returns on 12th September

Our Friendship Lunches are open to everyone, whether you are a church member or not. It is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and to have time to chat to old ones. We run every second Saturday in the month up until March, starting at 12 noon. Just ring Esther in the parish office on 01206 575565 or email admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk if you would like to come – There is also a signup sheet in church.

It would be lovely to see you so please give us a try. There is no charge, but donations are welcome on the day.

The Friendship Lunches Team

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE JULY

Nickolls, Edith Emily	7 th August 1915 – 8 th July 1979
Coomber, Gordon Raleigh	25 th March 1928 – 19 th July 1997
Williams, Julia Vera	2 nd November 1903 – 1 st July 1999
Game, Jeanne	10 th July 1924 – 25 th July 2003
Rhodes, Barbara Eileen	9 th December 1911 – 17 th July 1998
Whitehouse, Peter Jason	16 th May 1944 – 11 th July 1988
Blake, Rosemary Forrestt	28 th February 1928 – 14 th July 2004
Davis, Leslie	23 rd October 1916 – 27 th July 1996
Cant, Edgar John William	22 nd January 1934 – 11 th July 2006
Harrison, Ruby Elsie	21 st January 1922 – 21 st July 2006
Morgan, Ivor Harold	20 th March 1930 – 9 th July 2008
Godden, David Roger James	10 th July 1930 – 30 th July 2011
Elden, Colin Richard	25 th June 1946 – 28 th July 1998
Raymer, Patricia Daphne	5 th February 1933 – 29 th July 2011
Goodyear, Leslie Archibald	25 th February 1921 – 27 th July 2010
Kirsten, Berill Maud	3 rd March 1942 – 15 th July 2012
Cole, Barbara Joan	27 th May 1942 – 25 th July 2022

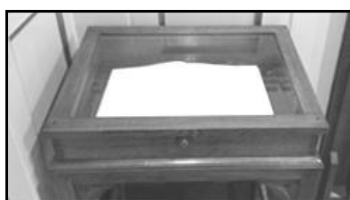


If you would like the name of a relative added to the Book of Remembrance, you will find forms with instructions on the bookcase beside the north door.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

AUGUST

Spurrier, Rose Hilda	1 st October 1906 – 5 th August 1975
Blake, Michael David	27 th November 1927 – 2 nd August 1997
Buckley, Elsa	28 th December 1916 – 19 th August 2002
Dalton, George Harold	1 st March 1919 – 17 th August 1999
Beard, Paul	18 th March 1979 – 14 th August 2004
Wiggins, Mary Grace	21 st March 1923 – 9 th August 2005
Walden, Arthur William James	14 th May 1915 – 6 th August 1966
Keeble, Jessie Birtles	20 th August 1933 – 24 th August 2007
Claxton, Betty Louise	2 nd January 1920 – 15 th August 2003
Keble, Doris Ellen	28 th May 1909 – 24 th August 2008
Bridge, John Henry Ayden	4 th November 1923 – 12 th August 2010
Harrison, Sydney	3 rd December 1922 – 22 nd August 2010
Teggin, Edward 'Ted'	23 rd July 1926 – 7 th August 2012



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.