

All the latest news for our communities for October 2022



be, belong, encounter, grow

Keep up to date on our websites:

www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk

www.stmargaretscolchester.org.uk

Regular Weekly Services and Meetings

**St Stephen's—Sunday mornings at 11:00 am
together with our Wednesday morning Holy Communion or
Morning Prayer services at 10:30 am.**

2nd and 4th Sundays from 9:30—10:00 am (before Sunday Service) a time of Christian meditation

Messy Church on the first Sunday of the month, on the second Sunday of the month we have Morning Worship, including Holy Communion and Kids Club. The third Sunday we have Café Church in the morning including Breakfast Club and a short service of Holy Communion at 6 pm. On the fourth Sunday of the month we meet for All Age Communion (with activities for the children).

**St Margaret's—Sunday mornings at 9:30 am
and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 9:30 am**

1st Sunday of the month is All Aged Worship, 2nd and 4th Holy Communion and Morning Prayer on the 3rd.

5th Sunday of the month (if there is one) joint worship at either St Stephen's or St Margaret's—see notices for further details

**Three Together; St Stephen's, Wimpole Road and St Margaret's
Worship & Meetings**

Weekly Sunday Evening On Line Worship on Facebook at 6:30 pm. This will stream into our Facebook pages. You are able to join us live at the time or take part at an alternative time that better suits you.



Weekly Prayer Meeting at 10:00 on Tuesday via Zoom

[Click here](#) to access Zoom on the internet or Meeting ID: 195 594 506 & Passcode: 011904

Bible Study at 7:30 pm on Thursday via Zoom

[Click here](#) to access Zoom on the internet or Meeting ID: 780 700 295 & Passcode: 011904

You can also access Zoom Meetings via the telephone; please contact Andrew Tople for further information.

Her Late Majesty

By the Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester

May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

As our new king said those words while paying tribute to his mother her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our hearts were strangely moved.

In a poignant and intimate tribute the King said "To my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa, I want simply to say this: thank you. Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years.

" And then – quoting from Shakespeare's Hamlet he added: "May 'flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest' ."

In Hamlet itself it is Horatio who holds the Prince of Denmark in his arms and says: "Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest".

It is a scene of utter devastation Horatio is surrounded by death and perhaps it strikes a chord with us because – in its anguish and grief - it speaks to our sense of grief and loss.

A week ago last Friday as I drove to the studios of BBC Essex I listened to the radio as callers broke down in tears their sadness at the death of our Queen having mingled with their own unresolved sense of loss. Grief is always composite, complex, never straight forward. And the death of our late Queen has affected many many people.

Caroline Criado Perez would hardly describe herself as a monarchist but she said: "I have been really struck by how many people of my generation, and people who share my general sense of ambivalence about the monarchy, have been, as I have been, ambushed by our depth of feeling about her death." "The Queen" – she says "has always been there. Quietly, solidly, getting on with the job". "Out of all the people who hold authority in this country", she said "The late Queen feels like one of the very last who truly believed in the ideas of duty and of being a public servant."

"Those musty, old-fashioned words, which now they seem to have left us, appear so much more valuable than we realised." So Caroline Criado Perez concludes "our sadness, our sense of loss and dislocation is for that ideal that she so clearly subscribed to, that duty, that the job, that serving the country, is something so important that you put it above your own individual or partisan desires." "It's for the loss of that sense of stability and continuity that came from having someone in public life who so clearly wasn't in it for what she personally could get out of it. Who took her responsibility so seriously, so gravely." Something has shifted something monumental has changed and we are all every one of us diminished by this loss. It is – as the references to Shakespeare's Hamlet remind us, it is a devastating thing that has happened.

Cont....

May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

I don't know what you think of when you think of angels perhaps Shakespeare uses them here to try and evoke the sense of heaven coming down to earth and something of earth being raised to heaven. Angels are often seen as those who patrol the boundary between earth and heaven but in truth, an angel is simply a messenger. We talk of the good news of the Christian Faith as being the evangel the good news - news that is often talked about by an ev-angel-ist. But here's the thing: the most consistent, most explicit messenger of the good news of the Christian Faith year after year after year has arguably been the late Queen. Her Christmas broadcast to the nation which she always wrote herself was listened to by millions of people and oftentimes she would use these addresses to talk about her faith in God.

"For me" she said "the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life."

At the beginning of the new millennium she said "I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example."

After her *annus horribilis* she said "I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad, Each day is a new beginning." she said "I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."

On another occasion she asked "To what greater inspiration and counsel can we turn than to the imperishable truth to be found in this treasure house, the Bible?" And in her 2016 address, she said, "Billions of people now follow Christ's teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. "I" she said "I am one of them". Here was someone who though private and discreet about many of her thoughts and feelings spoke openly and passionately about her faith. And that makes all the difference.

Like Job – she found great consolation great comfort in her relationship with God. Job says "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand up at the last upon the earth: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another."

Job was looking toward that last day that final consummation when – as Saint Paul tells us in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, the dead will be raised imperishable immortal and when the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' That is the message, the ev-angel, the good news, that life is eternal and love is immortal and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing, save the limit of our sight. It is our faith in Jesus Christ that lifts us up to see beyond the horizon of death and to know that our future is that we will be with God for ever.

So – Saint Paul says "my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your

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Labour in the Lord is not in vain". May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. With our faith in the redeeming, saving, transforming love of God we can look forward to all that is beyond death.

Shakespeare talks of rest: rest – repose – requiem or as John Henry Newman put it safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.

Our late Queen's labours are finished. And just for a moment it is worth reflecting on the exacting nature of the Queen's role. Early on in Elizabeth's reign, the former shipping correspondent for the Glasgow Herald - Dorothy Laird discovered that there was no basic reference book on the life of the Queen. Much to her surprise. She was given permission by the palace to write a biography. With access to courtiers and staff she interviewed 300 people and in 1959 Dorothy Laird's book 'How the Queen Reigns' was published. In the book, she says "The Queen has a longer lineage than we have, she has greater means than we have, she has more resources and more opportunities. But she has precisely the same number of hours in a day and days in a year as we have."

All the alternatives to duty are there: husband, children, lovely places to live in, horses to ride, hills to climb. And what does the Queen do? She spends hours each day reading worrying, dull, difficult papers about the unsolved, and it must often seem insoluble, problems of the world. She spends more hours talking gravely about these same problems to men at least a generation her senior.

When she puts on her lovely hat and goes out in her fine Rolls Royce it is more often than not to sit on a draughty platform listening with serene courtesy to well meant but lengthy platitudes. When she travels, she has to pass by the coral beaches for the local hospital, the glorious loneliness of veld or forest for an overcrowded reception. Why? Because the Queen is filled with a sense of duty so deep that it is a feeling of vocation. Because for her the Commonwealth is her life. She knows that if she works incessantly, cheerfully, resolutely and entirely without taking offence, she will do incalculable good . 'a sense of duty so deep that it is a feeling of vocation'. This vocation to service never left her.

As Caroline Criado Perez said "Two days before she died, the Queen was still getting dressed up to welcome in the new PM, smiling, made up, posing for photos, doing tiresome small talk. She should have been in bed!" Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II did so much, achieved so much, inspired so much and... meant so much to each one of us. And now – as she rests from her labours, we may echo the words of the Master in Saint Matthew's account of the Parable of the Talents, 'Well done, good and faithful servant'. 'Well done, good and faithful servant', now may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Amen

Letter from the Churchwardens

As Summer has given way to Autumn with that back-to-school feeling, St Stephens has been a very busy place. In this little piece, we just want to celebrate this activity and those who have made it happen. Big thanks to all involved.

In late summer we had a really stimulating visit from Danielle Carbott of the Essex Wildlife Trust with whom we have enrolled as urban wildlife champions. If you love God's creation, we could use your help to put into action some of the things she recommends. No sooner had the successful YMCA summer programme for local children ended than we found ourselves in a new phase of events and activities. We celebrated Belinda's ordination in style with a large group of her friends and family; in contrast, we opened the church to those wishing to express their grief for the Queen's death. Most recently, some of us took part in the Community Day having a great time and raising £330 for the Disasters Appeal Fund with some mean barbequeing.

Our first café church event took place on 18th September with guest speaker Kevin Durrant and his wife Ros exploring the two awakenings of Jonah and challenging us to heed our awakening to the global crisis for creation. Unfamiliar as it was, the new kind of service took quite a bit of work and planning by a number of people thinking about the liturgy, music, catering, work with the children, room layout and visuals to create a different way of doing church which stimulates, involves and challenges everyone who takes part. So far, we have had positive feedback about the event. The café service format is now planned for the third Sunday of the month and the organising group want to know what you think.

In addition, September has seen the start of the Slow Cooker Club and a busier time for the Foodbank as we face Autumn's rising food prices and the threat of fuel poverty. Chillout and the Monday lunch club are back in action and have been well supported. Other centre users have returned after the summer break so that the church centre often buzzes with people coming and going.

Without our buildings, much of this activity would not be possible. So, the PCC will be thinking about how to fix the serious long term issues with the building, ensure future energy security and work towards carbon neutrality. Some discussions have happened already with the Deanery Finance Officer, John Chandler and the Diocese to look at options. The PCC will consider this at the next meeting on 9th October.

For the immediate future, first discussions have started about the possibility as the weather gets colder of providing warm up sessions during the week maybe in partnership with others. All this community work has also spurred us into looking closely at the idea of appointing a community working in partnership with Wimpole Road Methodists. Another important topic for the PCC's October meeting.

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I am bound to have forgotten to mention other things are going on. If so, apologies. I want to say again how grateful I am for all the work and enthusiasm that has been demonstrated by lots of you in the recent past. This is God's work you are doing and I pray you will be blessed in it! Do talk to Lorraine, the churchwardens or PCC members to say what you think about any of the above things. Also, there are lots of things to do and a comparatively few people doing them. Do you want to do something to contribute to what's happening at St Stephen's. If so, come and talk to the churchwardens or Lorraine and we can match your skills and interests with what is needed,

God Bless,

John Clifton

For Martin Kerins and John Clifton, Churchwardens

Transport to St Stephen's Church

If you'd like to come to Church, but you are struggling and a lift would help, please speak to Belinda and she will see if she can start up a lift rota.

If you could help with proving lifts to people, please also speak to Belinda.



Youthy is on it's way back

We have some excellent news for you!

Plans are now well progressed, working with the YMCA, for Youthy to re-start from mid October

Please speak to Rev Lorraine or Andrew for more information and / or if you feel able to volunteer to help with this

Ask for ANI Codeword scheme

HM Government

SAFE SPACES

IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE HELP
ASK FOR ANI

OR

OUR CONSULTATION ROOM IS OPEN
IF YOU NEED A SAFE SPACE

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.
Ask to use the Safe Space or ask for ANI at the healthcare counter.

Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a codeword scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for immediate help in participating pharmacies.

Although the ANI code word was established to be used in pharmacies and chemists, it was used with us today.

If someone approaches any of our foodbanks, or yourselves personally using this code word we need to be able to help if safe to do so. Protocol would be, if safe to do so for the person using ANI and yourselves, to get them to a safe area out of eyeshot. Ring 999 immediately and report it as a emergency with the code word ANI to Police.

It takes a lot for any person male or female to reach out and ask for help, the lady this morning was in her 60's and very scared. She reached out because she felt "safe" with us to do so. This not only highlights this doesn't just happen to "young people" but also the older generation too, a generation you may not think it could/would happen to, but it also gives credit to all of us at the foodbanks, that we make people feel they can speak with us and safe to do so.

If you have any concerns for anyone you know, anyone that comes into the foodbanks needing help, and they don't feel comfortable with the police being called yet, you can contact these agencies that will come out and speak to them.

Next chapter : <https://www.thenextchapter.org.uk/>

01206 500585

Essex Compass :

<https://www.essexcompass.org.uk/>

0330 333 7444

Worship Song Suggestions

You may have spotted the box at the back of Church asking for suggestions for worship songs. Thank you to everybody who has already made suggestions. We would like more ideas and suggestions, so if you have songs that you would like the worship teams to consider using please don't hold back! Pop your suggestions in the box which will remain in Church for the next few weeks.



Fixed Access Data Point

This can be found in the Foyer and is for all to us to use to access key sites on the internet . Thank you to the Digital Access Support Team at Colchester Borough Council for providing this.





Saying Goodbye Remembrance Service - Essex

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

16 OCTOBER, 2022 AT 6.30PM

**A SERVICE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS
LOST A BABY IN PREGNANCY, AT BIRTH
OR IN EARLY YEARS, WHETHER THE
LOSS WAS YESTERDAY OR 80 YEARS
AGO. THIS EVENT IS ALSO FOR THOSE
GRIEVING THAT THEY HAVE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO CONCEIVE.**

SAYINGGOODBYE.ORG

Harvest Praise

Stanway Evangelical Church
Chapel Road, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0PU

Led by Howard Gardner
with the **Cantus Firmus Choir**
Conductor: Norman Eastbrook MBE
Accompanist: Sharon Tidbury
Retiring collection

Cantus Firmus Trust is a UK Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered in England and Wales, registration no. 1190882

Further information from David Gunton: esg@cantusfirmus.org.uk
cantusfirmus.org.uk





Jesus reaching down, Kevin reaching up. A moment from Kevin Durrant speaking on Jonah's two moments of awakening at the first Café Church on Sunday 18th September.



FAIRTRADE



Thank you so much for your

support after the September Café church service. You spent just over
£30.

Buying Fairtrade means the farmers and producers facing climate
change the most receive a fair price for their goods. Thank you.

The next stall will be after the All-Age service on
23rd October in the foyer

Beryl and Alison

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S GOING ON AT CHURCH AND AROUND THE LOCAL AREA

Watch our Facebook pages for all sorts
of information about what is going
and as well as the "Events" page on
our web site.



Saturday
22nd
October
2022



St Stephen's

CHURCH CENTRE

AUTUMN

Arts & Crafts Fayre



**Free
Entry**

Browse stalls of
handmade items that you
won't find on the high street!

Plus

Homemade snacks

Teas and coffees

All welcome!

See www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk for more info



Date: **Saturday October 22nd 2022**

Time: **From 11.00am - 4.00pm**

At: **St. Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road, Colchester CO2 7RY**

St. Margaret's Church

Monthly on a Sunday Afternoon Concerts.

We would love to have more people come and enjoy the music performed by professional people.

The last four concerts for this year are:

October 16th Chris Powell

November 13th Jamyma Hanson, a new young talent

December 11th Brett Wales

Admission £10 including refreshments



ENGLISH LESSONS УРОКИ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ

ДОРОГІ ДРУЗИ

ЗАВДЯКИ ХОРОШИМ ВІДГУКАМ

ROTARY CLUB ПОГОДИВСЯ З РАДІСТЮ ПРОСПОНСУВАТИ ДЛЯ УКРАЇНЦІВ
4 МІСЯЦІ УРОКІВ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ. З ВЕРЕСНЯ ПО ГРУДЕНЬ ВКЛЮЧНО.

ПОЧАТОК ЗАНЯТЬ 5 ВЕРЕСНЯ 9.30 - 11.30 РАНКУ,

ЗА АДРЕСОЮ 86 LONDON ROAD, COLCHESTER, CO3 9DW, KINGSLAND CHURCH .

ПОШИРЮЙТЕ ІНФОРМАЦІЮ, БУДЬ ЛАСКА, І ПРИЄДНУЙТЕСЬ.

DEAR FRIENDS

THANKS TO AMAZING FEEDBACK ROTARY CLUB GLADLY AGREED TO SPONSOR 4
MONTHS OF ENGLISH LESSONS FOR UKRAINIANS

(SEPTEMBER TILL DECEMBER)

CLASSES BEGIN ON MONDAY THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER AT 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.,

AT 86 LONDON ROAD, COLCHESTER, CO3 9DW, KINGSLAND CHURCH.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION AND JOIN IN.

Over 60's Lunch Club at St Stephen's on 10 October 2022 from midday for 12:30 lunch

If you are interested in coming along please give Jill a ring on 01206 572 605. Booking is essential for catering purposes. Two courses will be served with tea or coffee to follow for a charge of £5.

Dietary needs can be catered for if known in advance.

Many thanks from **The Lunch Club Team**



PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

Please pray for the people living in the following roads across out two parishes:



Week 1. From 3rd to 9th October, Lisle Road, Claudius Road, Campion Road, Barrington Road, Rockhampton Walk, Freemantle Road and Sydney Street.

Week 2. From 8th to 16th October, Gilbert Road. Sadler Close, Western Road, Beche Road, Mayberry Walk, Wych Elm and Willow End .

Week 3. From 17th to 23rd October. Gladstone Road. Granville Road. Mytle Grove, Berechurch Hall Road, Lethe Grove and Friday Wood Green

Week 4. From 24th to 30th October. Morant Road. Harsnet Road, Kimberley Road, Camulodunum Way, Kohima Road and Arakan Close

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

It's YOUR Newsletter

Please don't forget, if you have stories or items that they would like to contribute to future Newsletters please contact me at: office@ststephens-colch eser.org.uk .

Andrew Topple



Rainbow Tots

WEDNESDAYS

@St Stephens Church Centre

1.15pm start

£1.50 per child (+50p per sibling)

**Snack Time for Tots
Coffee & Tea for Adults**

**Fun Play Sessions with Rhyme
Time Included**




St Stephen's
CHURCH CENTRE

be
belong
encounter
grow



Little Lambs

parent and pre-school group



Last session
this term -
18th July.

Starting
again 5th
September

Mondays in term time 9.30-11am

Everyone welcome

£1.50 per family

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40 v.11



Contact:
Carolyn
07748795926



Baby & Toddler Group

Coffee morning

**Mondays 9 – 11 am
(term time)**

**Toys, singing,
fun and refreshments**



Contact us at: wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com /
Facebook message / 07847 846292

A free **Community Café**
in conjunction with
Colchester Foodbank
at
St Margaret's Church Hall

Stansted Road, Colchester, CO2 8RA
Every Friday from 11:00am to 1:00pm

The café will offer free refreshments and everyone is welcome. We will also have different community groups and charities from week to week providing support and care to the local community. So come along for a chat and a cuppa.

Every Friday

the following partners will be available this week



 mind Mid and North East Essex

 **St Stephen's**
Church Centre



ST STEPHEN'S BADMINTON CLUB FOR ADULTS

MEETING IN THE HALL ON
THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE
MONTH

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Contact Information

St Stephen's Church Centre, Canterbury Road, Colchester CO2 7RY

Rector: Rev Lorraine Badger-Watts

Curate: Rev Dan Cant

Administrator: Andrew Topple

The Church Office is open on:

Tuesday 12 noon - 3 pm

Wednesday 12 noon - 3 pm

Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

Tel: 01206 869091

Email: office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Website: www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Facebook: [St Stephen's Church Members -Colchester](#)

Church Wardens: John Clifton and Martin Kerins

For Centre bookings contact: Andrew Topple in the Church Office

For **urgent** prayer requests (Prayer Tree) contact Andrew in the office or Rev Lorraine

The November newsletter should be available by Sunday 30 October. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Monday 24 October to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk