



# All the latest news for our communities for September 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 Lorraine.....

***Meditation***

*I will not die an unlived life,  
I will not live in fear  
of falling or catching fire.  
I choose to inhabit my days,  
to allow my living to open me,  
to make me less afraid,  
more accessible,  
to loosen my heart  
until it becomes a wing,  
a torch, a promise...*

*Dawna Markova*

One of the things about the last couple of years is that I have now got the opportunity to live my life in a way that has become unexpected.

As Christians we like to think that we move and flow with the spirit and are open to all that God asks of us. However, I suspect many of us, have our lives planned out in the way we always have and so even when God gives us a little shove in one direction or another, we hastily shove him back. My life up to this point, although following God through ordination and subsequent moves, has really been all that I had expected. I expected to get married, have children, have a fulfilling career. What I did not expect was to get Divorced.

This was not in my view 'I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you' (Jeremiah 29: 11) this was quite the opposite. So, I raged at God and told 'him/her' some home truths about how this was not to be.

It has been a long journey to realise that life can never be as we plan it, it follows lots of curves and unexpected dead ends, but that it can still be good. I have realised that rather than settling for what things are, I wish to go out and grab new adventures and take myself out of my comfort zone. For someone scared of flying, dying and generally risk adverse, it seems strange that this is where God is now leading. But I am so excited for it.

The poem above by Dawna Markova is very relevant to me.

'I will not die an unlived life, I will not live in fear, I choose to inhabit my days, to allow my living to open me, to make me less afraid'

## **Cont....**

This gift of life that God has given me is precious and unique and I'm going to no longer be frightened of living it.

A lot of people have rightly commented that over the last few years life has not been easy at St Stephen's and indeed it really has had its fair share of challenges. Nevertheless, I have loved ministering here. The challenge of work has kept life interesting and really worked me hard. I have loved it here working with and amongst you all and more latterly with St Margaret's.

You are all amazing people of God and full of God's Spirit. Please hold onto that and continue to work to bring God's love to all. The Christian life is not easy and sometimes it takes all we can to hold onto God, but God will always be faithful.

God's promises are eternal and everlasting.

'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert?'

Isaiah 43:18-19

With all my love and prayers.

**Rev Lorraine**

## **Words from the Wardens**

### **Thanks for everything Lorraine and Godspeed!**

It has all happened so quickly. Lorraine has discovered a call to a very different kind of ministry from working in the parishes - army chaplaincy. By the time you read this St Stephen's and St Margaret's will be in a period of vacancy and Lorraine will have started her course in officer training at Sandhurst.

So, let us look back briefly at the last four and a half years. I am writing here from a St Stephen's perspective. First, the downside: what a challenging and unpredictable time it has been. All of us experienced the risks and privations of the pandemic, but for a priest seeking to lead a church in a period of growth it was particularly difficult. Also, Lorraine was obliged to address and resolve a rumbling historic issue dividing the church centre community. Other disruptions and a period of ill health were in the mix too. All that must have left its

## Cont....

mark. We appreciate that Lorraine has tackled these challenges with courage and dignity and has emerged to focus on much needed developments in the life of the churches and on the community.

Under her leadership, stronger relationships now exist between St Stephen's, St Margaret's and Wimpole Rd Methodists. She has encouraged the 'Three Together' online services which met a need for worship during the pandemic, for would-be worshippers who cannot attend in person and for people in the community who might happen upon the Facebook page. She has a heart for New Town and was continually looking at ways in which the church could open its doors to the community, particularly to those in most need. The arrival of the Food Bank, the link with CAB, the Slow Cooker Club and the growth of the Saturday 'Hub' are just some of the signs of this open door, salt-and-light approach. Lorraine has pioneered the creation of a community worker post with Wimpole Rd to take this approach much further and, as I write this, interviews are planned in a few days time.

The church centre has welcomed new renters helping us financially but also increasing footfall, thus strengthening our network of relationships with people not currently worshipping with us.

Lorraine has been part of meeting the twin major challenges represented by the 'St Stephen's in the Future' project: repairing the roof and moving to renewable energy. As she leaves, these are underway but much remains to be done.

In our church life, we have celebrated the breaking of bread, experimented with cafe church, seen the initiation of a Start course which has helped some of us move from the edge to a place nearer the centre of faith. Lorraine has encouraged the ministry of children in our worship and has valued people's commitment to taking part in worship.

But we will probably remember her most as an approachable and sociable person, invariably identifiable by her laugh, who took the trouble and care to remember an amazing amount about all of us and encourage us in the highs and lows of our lives. In return, we have heard the latest news of her much loved children as they make their way into young adulthood. We have met her walking her dog. We have wondered and admired her athletic prowess as she runs marathons.

Recently at a Wednesday morning communion, we read the story of Moses

## **Cont....**

whom God took to a mountaintop to survey the promised land. God allowed Moses to see the land but not go there. Likewise we pray that Lorraine will catch a glimpse of some of the things she has initiated and how they may bear fruit in her absence. Lorraine leaves us in a good place: we are beginning to grow again, with several exciting projects and a desire to continue to seek the Kingdom of God in New Town.

Lorraine leaves us on 3 September with a Holy Communion service at 6pm preceded by tea and cake at 5pm.

Lorraine, Godspeed in your new calling.

## **Planning for the Vacancy**

So, a period of change is upon us and those of us in leadership will do our best to involve you and keep everyone informed about what is going on and in what ways you may be able to help.

So, what has happened so far? The PCCs of both churches met together with our Area Dean Erwin, Archdeacon Ruth and Bishop Roger on 25 July. They are keen to help the two churches recruit a new priest in charge and see great opportunities for creativity in mission to attract applicants for the post. The vacancy is likely to last at least 6 months.

The first task towards recruitment is to prepare a joint parish profile which will inform a job description for the new priest. The PCCs should each appoint 2 or 3 people to join a working group to produce a draft profile to be agreed by both PCCs. It was suggested that this should take around 6 weeks to prepare. The sooner this is achieved, the sooner the next part of the process can be completed.

Because of holiday commitments, the earliest date St Stephen's PCC could meet was the first week of September (date still to be finalised).

There are two main items on the agenda:

1. How we plan for the period of the vacancy so that, if possible we continue to grow rather than lose momentum and people ( See Growing through a Vacancy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJU8ip5XyG0>)
2. Appointing two or three people to write the parish profile with colleagues from St Margaret's.

If you like to be part of that group? If so, speak to one of the churchwardens.

## **Cont...**

In the meantime, the ministry team have planned a schedule of services at both churches to take us to the end of November. A copy of the schedule is on the church members notice board in the entrance hall.

Here is a prayer to use during the vacancy

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for the ministry of Lorraine and we pray your presence and blessing upon her.*

*We now ask that you will help us*

- *to share responsibility,*
- *grow in faith,*
- *love one another,*
- *care for those in need,*
- *reach out to others,*
- *and welcome newcomers.*

*Lord Jesus, guard and grow this church as we serve you in this period without a priest in charge.*

*Please guide those who are seeking the right minister for us, and those who are seeking the right church for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow.*

*Amen*

## **Environmental Lifestyle Survey**

Thanks to those of you who completed the survey. Andrew in the office has tabulated the results but there is no time to report the conclusions before going to press with this month's newsletter. I will share that next time.

**John Clifton for**

**John Clifton and Martin Kerins, churchwardens**

## **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](mailto:office@ststephens-colchaser.org.uk) . **Andrew Topple**

**Dates for your diary:**

**01 September** - Rev Hannah's welcome service at Wimpole Road at 7:30 pm

**03 September** - Rev Lorraine's final service at 6:00 pm with tea from 5:00 pm

**10 September** - Naomi Snelling's Ordination service at Chelmsford Cathedral

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

Please speak to Andrew in the office if you are able to assist with this

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

**12 October** - Slow Cooker Club starts

Any other questions, please speak to Rev Belinda, Rev Dan or Andrew in the office.

**KIDS' CLUB**

**Will be back on**

**SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER**

**and**

**SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER**

**In the Hall at 11.00am**

**COME AND JOIN US!**

## RIDE AND STRIDE (CYCLE AND WALK) to raise money for St Stephen's

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2022



This is the annual event when cyclists and walkers visit as many churches as possible during the day and are sponsored for each church they visit. The money raised is divided between their church and Friends of Essex Churches .

Mal will be taking part, joined by a friend. He would welcome church members to join them. If you are interested have a word with him. He will have sponsor forms if you would like to help raise funds for St Stephen's. He would also welcome sponsors!!



### On your marks . . .

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

### Get set . . .

- Add Saturday 9 September 2023 to your diary
- Source sponsorship from friends and family
- [www.friendsofessexchurchestrust.org.uk/rideandstride](http://www.friendsofessexchurchestrust.org.uk/rideandstride) for further information or scan the QR code below



### Go!

- Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot
- Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church
- **Please join us!**

## 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 28 August**— Winsley Road, Beehive Court, Worsnop House, New Town Road, Marasca End, Garrod Court and Thaxsted Walk .

**Week 2. From 4 September**— Cannon Street, Rebow Street, Victoria Place, Felstead Close and Pebmarsh Close.

**Week 3. From 11 September**— Belmont Place, Scarlets Road, Recreation Road, Parkland Court, Smith’s Field, Darwin Close, Bathurst Close and Perth Close .

**Week 4. From 18 September**— Brookside Close, Bourn Road, Dudley Close, Bourn Court, Trowel Place, Wall Mews and Spencer Road.

**Week 5 From 25 September**— Artillery Street. Victor Road, New Park Street, King Stephen Road, Peerswood Road, Hornbeam Close and Fal-lowfield Road

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

## **A PRAYER TO USE DURING A VACANCY**

This can be used in the intercessions at church services, by small groups and church prayer meetings, as well as by individual church members.

Heavenly Father we thank you for the ministry of X  
our previous vicar/rector/minister,  
and we pray your presence and blessing upon him/her.

We ask now that you will help us  
to share responsibility,  
grow in faith,  
love one another,  
care for those in need,  
reach out to others,  
and welcome newcomers.

Lord Jesus, guard and grow this church

as we serve you together in this period without a vicar/rector/minister.

Please guide those who are seeking the right minister for us,  
and those who are seeking the right church for their ministry,

that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom  
grow.

Amen.

## **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)



## Local Evangelist

Would you like to build up your confidence in telling the Gospel story?

This course provides an informal, interactive setting to explore and grow in confidence and find ways that work for you to share your faith with others.

Starts this autumn online over 4 Saturday mornings:

16th September, 2023

14th October, 2023

18th November, 2023

20th January, 2024

9:00am - 1:00pm

Friends

Colleagues

Family

Neighbours



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

For information please email either:  
[snorris@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:snorris@chelmsford.anglican.org)  
[mroscoe@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:mroscoe@chelmsford.anglican.org)

# St. Stephen's Slow Cooker Club

**Canterbury Road  
Starting Thursday 12th October @  
11am**

*Ingredients, equipment, recipes all supplied and  
coaching given*



**To register:**

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

**Call: 01206 869091**





# Boxted Methodist Silver Band

## 125th Anniversary Concert

Principal Cornet Anne Ruddock

Conducted by Victoria Steinitz plus special guests

**Saturday 23 September, 6pm**

**Littlegarth School**

**Park Road, Colchester CO6 4JR**

An evening celebrating the remarkable history and glorious music making of Boxted's unique Methodist Silver Band - a night not to be missed, featuring massed bands and a specially-commissioned world premiere!

**Tickets £10 *from* [stagestubs.com](https://www.stagestubs.com)**



NEW TOWN

# COMMUNITY

## FUN DAY



### ACTIVITIES

- live music •
- face painting •
- skate park •
- dog show 🐕 •
- market stalls •
- yummy food •
- and much more!



**Saturday 16  
September**  
11am - 3pm



**Old Heath  
Recreation Ground**



Wimpole Road  
METHODIST CHURCH



in support of:

# FREE ENTRY!



# 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

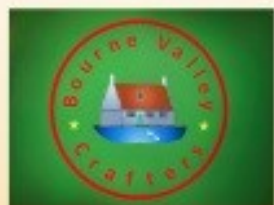
## Date / Time:

Wednesday 27th September 2023 10am - 11am



# Craft Fair

Saturday 9th September 2023



**Bourne Mill**  
Colchester CO2 8RT

**10.00-3.30**



Unusual and unique  
gifts created by local  
artists and crafters.



Refreshments available  
Free admission

fb: @bournevalleycrafterscolchester  
email: bournevalleycrafters3@gmail.com



National  
Trust



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Heritage Open Day

Bourne Mill, Colchester

Sunday 10 September, 11:00 - 4:00

Refreshments. FREE ENTRY

Guided tours, working waterwheel, camera  
obscura demonstration, children's activities

[nationaltrust.org.uk/bourne-mill](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/bourne-mill)

In partnership with



# 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 Ben at

**ben.gibbons@ymcaessex.org.uk or 07940 543296**

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

**11 September 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**



  
**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 07745 160 621**

**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

01223 810101 • 01223 810102

Contacts  
Carolee  
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 October newsletter should be available by Sunday 24 September. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Monday 18 September to:

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