

All the latest news for our communities for March 2023



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 & fourth 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.

**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

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

Pause for thought Rev Lorraine

'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'

These are the words that are said each Ash Wednesday as we head into the season of Lent. A time to consider our mortality and our choices about the way we live, to decide whether we can follow the way of the cross and give ourselves wholly to God's Service.

What does this look like for us?

Dan, Belinda and I were invited by Bishop Guli to attend a study day on Shrove Tuesday to help us prepare for our own Lents as ordained and lay ministers of the Chelmsford Diocese. We were led to think about 'Living from Grace' by Dr Jane Williams.

Throughout the day the most important messages are to remember that Grace is a free gift from God. That God created us uniquely and as it says in Genesis 'he says that it was good'. He loves us and relishes our beings and delights in our relationship with him. We often think that we have to earn that gift but we can't, so we have to learn to accept it.

This is difficult for us as we look at our failures and inadequacies. It seems so countercultural to accept that God loves us (as Mr Darcy said to Bridget Jones in Bridget Jones Diary) 'Just as you are'.

There was a point in the talk when we were told that it is sin that diminishes us and demands more. It is sin that tells us that we have to earn Grace.

God's nature is Love. God values, loves, doesn't demand. We were reminded that this is why we need God so much because this is so hard to accept, we need God's Holy Spirit to constantly remind us.

There is a freedom in acknowledging that nothing we are or do can make us be loved anymore by God and that his Grace is for all of humanity.

The quote from the Bible that helped us think of this was from 1 Corinthians 15 where Paul says, 'By the grace of God I am what I am'. Paul talks of his own failures in his letters to all the churches where he has ministers. He has learnt through his dramatic conversion that God's grace saved him 'just as he was', with all his warts and all. He killed and persecuted people and yet despite all this God saves him and transforms his life. He offers him a free gift and it is through this free gift, God's Grace, that his life becomes extraordinary.

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Whether he knew that as he lived it, we'll never know. But it was as we look on 2000 years later.

This Lent it important for us to consider what 'By the grace of God, I am what I am'. For us to love ourselves as God loves us and to accept his grace into our lives. To remember that sin tries to tell us that we need to do more, be more, serve more to earn God's love. But this is not the truth. God loves us completely as we are and comes to save us now, today. All we have to do is accept it.

May you be able to rest in this Love this Lent as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter so that we are built up by the Love of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

'God is able to do far more than we could ever ask or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. Give him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus'

Ephesians 3: 20-21.

Rev Lorraine

Letter from the churchwardens

Dear friends,

Sometimes it seems like it takes forever for things to change, doesn't it?

But having heard what Lorraine said at cafe church on Sunday, you realise that a lots of things have been on the move since the opening out from the pandemic. She mentioned the Foodbank, the Slow Cooker Club, the revival of Youthy and the start of cafe church. Also coming up on 7 March is a service at which Lorraine's position at St Margaret's is formalised drawing our two churches closer together. We are at work together but more importantly, we trust that God is at work among us.

The Building for St Stephens Future project is now moving along quite quickly and here, we want to just give you an update. The project has two parts. The first is about repairing the leaks and consequent damage to the church centre. The second is about reducing of carbon use by moving into renewable fuel and cutting down on wasted energy.

You'll remember perhaps that late in 2021, we commissioned a structural engineers report which was delayed for various reasons but which we received and

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began to act upon last Autumn. At the turn of the year, we met with EAP who produced the report and agreed that they would put together a detailed plan with costings for the repairs.

In parallel, we decided to obtain an 'energy audit' which was carried out on 21 January by a company called ESOS. This tells us a lot about how we currently use energy and contains lots of suggestions of big and little things we can do over time to bring our energy use down while staying warm and not breaking the bank with fuel bills. The report is too big to summarise properly but you can download by [clicking here](http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ESOS-Energy-Audit-Colchester-St-Stephens-Church.pdf) or on the link below:

<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ESOS-Energy-Audit-Colchester-St-Stephens-Church.pdf>

or ask John or Andrew in the office to send you a copy.

Well, it was really helpful that the energy audit report appeared in time for a planned visit by EAP on 8 February to help them gather the detail they need to write their repair plan. This means that the two parts of the project can be better coordinated.

Now we are seeking heating engineers who are suitably qualified to help us make a detailed plan for replacing our worn out gas boilers with with the best renewable system that fits with the church centre and how it is used. That could involve air source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels and perhaps a storage battery.

As mentioned previously, we are grateful to have already received the promise of £10000 from the Colchester Churches Fund to help us on our way and we have perhaps £15000 available in our reserves, much of which Chris our treasurer had been setting aside to replace the boilers if and when they failed. But we expect the cost of the project to far exceed these amounts. Before very long now we will have a much better idea of how much we will need to complete the project by donations, fundraising and grant applications. Please make this the subject of your prayers.

God Bless,

John Clifton

for John Clifton and Martin Kerins, churchwardens

Slow Cooker Club

It has been so wonderful during January and February to invite and welcome so many people to the Slow Cooker Club. This is the second club we have run and we have been so blessed to have secured external funding to cover the costs of these. We are so grateful to NEST and Active Essex who have supported this work financially.



We have met so many wonderful people and through this we have been able to share help with provision of a slow cooker, other equipment, recipes and food.

On the last week as also had a special treat as one of the families brought in vegetable curry and dal cooked to a traditional family recipe. It was wonderful and they also left us a copy of the recipe. If you would like to have a go at this please [click here](#) (or on the link below) or if you would like a printed copy please speak to Andrew in the office.

<http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Dal-and-Veg-Curry.pdf>

Working Together

It has been lovely over the last three years to begin our work together as St Margaret's, Berechurch and St Stephen's, New Town and the Hythe. We now have myself, Rev Dan (Curate), Rev Belinda (Curate), Naomi (Ordinand), Jackie (Permission to Officiate), Christine (Permission to Officiate) and when he's better Andrew King (Reader) all part of the worship team.

As part of the process to join the churches more closely together the Bishop intends to induct me as Priest in Charge of St Margaret with St Michael, Berechurch on the 7th March 2023 at 7.30pm. To which all are warmly invited.

We are really wanting this to be a celebration of our working together and so are hoping for members of both churches to be involved.

Rev Lorraine

Lent & Easter 2023



Ash Wednesday 22 February

Ashing services at:

St Margaret's at 10:30 am and

St Stephen's at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm

Lent Course

6 week study starting at 7:30 pm, based upon the BBC TV series Broken for and hosted by our Three Together Churches at the home of Rev Jackie Sams and Wimpole Road

23 February – week 1 at Jackie Sams' house

2 March – week 2 at Wimpole Road

9 March – week 3 at Wimpole Road

16 March – week 4 at Jackie Sams' house

23 March – week 5 at Wimpole Road

30 March week 6 at Wimpole Road

Also a Quiet Day of reflection and meditation led by Rev Jackie Sams, at her home on Saturday 18 March 10:00 am to 3:00 pm titled 'You are the Potter, I am the Clay'.

Holy Week (from Monday 3 April)

Monday –Wednesday a short vigil at 7:30 pm

Hosted on Monday at St Margaret's, Tuesday at St Stephen's and Wednesday at Wimpole Road

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 7:30 pm at Wimpole Road

Good Friday

New Town Walk of Witness, starting with prayer at St Stephen's at 10:00 and ending with refreshments at Wimpole Road

Prayer & Meditation at 2:00 pm at St Margaret's

Easter Saturday Vigil at St Stephen's at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday Celebration:

St Margaret's 9:30 am

St Stephen's at 11:00 am

Wimpole Road at 11:00 am



The
Electoral
Commission

You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280



Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you don't have an accepted form photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. You can apply for this at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the electoral services team at your local council. If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your local council.

To find their contact details visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voter.

Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, go to electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID, or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

**IF YOU NEED HELP PLEASE SPEAK TO ANDREW IN THE OFFICE,
LORRAINE OR THE WARDENS**

REMEMBER TO

- 1- Register to vote
- 2- Check my photo ID
- 3- Vote at a polling station!

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280



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-colchaser.org.uk .

Andrew Topple



ELECTORAL ROLL (CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LIST)

The **Electoral Roll** (our membership list) needs to be updated to present to the Annual Church Parochial Meeting (**APCM**) on **Sunday 21st May**. If you are already on the Electoral Roll but have changed your address or phone number in the last year, please will you let **Leanne or Andrew** know. There is no need to do anything if there are no changes.

If you are not a member but attend regularly and are baptised and over 16, you are eligible to join. In doing so you make a commitment to support St Stephen's as much as possible. You will have the right to vote at the APCM and stand for PCC if you wish. Andrew has forms in the office; please ask for one. The revision will run from **9th April 2023** until **29th April 2023**.

(Please note that the church Electoral Roll has nothing to do with the Electoral Register which gives us the right to vote in local elections.) *Leanne*



Colchester Soup Run

A good and bad news story all in one!

The bad news, but not unsurprisingly is that this is still needed.

The good news is that the Churches across Colchester are once again united and coming together to provide this. This will be based from Eld Lane Baptist Church and initially on a Saturday evening between 6:45 and 7:45 pm. (probably on the 4th Saturday of the month).

If you think you might be able to help with this, either making sandwiches and / or serving them please can you speak to or email Andrew Topple (email address: office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk) . Thank you

KIDS' CLUB

**Kids' Club now meets in the hall on
the second and fourth Sundays.**

COME AND JOIN US

on the at 11am.

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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



Week 1. 27th February to 5th March, Artillery Street, Victor Road, New Park Street, King Steven Road, Morella Court, Marasca End and Garrod Court.

Week 2. From 6th to 12th March, Kendall Road, James Street. Charles Street, Goodey Close, Finchingfield Way, Thaxsted Walk and Felstead Close.

Week 3. From 13th to 19th March, Winnock Road. Wimpole Road, Terling Close, Middlewick Close and Beeleigh Close.

Week 4. From 20th to 26th March, Old Heath Road, Winsley Square, Onslow Crescent, Darwin close and Bathurst Close.

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

Over 60's Lunch Club at St Stephen's on

13 March 2023

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**



Chelmsford
citizens

citizens
Essex

Colchester
citizens

CITIZENS ASSEMBLY

ESSEX ACCOUNTABILITY & CHELMSFORD FOUNDING

WEDS 15TH MARCH 2023

7:00 - 8:45PM

ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY, CHELMSFORD

REGISTER AT

actionnetwork.org/events/chelmsford-citizens-founding-assembly/



Youthy is Back!

on Thursday evenings during time

6:30—8:00 pm for ages 10—13

8:00—9:00 pm for ages 13—17

Simply come along and have a great time

For further information or if you would like to volunteer to help email or message Sarah at

sarah.daniels@ymcachelmsford.org.uk or 07508 151 225

Update

Cllr Kayleigh Rippingale visited last week and was delighted with how it was going. Her email said, "It was amazing! The team have done such a wonderful job and it was a pleasure to see... I love that the kids are learning health and life skills. It would be great to discuss how we can support going forward and if we can fund the outreach work that Shalom discussed. Thank you for making such an amazing impact in New Town."

Silver Threads at St Margaret's



A warm welcome awaits you on Wednesday afternoon

Tea and company - 1st Wednesday of the month
1.30pm to 3.00pm

Knit and Natter - 2nd Wednesday of month
1.30 to 3.30pm

Fun and Games - 3rd Wednesday of the month
1.30pm to 3.00pm

Food for Thought - 4th Wednesday of the month
12.30pm -1.45pm

booking essential fro catering reasons – to book call 01206 564017

Tea and Chat - 5th Wednesday (when there is one) 1.30-3 pm

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.





**Good Friday Good
Reflections
Fri April 7th 2023
2pm - 3pm
At The Foot of the
Cross**



THREE TOGETHER
LENT QUIET DAY
'YOU ARE THE POTTER, I AM THE CLAY'

Sat March 18th 10am to 3pm

(Refreshments from 9.45am)

Please bring a packed lunch, bible and notebook

Drinks and cakes provided.



At Jackie's house

Please let Jackie know if you can come

01206530586 asap



coffee with cops



Your chance to get to know your Local Community Policing Team over a coffee. Ask questions, voice concerns - tell us how we can help you.

Location:

Wimpole Road Methodist Church, Colchester, CO1 2DL

Date / Time:

Wednesday 15th March 2023 09:30 - 11:30



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.



Join the ParkPlay Team!

Be a PlayLeader and make a positive impact on your community



 ParkPlay
www.parkplay.com

#MeetMovePlay

ParkPlay are looking for enthusiastic community members who are local to Monkwick to help launch ParkPlay in this area. We are looking for paid PlayLeaders to drive this ParkPlay and also volunteers to help support. You do not require any previous sports background for this, we are looking for influential and passionate people who are excited to bring the community together for free fun every Saturday. If you are interested please get in contact <https://park-play.com/playleaders/> or amber@park-play.com

Colchester ParkPlays

Old Heath ParkPlay

Old Heath Recreation Ground
every Saturday from 9:30am

Greenstead ParkPlay

Hickory Avenue Playground
every Saturday from 12.00pm

No kit, expense or skill required, kids and
adults welcome

Register at park-play.com



**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.



FAIRTRADE

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
27th February—12th March



YOU MAY ALREADY BE AWARE

that TRAIDCRAFT, from where we get our supplies (via daughter Jo, a voluntary rep) was taken into administration on 31st January. They had survived Brexit, the Pandemic and the on-going cost of living crisis and needed a good Christmas to see them through but hopes of that ended with the postal strike.

*Since Traidcraft began way back in 1979, it has transformed the lives of many small farmers and producers with not only fair prices but extra help for their communities. **As a Fairtrade Church we are committed to supporting Fair Trade.** We will continue until Jo runs out of stock and we hope you will continue to support us.*

Fortunately, the Supermarkets offer their own Fairtrade options (thanks to the pioneering work of Traidcraft and the Fairtrade Foundation) which are a good alternative and Jo has already supplied us with a selection of Lidl chocolate to keep our supply going! She has also bought packets of tea which we intend to taste test. We may enlist your help with this! In the meantime - many thanks to everyone who supported the stall in January and February.

Please keep doing so.

Our next stall will be after the service on
19th March.

Beryl and Alison

In partnership with



1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer

We think you're worth saving.

Check your risk of
prostate cancer in
30 seconds



prostatecanceruk.org/risk-checker

PROSTATE CANCER UK

Men, we are with you



Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005043) and in Scotland (SC038833). Registered company 06563957.



Rainbow Tots

A warm and friendly group for you and your little one to meet and make friends in your local area.

**Wednesdays
(term time)**

**Fun free play
sessions with
rhyme time to
finish!**

1.15pm-2.30pm

**St Stephen's
Church
Canterbury Road
CO2 7RY**

**Snacks for the tots
& refreshments for
the adults**

**£1.50 per child
(+50p
additional
child)**

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

Contact Information

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

Rector: Rev Lorraine Badger-Watts

Curate: Rev Dan Cant

Curate: Rev Belinda Kerins

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 April newsletter should be available by Sunday 26 March. Please send any items to

Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Monday 20 March to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk