

**Welcome** to St Leonard's. If you're here for the first time or visiting, please say hello.

The nave will usually be open for private prayer & reflection on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings, and Sunday afternoons.

*Please note that this may be subject to change at short notice.*

### THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICES

8:00am **BCP Holy Communion**

9:45am **All-Age Christingle & Eucharist for Candlemas**

(719, Anthem, 808, 80, 639, 264, Nunc Dimittis)

### PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>** - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

**MONDAY** – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Liverpool: The Church of England.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

**TUESDAY** - we pray for staff and residents at Woodland Drive Care Home.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

**WEDNESDAY** – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for the Parish of St James with St Paul (St James the Great) Rector Revd Fr James McCluskey.

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** - we pray for the United Reform Church.

8:00am Eucharist.

**FRIDAY** - we pray for all those who work in our hospitals.

**SATURDAY** - we pray for the residents of The Chantry & Oaklands Avenue.

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

#### Services next Sunday:

**9<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

5:30pm Evensong & Sermon

### NEWS AND EVENTS

**OMG is back!** Fun for Year 4 children and above featuring the return of the popular Tuck Shop! Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, from 3-5pm in the church hall. Email to let us know that you are coming to: [juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org](mailto:juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org)

**Friendship Lunch** is back next Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church or via the Parish Administrator - call 01206 575565 or email [admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

The next **Women's Breakfast** is on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February in the Church. Contact [maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk) for details.

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February Sarah Laughlin will be hosting a **Charity Quiz Night** in the church hall to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity as part of her fundraising effort for the London Landmarks Half Marathon. Tickets £10 per person and maximum team members of 6. Bring your own drinks and snacks but pizza & salad will be provided during the interval. Please arrive from 6pm for a 6.30 start. Please book your teams in advance for catering purposes, you can let Peter/Julie Hinchcliffe know or email Sarah at [sarahhinchcliffe\\_43@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahhinchcliffe_43@hotmail.com)

The next **Bible Study** group takes place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00pm in the Nicholls Room. All are welcome to come and explore God's word. Any queries contact Maggie on: [maggiew234@gmail.com](mailto:maggiew234@gmail.com)

The funeral of **Pauline Jarvis** will take place at 11:00am on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at St Leonard's. At Pauline's request, please wear bright colours.

**Digital Services** - The North East Essex Digital Access Support Team offer a free service that helps people gain basic skills and confidence using today's smart technology. We are considering hosting some of these sessions at St Leonard's but we need a minimum of 8 people to run the course. If you think you may be interested in attending please speak to Esther who can give you more details.

Our 9.45am service is usually live-streamed each Sunday to include those who are unable to join with us in person. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit behind the front five rows of the nave. We are happy to provide Holy Communion to you in your pew, just let a steward or warden know & we will bring it to you.

### Among those for whom we pray are:

Jean Holden, Father David Armstrong, Dick Verrier, Richard, Derek Cowie, Johanne Bresch, Lionel Simpkins, Brian Root, Katrina Light, Cronan McMahon, Joseph, David Moxon, Kim Harding, Graham Tyler, Jenny and Peter Hazlewood, Frances Bonner, Maureen Watkins, Antonia Loxley, Janice, Kim Kite, Hugh and Mary Beavan, Michael Eavery, Freddie Woolard, Jacquie, Ashley Hanmer, Jan Buckley, Tony Gurney, Shirley Everitt, Stella Llewellyn, Pat Hughes, Doreen Mayes, Carole Durrant, Holly Donovan, Win Kenway, Freda and Ernest Jenkins, Ellen Whalley, Nick Leaning, Pam Hatherly, Owen Shepherd, Frances Dowson, Joan Collis, and those others known to us.

**Those who have died & those who mourn them: Susan Gallagher, Pauline Jarvis, Barry Oliff**

The Church has a card reader available for contactless payments. Please ask if you need help using it and also Gift Aid your donation if you are able to. Donations can also be made online via our website <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/>

# COLLECT & READINGS

## (Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas))

### **Collect**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us,  
and present us pure and holy  
to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.

### **Malachi 3.1-5 (Old Testament, p926)**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

### **Psalms 24. 1-10 (Old Testament, p532)**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;  
for he has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,  
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,  
and do not swear deceitfully.  
They will receive blessing from the Lord,  
and vindication from the God of their salvation.  
Such is the company of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is the King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.

### **Hebrews 2.14-18 (New Testament p234)**

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### **Luke 2.22-40 (New Testament p63)**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,  
'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.