

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

9:45am **Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**
(588, 795, 379, 628, 634, 742, Webster Mass)
3:00pm **Messy Baptism**
5:30pm **Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 26th - 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 New Hythe.
8:45am Morning Prayer.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for the Parish of Greenstead (St Andrew, St Matthew & St Anne's) Team Vicar Revd Sue Howlett, Associate Priest Revd Phillip Howlett and Curate Sam Lees.

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee.

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

THURSDAY - we pray for the Old Catholic Church.
8:00am Eucharist.

FRIDAY - we pray for all those who work in the retail trade.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents of Cadenhouse Mews and Norman Way.
8:30am Men's Breakfast.

Services next Sunday:

**2nd February – Presentation of Christ
(Candlemas)**

8:00am BCP Holy Communion

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Messy Church returns this afternoon at 3:00pm. Free activities and crafts, food and fun! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Email to let us know that you are coming to:

juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk.

Men's Breakfast takes place next Saturday, February 1st, in the Nicholls Room. Contact David Watkins

davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk

This year's **Christingle & Eucharist for Candlemas** will be on Sunday February 2nd at 9:45am. This will be an All-Age service. As in previous years, St. Leonard's is supporting the work of The Children's Society at this service, please pick up an envelope or collecting box and return at the service.

OMG is back! Fun for Year 4 children and above featuring the return of the popular Tuck Shop! Sunday 9th February, from 3-5pm in the church hall. Email to let us know that you are coming to:

juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org

On Saturday 15th 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

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:

Richard, Derek Cowie, Johanne Bresch, Lionel Simpkins, Brian Root, Katrina Light, Cronan McMahon, Joseph, David Moxon, Kim Harding, Chris and 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

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 (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Nehemiah 8.1–3, 5–6, 8–10 (Old Testament, p467)

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Psalms 19 (Old Testament, p528)

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent,
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

I Corinthians 12.12–31a (New Testament p186)

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Luke 4.14–21 (New Testament p65)

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'