

# All the latest news for our communities for July 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 with Rev Lorraine

Recent years have witnessed a flood of books offering variations of a formula that will bring happiness and fulfillment. Indeed, to the one who holds the key, who knows the secret...to the wise and intelligent, life's oyster opens itself and all manner of treasures await. Sounds attractive? Many would agree, as evidenced by the number of such books that follow one another in succession week after week, month after month, on the various bestseller lists.

Yet for us as Christians it is our calling "Let go and let God", looks good on a bumper sticker or tee-shirt, but the reality is much more difficult, because it is far easier to add to a resume than to stand before the mirror naked. It is far simpler, or so it seems, to work harder to be loveable than to recognize how beloved we already are.

The devotional writer Henri Nouwen once said, "When you are able to create a lonely place in the midst of your actions and concerns, then somehow, slowly, your successes and failures lose their power over you."

Years ago, there was a priest who spent a considerable amount of time, money, and energy overseas working towards a PhD. When he arrived home and began working as a parish priest the word arrived that he had successfully passed his dissertation and could now be called Dr. Robertson. When the mother of a young girl told her daughter the news, the girl looked at the priest with wonder and asked, "Does this mean you can operate on people now?" The mother was quick to explain, "No, dear, Fr. Brian is the kind of doctor who doesn't help anyone." Immediately realizing what had just escaped from her lips, the mother turned to the priest red faced and hoped the floor would swallow her up.

It is no wonder, then, that in Matthew's Gospel 11: 28-30 the most comforting and most sublime words ever uttered are written "Come to me," Jesus invites, "all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

"Nothing I do is ever enough!" Yes, that's right! And when we recognize that truth, the sooner we can embrace the deeper reality that God already knows us more fully than we would like to admit, and still calls us "beloved."

You and I, we are not God...and we don't have to try to be. You and I can dare to let go of the heavy, wearisome yokes we put on ourselves and allow others to thrust upon us, and instead take up that blessed yoke that is no burden, the

yoke of acceptance of our own beloved self in Christ, the yoke of acceptance of the beloved nature of other weary, heavy-laden ones still striving all around us. "Come to me," Jesus invites, "come, my beloved". **Rev Lorraine**

### **Words from the Wardens**

Dear Friends,

#### **Christian Aid Week coming back to life**

We just want to repeat our thanks to Michael Watkins for keeping the flame alive for Christian Aid Week. £567 was raised, mostly, he says, from donations at the Pentecost service on the Rec with Wimpole Rd Methodists. Thanks for your donations.

#### **The Great Garden Makeover**

It was back on 8 May that a group of us from church combined with a working party from the MCTC to take our back garden in hand. Thanks to all who took part. The improvement is massive. The garden and yard are a great play resource for children but the enhancement of the space has tempted people out there on several occasions since to drink coffee and chat and the work was done in time for the open gardens day on 11 June. To the left of the garden area, the yard now boasts a couple of raised beds with some healthy looking courgette plants (?), some beans and tomatoes and some lettuces which are now feeding Martin's grateful tortoise. Our efforts at maintaining and improving the space for all users are still a bit fitful. If you love gardening and doing things in the outdoors, please let us know. It would be great to have a regular gardening group.

#### **Ecochurch: from Silver towards Gold**



## Cont...

Firstly, our Silver Award plaque has finally arrived! While we have no immediate plans to process round New Town in an open top bus to display it, it is an achievement which lots of church members have contributed to in various ways. Thanks everyone. How to move things on towards a Gold Award? Well there are a couple of things in particular that we are working on as part of that ambition.

### **Progress on moving to renewable energy**

As we have discussed before the 'St Stephens for the Future' project includes our intention to reduce the carbon footprint of our buildings by moving to renewable energy. You might remember that when we last estimated it, we were producing 19 tonnes of CO2 per annum. The ambitious move to renewables depends upon us raising and donating money and applying for grants to replace our gas boilers with air source heat pumps supported by an array of photovoltaic panels and storage batteries. With the help of a heating contractor, we have almost reached the point of being able to budget more accurately for the panels, the pumps and all the complex gear that will be needed to form an interconnected system. Once we have a realistic idea of what it will cost, we can begin to start to fund-raise, apply for grants and seek donations. So watch this space for more news.

### **The lifestyle challenges of climate crisis**

The other challenge we face is a more immediate and personal one. How does the lifestyle of each of us contribute to halting the destruction wrought by climate heating? "Lifestyle" is one the five aspects of the EcoChurch Award Scheme and it seems like an area which we can improve on. We are all aware of Climate crisis and we know that our choices affect the sustainability of life on Earth. As God's people we should value the Creation, and make it part of our Christian commitment to treat our environment thoughtfully, for the good of all.

So, how are we doing in this aspect of our Christian commitment? To help us reflect together on this, we are launching a [lifestyle survey](#). Also, each week we will be sharing suggestions for 'Just One Thing' we can do to slow climate change.

The [lifestyle survey](#): to get a feel for how much we are each building creation thinking into our daily lives, each member will be invited to complete a simple and anonymised questionnaire. The idea is to hold a mirror up to our daily

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practice so that when we put the results together, we will be able to see how far we have come and perhaps where we could make more progress. You will be sent a [digital copy of the questionnaire](#) if you receive this magazine by email. If you don't, then we will distribute some paper copies. It isn't compulsory but we hope very much you will support this initiative. We will report back on what it shows in due course.

Just One Thing for Creation: Sometimes it's hard to know what to do about climate crisis— it seems so big. What can one person do to make a difference? So, appearing on the screen in the lobby and before the service will be a weekly prompt headed: 'Just One Thing' suggesting some practical things you could do each week, to tread more lightly on the sacred space that is our beautiful and bountiful home planet. Here is one such suggestion:

...you could do this week, to tread more lightly on the sacred space that is our beautiful and bountiful home planet.



***Repair, re-use, and recycle! Sometimes it's really better value to repair a garment or bag if the zip's gone – the clothes repair shop in Eld Lane is excellent and keeps items out of landfill and the computer shop on Bourne Road might be able to fix your laptop or PC rather than buying a replacement. There's lots of other things we can reuse rather than simply "dump".***

Your friends in Christ,

**John Clifton**

**For John Clifton and Martin Kerins, Churchwardens.**



**Thank you note from Naomi and her family**

We have had lovely notes of thanks from Naomi to both our churches and these will be on display so that you are able to read them.



**cantus  
firmus** presents

# ...still be my vision, O Ruler of All...

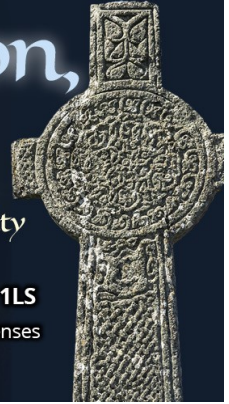
A service in the style of Celtic Christianity

6.30pm Sunday 9 July 2023

Colchester Baptist Church Eld Lane, Colchester CO1 1LS

With the *Cantus Firmus Choir* • Retiring collection towards expenses

More information at [cantusfirmus.org.uk](http://cantusfirmus.org.uk)



**St Stephen's**  
CHURCH

ALL  
WELCOME!

# CAMPING

7th – 9th July 2023

Please see later for  
further information



# 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**



## KIDS' CLUB

Will be meeting in the hall on

9th JULY at 11 am

For the youngsters who will not be  
camping at Thorington.

**WHY NOT JOIN US?**

## 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)





# 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:

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

## Date / Time:

Wednesday 19th July 2023 12pm - 1pm



## New Town Open Gardens

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for either kindly opening your garden this year or being involved in another capacity.

“Gardeners” have commented on having a great atmosphere this year with lovely visitors. The sunny weather on the day, enabled lots of people to enjoy the event. We are delighted to have received lots of compliments regarding the gardens, live music, refreshments that many of you provided and of course the ever faithful (they danced at our very first event way back in 2001?), colourful and energising Annimation Clog Dancers. The choir, music and amazing Plant Stall at Wimpole Road Methodist Church was particularly well received. We thank them too for selling programmes on the day. Once again, we are indebted to St. Stephen’s Church for not only providing teas and refreshments, but also allowing us to use their premises for the sale of programmes on the day as well as hosting the talk on Rowhedge Owl Rescue.

We are delighted to inform you that £470.60 was raised, which will be split evenly between Rowhedge Owl Rescue and OCHRE a charity that promotes awareness of oesophageal cancer amongst the public, professionals, politicians and patients.

This will be the last New Town Open Gardens organised by us but if anyone else is interested in taking over we are more than happy to assist in sharing information etc..

Thank you again for contributing to such a wonderful afternoon and fund-raising effort.

Best wishes,

Ann Morris and Jean Quinn

The Christian Aid logo, featuring the words "christian aid" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The word "christian" is smaller and positioned above "aid". The text is set against a white background that is shaped like a right-pointing arrow, all contained within a red rectangular border.

**Great news! We have raised £567.25 for Christian Aid, smashing our target of £300. Thank you everyone**

## **Camping at Torrington Friday 7th July to Sunday 9th July 2023**

We have booked a return to Thorrington for our annual camping. We have the indoor accommodation which can sleep 14 people (in bunk beds, with handy toilet and kitchen facilities) and then the fallen log campsite which is a lovely big open site set in the woods.

The weekend is open to all ages and some people come for two or one night, one day or just the Saturday evening. It is really flexible and open to all ages whether on our own or in a family. Everyone is welcome.

The plan for the weekend is very relaxed with arrival at the site from 5:30 on the Friday evening (it is fine to arrive anytime after this, but NOT before as there will be no warden on site). In previous years we:

- Had lovely take away fish and chips
- Relaxed around the fire while enjoying a sip of your favourite tippie. Some people sing and play any instruments they bring.
- Played sports.
- Sat reading and drinking tea, chatting and got to know each other.
- Completed in a go karting challenge and played human table football.
- Went on a nature walk.
- Had a group BBQ.
- Had a small service on Sunday morning in the outdoors.

On Saturday usually we have a group BBQ with people bringing food to share.

We break camp normally around lunch time on Sunday. Please also note that there is a noise curfew from 11pm-7am.

All the above is very relaxed there is never any pressure to do anything. People dip in and out of whatever they fancy. People bring their own food and we find this works well. We have a fully working kitchen in the indoor accommodation. There are showers and toilets on site. Cost guide - The bunk bed is around £15.00 per person per night with the camping £7 per person per night and free for under 5's. The indoor accommodation is split into different size rooms. There is additional small costs if you do some activities.

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The Papillon has two rooms with two bunk beds, one room with four bunk beds, and one room with six bunk beds. Please note you will need sleeping bags or sheet and duvet for the indoor accommodation. If visiting during the day the charge is £1 per person.

If you haven't been please have a think and feel free to ask us if you have any questions. We even have some tents people can borrow, and is cost is an issue please talk to us, we would rather people were included and we don't want money to be a barrier.

If you could be kind enough to let me know if you can come and whether you are camping or would like the indoor accommodation that would be great, my email address and. number is below.

Thank you

**Peter Porteous-Butler**

**07876 492622**

**Email [pb@peterbutler.com](mailto:pb@peterbutler.com)**

**Dates for your diary:**

**7 to 9 July** - Church Camping weekend. Please see web site and Facebook for more information and / or speak to Peter P-B on 07876 492622 or Email [pb@peterbutler.com](mailto:pb@peterbutler.com)

**11 June** - New Town Open Gardens on Sunday

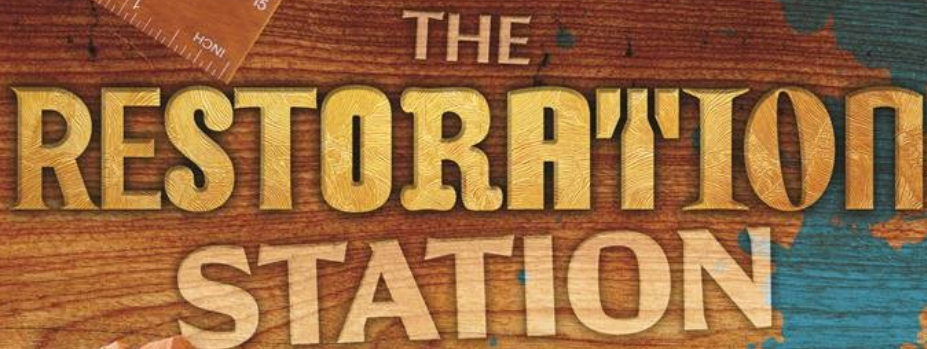
**16 July** - St Margaret's Community Day

**16 July** - Rev Joe Adams Farewell Service at Wimpole Road (service will start at 6 pm preceded by a refreshments from 5 pm)

**16 September** - New Town Community Day on the Recreation Ground

**11 October** - Service of Confirmation at St Margaret's at 7:30 pm

Further information in the Newsletter and keep watching our web site & Facebook pages for further details. Any other questions, please speak to Rev Lorraine or Andrew in the office.



# THE RESTORATION STATION

## Holiday Club

24 – 28 July

Please see Facebook and web site  
pages for further information  
& to book your place  
[or click here](#)





# 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**

**10 July 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**



## 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 on and as well as the “Events” page on our web site.

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



## PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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



**Week 1.** From 2 to 8 July, Falcon Crescent, Port Lane, St Leonards, Chandlers Row, Cairns Road, Armidale Walk and Onslow Crescent, Queen Elizabeth Way

**Week 2.** From 9 to 15 July Magdalen Street. Simonds Lane, Brook Street, Magdalen Green, Pier Close, Henry Everett Grove and Aggregate Walk, Terling Close

**Week 3.** From 16 to 22 July, Mersea Road. Nancy Smith Close, Meyrick Crescent, Homefield Road, Baronswood Way, Oakapple Close , Middlewick Close

**Week 4.** From 23 to 29 July, Pownall Crescent, King George Road, Midland Close, Sandringham Drive, Christopher Jolly Court, Bardfield Road, Berefield Way, Inworth Walk , Beeleigh Close

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

  
**St Stephen's**  
Church Centre



# ST STEPHEN'S BADMINTON CLUB FOR ADULTS

MEETING IN THE HALL ON  
THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE  
MONTH

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7:30 - 9:30 pm

# 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 proving lifts to people, please also speak to Belinda.







# ***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



**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

WICKHAMPTON • BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

CONTACT:  
CAROLYN  
07748793926



# 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 August newsletter should be available by Sunday 30 July Please send any items to

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

Monday 24 July to:

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