



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.

PARISH MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026 £1.00



Saving the Planet?

It's funny isn't it we usually long for the summer and earlier this year we were doing just that. But at the time of writing this most of us are waiting for the rains to come. Our gardens are looking parched, and we are really looking after all the water we can. Not using more than we need. I am watering with washing-up water. Diligently emptying the dog's water bowl on to a flower before giving her fresh water. Waiting to dance in the rain!

Perhaps, by the time this is in print we will have had some rain – hopefully not flooding, which is the threat when the ground is so hard.

But does this give us just the smallest insight into how some people live all the time. Trying to keep their animals alive, when feed is getting scarcer and scarcer. Water being in short supply, even if they have it on tap. Water being a luxury.

Even in these extreme times we are so lucky to be able to function regardless of the hot weather. Most of us still have water coming through our taps, most of us still have food on our tables. But it does make you think more about those who live in these extreme conditions all the time. Either with the earth baking or with water flooding everything they possess.

Does it make you think about the future? I am lucky to have a great-granddaughter, and I do wonder what the future holds for her. Will this extreme weather get worse because of how we've treated, are treating, the world?

It's difficult to know how to stop this cycle of misuse. How do we use less plastic when most foods we buy from the supermarkets are packaged in it? How do we become greener? Is it possible to reduce your carbon footprint?

It would appear that there are just three things where most of our personal carbon emissions come from: how we heat and power our homes, the way we travel and the food we eat.

And if we make a sustainable swap in those top three areas - such as eating a mostly plant-based diet, getting rid of your petrol or diesel car, or switching to a low-carbon heating system it will evidently help the planet.

But how easy is that? Yes, I could change my car for an electric one, but I'm not convinced that this will save the planet in any way. The batteries have to be produced, and they will eventually have to be disposed of. I could become a vegetarian, but I wonder then what will happen to our cattle, sheep etc. No farmer is going to keep them just for us to look at. Eventually when our boiler needs replacing we may be able to go greener.

I want to help save the world but I'm not sure what I can do that will really help. I hope we all do our bit to look after the birds and bees and other insects now. I hope that we all have planted trees where it is possible to do so.

But do we treat the earth like a disposable commodity,. The bible reminds us that "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). True biblical stewardship isn't about exploiting resources; it is a sacred trust to protect, nurture, and sustain the masterwork of the Creator. When we care for the planet, we honour the God who made it.

As I look out of my study window on to trees that look autumnal in August and flowers that are dying or dead from lack of water I do fear for the future. I do realise that I need to make changes, but I'm still not sure what they can be that will make a difference.

I do hope that the Lord, will guide me.

A Short Prayer for the Earth

*Heavenly Father, You created the heavens and the earth and called them good.
Forgive us for the ways we have neglected and damaged Your creation.
Help us to be faithful stewards of the land, the oceans, and all living creatures.
Give us wisdom to live sustainably and protect the earth for generations to come.
Amen.*

Reverend Jacquie.

FROM THE EDITOR

Sadly, Summer is drawing to a close with the nights drawing in. The lack of rain over the past few weeks has pleased the sun worshippers but for the people who provide our food it has not been good. Hence the old saying 'you can please some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time'. The weather will probably mean that the cost of food will go up thus causing distress to those on limited incomes.

August by tradition is always a quiet month, the schools are shut for the summer break so no Toddler group, Messy Church or Junior Church. However Brick Club has taken place every Tuesday during the school break and it is pleasing to note the during the five weeks the club operated we had getting on for 60 youngsters attending.

Also, Liz Adams kindly hosted an afternoon tea which was very successful and raised over £700 hundred pounds towards church funds, this together with the Loose Ends afternoon tea shows that we building our future.

During the next two months we have much to look forward to as we embark on renewing the Hall Roof (more on that later), the return of Friendship Lunches, the Harvest Supper, MacMillan coffee morning, a Variety Show in the hall, women's and men's breakfast to name but a few.

A reminder that the clocks will go back at the end of October with autumn and winter upon us.

Mike

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER DIARY

Tuesday 1st September

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

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

Wednesday 2nd September

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

Thursday 3rd September

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 5th September

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 6th September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL-AGE PARISH EUCHARIST

Wednesday 9th September

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 10th September

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 12th September

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 13th September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm SYLC in the hall

5:30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 14th September

6:15pm Eucharist

7:00pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 16th September

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 17th September

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 19th September

8:30am Women's Breakfast in the Church

SUNDAY 20th September – 16th Sunday after Trinity

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

3:00pm Messy Harvest

Wednesday 23rd September

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 24th September

8:00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

SUNDAY 27th September – 17th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5:30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 30th September

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 1st October

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 3rd October

8:30am Men's Breakfast

10:30am Macmillan Coffee Morning

SUNDAY 4th October - Harvest

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

2:30pm Harvest Singalong & Supper

Tuesday 6th October

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

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

Wednesday 7th October

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 8th October

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 10th October

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 11th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm SLYC in the hall

5:30pm Evensong and Sermon

Wednesday 14th October

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 15th October

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 17th October

8:30am Women's Breakfast in the Church

6:30pm "The Good Old Days", a variety show for all ages.

SUNDAY 18th October – Luke the Evangelist

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

Wednesday 21st October

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 22nd October

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 25th October - Sunday Last after Trinity

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5:30pm Evening Prayer

3:00pm Messy Church

Tuesday 27th October

10:00am Brick Club in the Church

Wednesday 28th October

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 29th October

8:00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

From the Churchwardens

Church Hall Roof

The Hall roof has been on the list to be looked at over the last few years; we have got by, but this year we had to make the decision to get repairs underway. The old felt, which had in our estimate been in place for nearly 60 years, had broken down in certain areas causing the wooden framework for the gutters to rot away resulting in leaks into the storage areas and during heavy rain the main body of the hall.

The Wardens and Fabric Committee met and decided to obtain quotes to ascertain the cost of replacing or repairing the roof. Three quotes were obtained; these ranged from over £100,000 to just over £50,000. After lengthy meetings and discussions with those who quoted, the Parochial Church Council accepted a bid by a smaller contractor who undertakes to have the work completed in just under 3 weeks. The work is intended to start on 19th October and includes the Autumn Half Term to minimise disruption to hall users. However, there will be some disruption, and we ask everyone to bear with us as the work is carried out.

Access to the hall is difficult and it means that we will have builders using the pathways around the church as they remove the stone chippings on the old roof and carry up the replacement insulation and new felt to the hall. We have asked the contractor to bear in mind that we are a Church, and services do take place during the week. The groups that could be disrupted are as follows, Brick club (during half term), Yoga, and perhaps for one week the Toddler group, although the main hall entrance and the fire escape should be accessible. The uniformed groups meet in the evenings so should not be affected. This will be discussed with the group leaders.

We thank you for your forbearance, but it should ensure that the hall will not need reroofing for the next 25 years.

Nick and Mike



Harvest at St Leonard's

On 4th October as part of our Harvest Celebrations the Church will be holding a Singalong combined with a Harvest Supper.

There will be a charge for the Harvest supper and funds raised will go to the Church.

More details appear later in the Magazine.



As usual, we will be collecting donations for Colchester Foodbank at our Harvest Thanksgiving service on 4th October.

Below is their current shopping list

SMALL BAGS OF RICE
LONGLIFE JUICE
CARRIER BAGS/REUSEABLE BAGS
TINNED FRUIT
TINNED POTATOES
TINS OR PACKETS OF CUSTARD
PEANUT BUTTER
RAZORS
SMALL JARS OF COFFEE
SMALL MULTIPACK SNACKS
(penguin/club/twix)

LONGLIFE MILK
SHAMPOO
SQUASH
DEODORANTS
TINNED PUDDINGS
JAM
TOOTHBRUSH/TOOTH PASTE
SHOWER GEL
SMALL WASHING POWDER/LIQUID
TINNED TOMATOES



St Leonard's
Lexden

HARVEST SINGALONG AND SUPPER

Sunday 4th October

Singalong at 2:30pm

Tickets £10.00 per adult,

£5.00 under 16

Please bring your own drinks





MOUSETAILS

A Wedding to Remember



September was going to be a very exciting time for the Church mice, especially for Molly Balcony and her family, she was getting married to a handsome young mouse called Peter, who had joined the Woods family earlier in the year. Molly and he had met at one of the events in the Church and it was love at first sight.

As with most 'mothers of the bride' Mrs Balcony went into full organising mode and had started making outfits for all the family but most especially for the bride to be. All of the male family members were sent out each day with new foraging instructions, looking especially for white fabric.



Rupert had been successful in finding a large, man's handkerchief and Mrs Balcony had washed and dried it and was in the process of making a long white dress and veil. She put out a call to her family and friends for any scraps of lace and ribbon to adorn the dress.



One of the Hall cousins had come up trumps when she offered the headdress she had worn for her own wedding. "Wonderful," said Mrs Balcony, "that can be your something borrowed".



Molly had been saving a length of blue ribbon for a special occasion so her Mum was going to use it to tie her bouquet of fresh flowers that would be picked on the day and arranged by Mrs Mouthorgan who had access to the flower cupboard and was quite skilled in arranging flowers, having seen the results of many Church flower arrangers, she would also make 2 tiny posies for the bridesmaids.



Once Molly's dress was completed to their satisfaction Mum turned her attention to making little outfits for the two young bridesmaids, Daisy and Pippa. Dad had found a pretty pink scarf and Mum thought it was ideal to make their dresses with.

The wedding was to take place on a Saturday afternoon, the service conducted by Grandpa, and the reception feast would be in the Hall. Mrs Hall had volunteered to organise that.

Tommy Mouthorgan and his band would accompany the choir and provide music for the reception too. So, as usual all of the mouse community got involved working together to organise a splendid occasion.





When the big day arrived there was a hive of activity, the bouquet flowers had been picked and arranged and were waiting in the cool flower cupboard along with a special little arrangement for Mrs Balcony to wear on her wrist.

All of the Woods family, including Peter, had arrived through the tunnel, several sledges filled with clothes, gifts, food and drinks and were making themselves useful in the Hall, setting out the feast and the all-important bar!



The ceremony went without a hitch even though Mum and a few others were wiping their happy tears away. After the formal part, all of the mice, led by the radiant bride and groom plus Grandpa and the bridesmaids adjourned to the Hall to enjoy the reception and merry making.



Mrs Hall (with lots of contributions and help) had excelled herself, there was a splendid buffet and she had even managed to create a gorgeous wedding cake.

Once all the mice were full (and quite merry from drinking the special elderflower champagne, Peter's best man, Freddie Wood, stood to propose a toast to the happy couple and to the beautiful bridesmaids. He told one or two funny stories about his friend Peter and thanked everyone for coming to this special day.



Tommy Mouthorgan and his little band started playing a lovely old waltz tune and Molly and Peter led the dancing and were soon followed by everyone else. Everyone joined in the celebrations and 'danced their little paws off'!

Peter responded and toasted his beautiful bride and her attendants, saying how very happy he was to be marrying into such a lovely, caring family, he also thanked Mum Balcom, Mrs Hall and all those who had helped to make such a wonderful celebration.



All the mice were full from feasting and were happy to wander about, catching up with family and friends and the youngsters, who had been on their best behaviour all day, were allowed to go a bit mad and chase around the Hall until their Mums decided that they needed to stop, sit and have a cold drink.

It had indeed been a very special and enjoyable day but eventually they all agreed that they needed a good night's sleep, so that's exactly what they did.



Written by CT produced by ChatGPT





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 popular Friendship Lunch returns on 13th September in the church at 12 noon. This is an informal lunch of delicious homemade soup and cake and an opportunity to meet new people or chat with old friends. If you haven't been before do give it a try. We would love to see you and we can promise you will have made new friends by the end of the lunch! There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

Friendship Lunches take place on the second Saturday of the month from September to March. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, or you can book by phoning the Parish Office on 01206 575565.

The Friendship Lunches Team



Summer Garden Party

We would like to thank Liz Adams and her family for the use of their garden and organising a fantastic afternoon at the end of July.



The weather was perfect as it coincided with one of the cooler afternoons, everyone had a great time and as already mentioned raised over £700 towards Church funds.

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

St Leonard's are delighted to present

The Good Old Days

A Variety Show for all ages

Saturday 17th October at 6:30pm

Tickets £15 including supper
£10 for under 18's

Available from Sarah (01206-543280)
or Mandy (07717-197188)

Audience Participation Encouraged



St Leonard's
Lexden





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



“LOOSE ENDS” AFTERNOON TEA



To celebrate the first anniversary of “Loose Ends” we welcomed nearly 40 people to share friendship and fellowship at our afternoon tea. It has been lovely to welcome members of a local walking group together with members of the congregation.

Many thanks to the Friendship Line team for all their commitment and love. Do come and join us on the last Thursday of every month between 2:00pm-4:00pm. Take care and God bless,
Rev. Maggie





SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, 16th September 2026

Our monthly Bible Study Group will be taking place at 7:00 pm – All welcome.

Please contact Maggie for further details.



At a...
"LOOSE END"?

Just drop in to our "pop-up" cafe
on the last Thursday of every month
starting @ 2:00pm

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We will be holding our annual 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 Singalong and Supper

Come and join us in singing some of your favourite harvest tunes followed by a Harvest Supper.

Venue: St Leonard's Church

Date: Sunday 4th October at 2:30pm.





“The Good Old Days”

A Variety Show for all Ages

Saturday 17th October at 6:30pm in the hall.

Join us for a fun evening of entertainment and singing.

Audience Participation Encouraged.

Tickets £15.00 per adult (incl supper)

£10.00 under 18's

Available from Sarah or Mandy



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



SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER

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 first session this term is the 9th September. Just turn up! (No session in Half Term on 28th October)	
6 th September	All Age Service
13th September Junior Church Also SLYC (St Leonard's Youth Club, from Year 4) 3-5pm in the hall Details to follow on our Facebook page	Please let us know if you are coming at juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk
20th September MESSY HARVEST 3pm - 5pm in the church	Please let us know you are coming if you can. juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk
28 th September Junior Church	
4 th October Harvest	All Age Service for Harvest
11th October Junior Church Also SLYC (St Leonard's Youth Club, from Year 4) 3-5pm in the hall Details to follow on our Facebook page	Card making for those church members who are no longer able to attend Please let us know if you are coming at juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk
25th October Junior Church PLUS - MESSY CHURCH 3pm - 5pm in the church	Please let us know you are coming if you can. juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk
Tuesday 27 th October	Brick Club in the Church 10am-12pm Just turn up and build!

Messy Harvest!

Sunday 20th September at 3pm
St Leonard's Church Lexden



crafts

activities

food free

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

In the church hall
Email: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk

SLYC!

St Leonards Youth Club

Sunday 13th Sept,
11th Oct & 22nd Nov
3 – 5pm



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

St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler group runs every Wednesday morning in term time in the church hall. There are two identical sessions in the morning which run for an hour. One starts at 9.30am and another at 11.00am. The group is well established and there is always a warm welcome for carers and their children. Each session is based on a theme with a range of activities to engage babies and toddlers. We provide tea, coffee and a snack during the session and the children have a great time playing and exploring. The Facebook page gives a flavour of the sessions so do have a look. No need to book. Just turn up.

Brick club

Brick Club returned over the course of the summer break, and we were pleased to welcome many new young people.

The Club is free, but we do accept donations towards the cost of refreshments. The school break this year was shorter than usual but never the less about 60 youngsters attended, accompanied by their adults, happily not all at once!

Thank you to everyone who ensured that we are successfully able to run this important outreach





Many of you will have been aware that, in the first part of 2026, the nave area of the church was shrouded in scaffolding and plastic sheeting. This was to enable a programme of work to repair part of the church roof and chimney. This work has now been successfully completed.

Background to Project

A Quinquennial Survey carried out in 2022 highlighted that, whilst the condition of the church infrastructure is mostly good, there was a need to investigate the state of the nave roof and chimney. A more detailed survey carried out by our architect demonstrated the need to replace most of the slate tiles, battening, leadwork and linings associated with the guttering; the associated flashings and abutments; the rainwater pipe and hopper; make good any rendered coatings disturbed by the work, deep pointing and replacement of missing flints in the chimney stack.

We appointed Inkpen Downie Architects to oversee the project and, following a competitive tendering process, Lodge & Sons to carry out the work. The work received PCC approval at the end of 2024. As St. Leonard's is a Grade 2 listed church building, we also needed approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Unfortunately, this took much longer than expected, resulting in a delay of a year. Thankfully the issues were resolved towards the end of 2025 and the project got underway in January 2026.

Funding the Project

The anticipated cost of the work was £155,000 including VAT. St. Leonard's has been fortunate over the years to have benefitted from some significant legacies. These legacies, together with major fundraising activities, have funded the extension to the southside of the church and the kitchen. A

relatively recent legacy came from the estate of Mary Beattie. The decision was taken by the PCC to use £75,000 of this legacy towards the cost of the project and to make up the difference through applications for grant funding and fund-raising.

Hence in February we submitted bids to four charitable trusts whose objectives seemed to match the work to be carried out. Remarkably, we were successful in each case.

- Colchester Churches Charitable Trust contributed £10,000
- The Benefact Trust has given us £8,600
- Friends of Essex Churches Trust contributed £7,500 and
- The Garfield Weston foundation donated £15,000

Making £41,100 in total

We have also submitted a proposal to the Historic England Places of Worship Renewal Fund but have yet to hear back.

In parallel we launched the “Raise the Roof” appeal to church members and the wider community of friends of St. Leonard’s. As of the beginning of August, we have raised £28,628.85 from donations which will generate £6,633.00 in tax recovery through Gift Aid so a total of £35,261.85.

Thank you

This project and its associated fund raising would not have happened without the hard work of some key individuals – Peter Hinchcliffe was the main interface with the architect, managed the discussions with the Diocesan bodies and generally kept the whole project on track and budget; the PCC committee of Esther Heptonstall, Michael Firth and David Burrows organised and ran the fund-raising campaign. We are very grateful to the funding bodies who contributed so generously to the cost of the project. Last and definitely not least, huge thanks go to all of you who contributed to “Raise the Roof” financially and/or through your prayers.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

19th July
Montgomery Cook
Jonathan, Callie and Freddie Helbing
2nd August
Seth and Finn Percy
16th August
Isla-Rai Isles



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

A Prayer in This time of Vacancy



"Thank You Heavenly Father that you are The Way, The Truth and The Life; all things come from you and of your own do we give you.

Lead us, Father, during this interregnum, to seek and do your will; to love you and to love one another as you love us. Direct Your chosen person, Father, and give to those in authority the wisdom and knowledge to discern your will that this parish may grow in faith, hope and above all, love. Amen"

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!

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the NOVEMBER-DECEMBER edition:

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

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.

Crossword

Answers in Next Magazine

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

IT'S TIME FOR A

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

10:30AM



St Leonard's
Church, Lexden
CO3 4BL





From the Archives

In the previous magazine I have looked at the Rectors and Lords of the Manor linked to the medieval church. In this issue I would like to draw attention to John Fitzwalter who inherited the title at a young age and perhaps was the instigator of the first siege of Colchester. I found this record in the Essex Archaeology and History 22 (1991) it was a lengthy and detailed piece, so I have just stuck to the bare facts.

John Fitzwalter (1317 – 1361)

John was a minor when he inherited the Manor along with his other estates, at the age of thirty-two he was with the Black Prince at the siege of Calais. Between 1342 and 1351 he and his associates terrorised North Essex until brought to justice in 1351. It is said he besieged Colchester from Easter 1343 until Whitsuntide. He is reported to have held up Market Traders until Townsmen paid him off. The reason for this dispute between a powerful Lord of the Manor and the Borough of Colchester comes down to rights over Common land and its use. By various charters the Burgesses of Colchester believed they had certain rights over fishing, hunting, tree felling and the right to pasture animals on common land within the Liberty of Colchester. Lexden was the wealthiest of the liberties. These rights predated the conquest, so were they valid? The Burgesses thought they were.

In 1343 John Fitzwalter complained that 100 men from Colchester had invaded Lexden Park to hunt, fish and fell trees. During this act one of John's servants was wounded and died shortly after.

The Borough indicted several men who were brought before the Borough Coroner for murder. However, this was not good enough for John, so he brought in an Essex County Coroner to sit within the Liberty of

Colchester to hear the case. John tried to have indictments read against several of the Burgesses whom he did not like.

Two of the jurors empanelled by the County coroner refused to indict those accused believing they were innocent of the charge. These two jurors were Henry Fenerde and Thomas Vernon both of Copford. Fitzwalter sent his servants to Copford who beat Fenerde so badly he almost died. On the same day Fitzwalter went to Vernon's home. He escaped but after that Colchester jurors would never find against John. Finally, Fitzwalter said he didn't want any Colchester man near his Manor. Irrespective of that Fitzwalter had let his villeins pasture animals on Borough Common land and threatened to break the arms and legs of any Colchester man found on his land.

In 1351 Fitzwalter was indicted on a great number of charges, his estates were seized by the crown, and he spent a few months in jail including the Tower. He was eventually pardoned after agreeing to pay a fine of £847 which he paid by instalments for the rest of his life.

John Fitzwalter was Lord of the Manor during the period known as the Black Death, very little information is available about mortality rates in Lexden, although it is reported that during the period September 1348 - September 1349, 111 wills were processed as against the usual 2 -3 in a normal year. Also, it is estimated that very nearly half the population of Colchester succumbed to the disease which means that Lexden must have suffered.

John Fitzwalter was absent from the manor for a period due to war and the advowson was administered by others.

NP NICHOLAS PERCIVAL

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Confirmations

Confirmation classes will begin on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.00pm. The Confirmation service will be on Sunday 22nd November at 3.00pm, at St Leonard's. Please speak to any of the clergy if you are interested or have any questions.

Crossword Solution (from last magazine)



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in Essex and East London
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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

Women's Breakfast

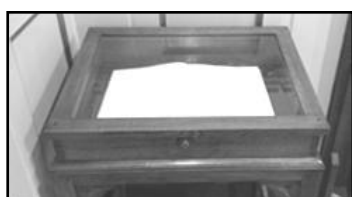


3rd Saturday of the month in Church.
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there...
If you have any questions please contact
maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

SEPTEMBER

Cook, Albert Victor	22nd March 1904 – 21st September 1980
Kenway, Henry Charles	10th February 1920 – 1st September 1999
Barnes, Herbert James	16th January 1929 – 5th September 1999
Nickolls, Alfred Herbert George	19th October 1916 – 27th September 2003
O'Neill, Claire Natalie	8th January 1968 – 18th September 2005
Blowers, Pearl Elizabeth	8th February 1921 – 6th September 2006
Austin, Bernard William	30th June 1925 – 14th September 2007
Kitson, Mary Jane	2nd April 1963 – 20th September 2010
Jacklin, Janet Evelyn	27th March 1927 – 22nd September 2010



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 OCTOBER

Geernaert, Charlotte Everitt	4th March 1839 - 6th October 1919
Boswell, Edith Amelia	25th June 1910 - 22nd October 1998
Davey, Peter Nigel	4th March 1920 - 31st October 2001
Barnes, Jean Doris	8th August 1933 - 26th October 2003
Funnell, Donald de Jersey	9th March 1910 - 2nd October 1971
Enfield, Jill Marion	17th November 1939 - 4th October 1996
Goddard, Jennifer Mary	29th February 1940 – 3rd October 2006
Austin, Margaret Ann	19th January 1926 – 12th October 2007
Bryant, Charles John	18th November 1928 – 28th October 2012
Goodyear, Gwendoline Hilda	17th December 1921 - 24th October 2014
Hodge, David Campbell	2nd July 1918 - 22nd October 2014
Davis, Marie Ellen	28th March 1921 - 22nd October 2015
Calvert, Albert Cyril Holcombe	24th June 1896 - 9th October 1965
Burgess, Doris Evelyn	6th November 1903 - 6th October 2002
Pugh, Catherine Kirkpatrick	19th December 1928 - 24th October 2020
Cook, Dennis Albert Frederick	21st October 1928 - 31st October 2019
Christie, Anthony Charlwood	27 th December 1934 – 8 th October 2020



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 on 2nd & 4th Sundays <i>Or All Age Eucharist</i> (1 st Sunday of the month) 5.30pm Evensong and Sermon (2nd Sunday) 5.30pm Evening Prayer (4th Sunday)
Monday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Tuesday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10.00am Eucharist
Thursday	8.00am Eucharist



Annual Memorial Service
Sunday 1st November
5:30pm

St Leonard's annual Memorial Service will be held on Sunday 1st November at 5.30pm. This is a moving and simple service which features music, prayers, simple readings and an opportunity to light a candle to remember loved ones. There will be a sheet at the back of Church throughout October if you would like to add the name of a loved one to those to be remembered during the Commemoration of the Departed.