

# All the latest news for our communities for April 2023



be, belong, encounter, grow

Keep up to date on our websites:

[www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk](http://www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk)

[www.stmargaretscolchester.org.uk](http://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 Dan

***'...rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you'.***

*2 Corinthians 13:11*

On the 7th March many of us gathered at St. Margaret's church for a historic occasion. Two churches united in the sharing of one Priest-in-charge. This occasion was marked with fellowship and an abundance of cake. There too was a revelation shared by Bishop Roger that captivated people's attention. The bishop noted that St. Margaret's church is the most "Welsh" church in the deanery! A shocking revelation for many, but this had little to do with Rev. Lorraine, but everything to do with the leaks! Leeks, the roof leaks! Much like St. Stephens we too share in this Welshness with our own building leaks.

Reflecting upon the two churches, I have pondered where we might share in other common areas. Both churches have a heart for serving the community, both have a Christocentric heart, both have been deeply affected by the COVID pandemic (as have many other churches) and both have been longing for by-gone days. A longing for a restoration of a full church on Sundays with a diverse community. I too, have been longing for the good old days and praying into what God might be calling us, the church to do.

It was only the other day when driving from St. Stephens to a meeting, when I heard on a Christian radio station the presenter use 2 Corinthians 13:11 as the focus for a prayer. It stuck with me for a few days until one evening, when reading through my bible, I noticed that I had bookmarked the same verse. Then a week later, while in a zoom meeting (yes, these kinds of meetings are still happening regularly) I heard the presenter quote this verse again. Although, St. Paul is writing to the church in Corinth that is divided by its disagreement, the verse did speak to me. COVID changed the world and as a result much has changed, "division and difference" have become easier to see. With this change the context in which the church is called to minister the gospel has changed.

My reflection is that we have three things to do. The first, we should be rejoicing for what we have. The second, we should be nurturing each other for our diversity and giftings. Thirdly, encouraging prayer and the opening of ourselves up to the spirit of God.

Regarding encouraging each other, I'm a bit of a trekkie, I love anything Star

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Trek. I'm particularly enjoying the new Picard series, where the most recent discovery has been that the main character, Admiral Jean-Luc Picard has just learnt that he has a son. This revelation happens as the crew of the star ship are caught in a deadly battle with an alien species with the odds of survival stacked against them. Just as the captain of the star ship, William Riker, accepts the fate of the crew, a younger member of the crew makes a suggestion based upon a previous battle Adm. Picard faced many years prior. The advice is to turn and fight the enemy using a particular battle tactic. After defeating the hostile aliens, Admiral. Picard turns to the crew saying, 'we are only as good as the crew we have.' Paraphrasing the suggestion is that everyone has value and giftings and the leaders need to create space for all voices to be heard. Not wishing to quote a political slogan but – 'We're stronger together.'

I know that the leadership team across both St. Margaret's and St. Stephen's would certainly agree with Admiral. Picard. We have a great team with huge potential, with a great deal more to be encouraged and revelled. I would like to encourage you, if you feel God might be calling you to take up a role, or have a suggestion, please don't hold back, but pray into it. And do tell anyone of the leadership team we would be very happy to discern this with you further.

I'm confident that God has great things ahead for our churches in the coming months and with Easter only round the corner, may I encourage the letting go of the old at the foot of the cross and the embracing of the new at the rising of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

**Dan**

### **Letter from the churchwardens**

Lent is a time for self examination. We don't want to beat ourselves up all the time about every little thing for sure. But we can try to look honestly at how we are doing on the most important things in life. What are they? This passage from Matthew's gospel (22:36ff) tells us:

"Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?"  
Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence'. This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second

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to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself'. These two commands are pegs; everything in in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

So loving others and how we express that is one of those pegs that everything hangs from.

If there is one thing that currently challenges Jesus's command to love others it is the process in our society that some have called "othering". At times when things are changing rapidly and many people are feeling hard pressed and pushed to the margins, debates can arise as to who qualifies as a full member of society. If we fear that people like us are threatened, parts of the media and some politicians can play on people's fears and try to narrow down who qualifies as a full member of society. And those categories of people who don't qualify (such as asylum seekers arriving by boat) who we probably haven't even met may be regarded as less than fully members of society, and not appreciated as the rounded human beings that they are.

What has this got to do with us? Well, Jesus in his ministry always stood against domineering uses of power and with people who were oppressed and treated as inferior. It challenges us to resist any attempts to reduce or dehumanise groups of people. We can take every opportunity we can to welcome people regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, class, gender or sexual orientation. A starting point may be to take every chance we have to listen with empathy to the stories of people unlike us.

What is the opposite of "othering". It is belonging.

At Cafe Church last Sunday we thought about our church motto, one of the aspects of which is belonging. Each of us needs to feel we belong in church. We have to decide for ourselves if we want to put down roots in a community. But in order to belong we each need to feel we are accepted fully for all the things we are. So, this Lent, let's think about how we can be better welcomers in society and in our church.

Kind regards,

**John Clifton for**

**Martin Kerins and John Clifton,**

**Churchwardens**

# 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



# 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**



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 **9<sup>th</sup> April 2023** until **29<sup>th</sup> 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*

## New Town Open Gardens Sunday 11 June

Once again we have been asked if we will open the Church to support this community event and serve refreshments etc during the afternoon. We will also be hosting a talk during the afternoon in the Worship Area by Rowhedge Owl Rescue and hopefully having live music during the afternoon.



However, we will need people to help with this on the day, so please can you let me or Lorraine know if you would be able to give up a couple of hours on the day to assist; hopefully on a rota basis.

Thank you. Andrew



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](http://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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**

# 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

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

**17 April 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**



# KIDS' CLUB

Kids' Club routinely 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.** From 3rd to 9th April Lisle Road, Claudius Road, Campion Road, Barrington Road, Rockhampton Walk, Freemantle Road and Sydney Street.

**Week 2.** From 10th to 16th April, Gilberd Road. Sadler Close, Western Road, Beche Road, Mayberry Walk, Wych Elm and Willow End .

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

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

**Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.**

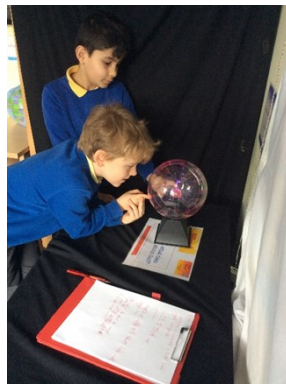
## Kendall School Prayer Space

This exciting new space has been created at Kendall with the input and support of Rev Lorraine, Rev Dan and Louise.

The children have had a wonderful time exploring the 'Prayer Space' that CYO helped to set up in the Group Room. The theme was 'Thankfulness and respect for our beautiful world' and all the children had a chance to visit in small groups. There were eight activities which the children explored with a partner. All of them were reflective and many made them really think about our world. The children really enjoyed it and welcomed the space it gave them and the calm feelings they were left with.

They thought about what they would put in a 'New World', keeping all the best things, like their family, friends and pets whilst changing things like pollution and wars – leaving us with a beautiful and peaceful new world!

They thought about others around the world and wrote 'please' prayers and comments to stick on a large world map. As you can imagine, Turkey, Syria and Ukraine were nearly covered up. They drew green hearts to celebrate the beautiful things in our world and made bunting to say thank you to all those who help them at school.



Another favourite was the shredding activity, where they drew or wrote things that bothered or frightened them and then shredded them to let them go.

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The comments after the sessions showed how much they enjoyed the activities and they all spoke of feeling calmer and satisfied with what they had done. We would like to thank Jo Wood from CYO for bringing the equipment and ideas and helping to run the prayer space for us, along with Reverend Lorraine, Curate Dan and Mrs Brown who all took a turn helping too. Ask your child which activity they enjoyed most and they can show you on the pictures here.

**In Your Area**

# In Your Area MEETING

**Meeting Details:**

Meet Your Local PCSO

**Location:**

St Stephens Church, Canterbury Road, Colchester, CO2 7RY

**Date & Time:**

Wednesday 19th April 2023 12pm - 1pm

Find out how Essex Police is making a difference in your area online at: [essex.police.uk/yourarea](https://essex.police.uk/yourarea)

**ESSEX POLICE**  
Protecting and serving Essex

**SECURE PROTECT PREVENT**

# 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 for 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 providing lifts to people, please also speak to Belinda.





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





# 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.



Please [click here](#) to see the Events page

## 'Bury Me Under Colchester Mud' by Paul Davies

The Friends of St Leonard at the Hythe are pleased to be hosting a matinee performance of the play ' Bury Me Under Colchester Mud' by Paul Davies, on Saturday 1st April at 2pm.

Revived and performed as part of the cultural celebrations of Colchester being granted City status, this new production will be staged in one of the sites where the siege took place- St Leonard-at-the-Hythe

This is a fund raiser for the Mayor's Charities and the Friends of St Leonards

History told through the eyes of the people.

1648 and Colchester is under siege, with the citizens trapped inside the walls of the town. Inside the church, one family battle not just with armed forces, but with hunger, two sons fighting on opposing sides, one pregnant daughter-in-law... and a "witch". As the siege continues, their desperate situation causes immense emotional hardship for the family, concluding in a stunning and heart-breaking resolution.

A story for our contentious time from another - and very close to home

"What made this play fascinating to watch... Real people, you could empathise with, dealing with an horrific event which has turned their lives upside down." (Colchester Gazette review of the original 2016 production.)



STAGEDeVELOPMENTS  
PRESENTS

# BURY ME IN COLCHESTER MUD

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PAUL T. DAVIES

**APRIL 1st 2023 2pm**

**Tickets: £12/£10 Concessions**

*In aid of the Mayor's Charities  
and the Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe*

**ST. LEONARD-AT-THE-HYTHE**

BOX OFFICE: 01206 500900 | [colchesterartscentre.com](http://colchesterartscentre.com)

Mon-Fri 10am-2pm. Sat 10am-5pm



# Parish Giving

Whether by phone, by post or online, you can set up a Direct Debit donation with PGS that will help our parish fund the mission and ministry, enriching the life of our church in our community.

Begin your giving journey in just a few clicks  
at [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

## GIVE ONLINE, BY PHONE OR BY POST

There are three ways to set up a Direct Debit donation with PGS.





# FAIRTRADE



As **TRAIDCRAFT** has gone into  
Administration our stocks are very low.

It is unlikely we will have enough for a table in church in April but if we do, it  
will be after the service on **Sunday 23rd April**.

Thank you for your support over many years and please continue to support  
producers and farmers by buying supermarket Fairtrade items.

The church will continue to use Fairtrade as far as possible and will be trialing  
various brands. Please bear with us and it would be helpful if you told us your  
preferences.

**Thank you.**

*Beryl and Alison*



God as we walk through  
Holy week toward the cross,  
May we remember  
the wonder of who you are.  
Beyond sin  
your love is inexhaustible,  
Beyond brokenness  
your forgiveness is  
incomprehensible.  
Beyond betrayal  
your grace is poured out  
eternally,  
Beyond death  
your life is unimaginable.  
Beyond human  
understanding,  
Your ways are always  
higher than ours.

(c) Christine Sine 2013  
<http://godspace.wordpress.com>





# ***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 -  
18<sup>th</sup> July.

Starting  
again 5<sup>th</sup>  
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



St Margaret's  
Berechurch

MERSEA ROAD • COLCHESTER • ESSEX

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](mailto: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 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](mailto:office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk](http://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 May newsletter should be available by Sunday 30 April. Please send any items to

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

Monday 24 April to:

[office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk](mailto:office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk)