

# **All the latest news for our communities for October 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 Topple for further information.

### **Pause for thought Rev Belinda.....**

I love our community day and look forward to it every year. In fact, it is one of my favourite things of the year. The sunshine this year really helped bring out the whole community, young and old – there was something for everyone. Such a lot of work goes into putting it on and it is always a big hit with the whole of the community. We have so much to thank Andrew, Juliet, and others for, their hard work is appreciated by all of the community.



Last year I met Linda at the community day, a lovely lady who is now a member of our church and we were reflecting, how this year was the anniversary of our meeting. If it hadn't been for our, God inspired, meeting Linda would not have known that she would be welcomed into the church and that it was a place where she can feel at home.

It got me thinking about community and the fact that Jesus says that all are welcome in his family. I love the stories of Jesus' life in the bible. I love to see how Jesus moved about in the community, making friends and followers of all that he met. He didn't stay in the temple and wait for people to come in, he lived with all, out in the communities that he visited. For Jesus there was no in and out club, for Jesus the whole of people kind were his family and friends and he had come to tell them that, and I think by his life in the community, he showed us that that was important to him.

## Cont....

When I was studying at college, I was struck several times by a theologian called Thomas Torrance. I loved his theory on Salvation by faith. He felt that along the way, the translation of some bible verses, had been wrongly given a slightly skewed slant. Verses like Ephesians 2:8 – “by grace you have been saved – through faith.” He explained that we have come to believe that it is by our faith in Jesus saving act that we have been saved. As Ephesians 2 would suggest = God’s Grace and our Faith.

Torrance would like to suggest that it is by God’s Grace and God’s Faith that we are saved. He would go on to suggest that this mean that God has done it all, our faith is not part of a transaction process and nor is our good behaviour. There is no threshold to cross, there is no in and out club for people who go to church and those that don’t - the whole community is God’s community not just those that attend church.



Our Community Day mirrored this nicely: no one had to pay an entry fee, entertainment was provided free to sit and listen to, all were welcomed and so many came to be part of it. It mirrored for me the kingdom of God, God’s family where ALL are welcome. You see, ALL are saved by what Jesus did for them, no action needed except to accept it, and enjoy the company of others who have accepted this free gift too.

James TW has written a lovely song called Easy. Although James TW has written it about a girl. I often sing it replacing girl with God– “God you make it all so Easy to love you.” Have a listen, remembering that God has done it all and made it all so easy to love Him.

**Rev Belinda**

## **Churchwarden's letter**

In this letter, we give some promised feedback on the Environmental Lifestyle Survey. But firstly, to mention some developments since Lorraine's departure started the period of vacancy.

We congratulate Louise Brown for her appointment as community worker in New Town shared between St Stephens, St Margaret's and our friends at Wim-pole Road Methodists. Her first task will be to initiate a third round of Slow Cooker Club sessions but then she will be looking and thinking more widely about what the three churches can do to meet urgent needs in the parishes. Do pray for her and for Martin and Andrew Topple who will be supporting her. This is a new and exciting post with great potential.

Louise's appointment means that she has stepped down from her role as PCC secretary. We want to record her thanks for the commitment and work she has done on all our behalves in that role. We are grateful that Denise Asquez who is already a PCC member and has agreed to take on this role in Louise's place.

As we have already said during services, the search for a new incumbent begins with the writing of a 'parish profile'. In this case, it will be a profile of the two parishes since the new incumbent will be priest in charge of both St Stephen's and St Margaret's. The profile describes the parishes and their demography, the existing activities and character of each church community and sets out what we are looking for in a new incumbent. The profile needs to be jointly written by a team from both churches. At the last St Stephen's PCC, three people were appointed to comprise the St Stephens members of the team. they are Annie Porteous Butler, Sara Scott and Eddie Weller. By the time you read this there is every chance that St Margaret's will have appointed a similar team and that the teams will have met. The aim is for the teams to agree a draft profile to be approved by both PCCs as soon as possible (6 weeks was mentioned as a target by Bishop Roger). When that has happened, the draft is sent to Archdeacon Ruth and the next phase of incumbent recruitment can begin. In the meantime, please do talk to our profile writers and share your thoughts about the direction of St Stephen's & St Margaret's mission in the future and what we are looking for in a new incumbent. That's another thing to pray about.

Thanks to the 22 people who kindly completed the Environmental Lifestyle Survey during July. It was a rough and ready survey but interesting none the less. Here are some highlights from the results.

- Most people (82%) thought that an ethical lifestyle was always part of their Christian faith.
- Transport accounts for a significant proportion of CO2 emissions so this is an important lifestyle issue. The questions posed in the survey were not detailed enough to understand why we might walk or cycle to church or not. Some of us don't own cars and have to walk. On the other hand, some people who would like to walk or cycle have to rely on their own or someone else's car because of health or distance. Having said that, 77% of respondents usually walked or cycled to church. 14% did not. And 9% did sometimes.
- On the other hand when asked if we try to reduce car use when possible, 86% said we did but 14% said we didn't. Does this suggest that sometimes the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak and sheer convenience might tempt us to use our cars when with a bit of effort we might avoid it?
- Flying is a minority choice when you consider the world's population but various studies show that it is a major contributor to global heating and for people who are otherwise very careful to take care of creation, it can add a massive load on their individual CO2 emission budget largely nullifying other actions to reduce carbon use. A recent study commissioned by the Rail Delivery Group suggested that flying produces 10 times more CO2 than the equivalent rail journey. So, it is food for thought that 14% of us said we do fly when there is no compelling need to do so.
- I was surprised (I don't know whether to be impressed or sceptical that this meant an informal check rather than a formal online audit) that 91% of us had completed a personal carbon footprint audit in the last year. I admit I haven't done one and need to do it! We were all mostly 'on it' when it came to recycling and reusing (95%).
- The picture was more confused when the survey went on to ask about fairtrade (66% positive), buying electricity from a renewable source (64% did), eating less meat (72% in favour), checking products' source, packaging etc (54% positive) and ethical banking (just 50%).
- Under open comments, the WWF carbon calculator ([footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://footprint.wwf.org.uk)), refill shops, clothes recycling schemes, buying clothes from charity shops and reading multimedia articles about acting to reduce global warming were among the helpful resources.

- The most inspiring part of the survey was the open question about what we can learn from each other and what we can do together. Key to this seemed to be getting involved in some way. This clearly boosted some people's commitment and the sense that something positive can be done. This included gardening, rewilding, exploring domestic solar power, adopting a policy of 'enough' by planning meals, reducing food waste, giving up flying, using public transport more, litter picking and generally looking after each other.

Thanks for all your comments. Maybe we could repeat the survey in a year's time and see what has changed. In the meantime, I hope this has got all of us appreciating what we do already and encouraging each other to take the next step both individually and as a church.

Best wishes,

**John Clifton for**

**John Clifton and Martin Kerins, Churchwardens**

### CHURCH BACK GARDEN TIDY



If you have a few minutes spare, could you please pull a few weeds out to try to help keep this area a bit tidier?  
Thank you Rev Belinda

### HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Our kids Sunday Club is lacking a helper. This is just for the 4th Sunday of the month, where Anna has gone off to uni, so Emma has lost her helper. Please could anyone interested please speak to me.



Also our Saturday Cafe is looking for people to go on a rota - again for a once a month slot. Could anyone interested speak to myself or Denise.

Rev Belinda

### **Dates for your diary:**

**30 September** - Rev Belinda's Ordination

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

**12 October** - Slow Cooker Club starts

**5 November**— Fun Day raising funds for Tourette's Action and St Stephen's  
(see later for more details)

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

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

**KIDS' CLUB**  
**will meet on**  
**SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER**  
**and**  
**SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER**  
**in the Hall at 11.00am**  
**DO JOIN US!**



# Harvest Praise

with **Cantus Firmus Choir**



[cantusfirmus.org.uk](http://cantusfirmus.org.uk)

## **Eighteen Deacons ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral, including Naomi Snelling**

Eighteen new Deacons were ordained by Bishop Guli at Chelmsford Cathedral on Sunday 10 September. The Deacons, who will serve in parishes across Chelmsford Diocese, were ordained at two services .

If you would like to read more about our new deacons or watch the services, [please click here](https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/newrevs) or on the link below:

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/newrevs>



# St Nicholas needs **YOU**



## **St Stephen's Christmas Bazaar** **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023** **10am to 2pm**

We need volunteers for the following:

- Games, Lucky dip, and Tombola's,
- Elves to help St Nicholas
- Stall holders (£10 per table)

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Foyer. If you'd like more details, please speak to Annie ([annieporteousbutler@gmail.com](mailto:annieporteousbutler@gmail.com))

**If we do not get volunteers to run games etc. we will not be able to run this event.**

## 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 1st to 8th October,** Lisle Road, Claudius Road, Campion Road, Barrington Road, Rockhampton Walk, Freemantle Road and Sydney Street.

**Week 2. From 9th to 17th October,** Gilberd Road. Sadler Close, Western Road, Beche Road, Mayberry Walk, Wych Elm and Willow End .

**Week 3. From 18th to 22rd October.** Gladstone Road. Granville Road. Mytle Grove, Berechurch Hall Road, Lethe Grove and Friday Wood Green

**Week 4. From 23th to 29th October.** Morant Road. Harsnet Road, Kimberley Road, Camulodunum Way, Kohima Road and Arakan Close

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



## GROWING THROUGH A VACANCY

WWW.GROW-VACANCY.ORG.UK

### **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)



# **Saying Goodbye Remembrance Service – Essex**

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**CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL**

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**15 OCTOBER, 2023 AT 6PM**

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

**[SAYINGGOODBYE.ORG](https://sayinggoodbye.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**





# **The Abbeygate Concert Band**

**An exciting and lively programme of music will fill  
the Church with music with this concert**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7.30pm**

**Tickets are £8 including a free glass of wine and are  
available in advance from the Wivenhoe Bookshop  
(cash only) or the internet via TicketSource /  
Wivenhoe (card only).**

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***Organised by the Wivenhoe St Mary's Music Society***



# FUNDRAISING DAY

## 5TH NOVEMBER

**JOIN OUR FAMILY  
EVENT ON THE  
5TH NOVEMBER  
1:30PM -5PM**

**Inflatable, Games, Stalls,  
Demonstrations, Refreshments,  
Entertainment, Sparklers and more!**

**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH  
CENTRE  
CANTERBURY ROAD  
CO2 7RY**



**Come along and support our Fundraising event!**

**Entry from £2!**

**Family Ticket just £5!**

**Family ticket includes use of inflatable, games & a free  
drink per family member**

**Tickets available from:**

**[https://stagestubs.com/tourettes-  
action-colchester/fundraising-day-st-  
stephens\\_](https://stagestubs.com/tourettes-action-colchester/fundraising-day-st-stephens_)**

**Or Cash on the door!**



**Featuring local  
businesses and  
performers!**



To book your ticket [click here](https://stagestubs.com/tourettes-action-colchester/fundraising-day-st-stephens) or on the link below:

<https://stagestubs.com/tourettes-action-colchester/fundraising-day-st-stephens>



In support of



# St Mary's Church Dedham

CO7 7DE

A Special Service to celebrate the  
work of Guide Dogs

Saturday October 21st at 2pm

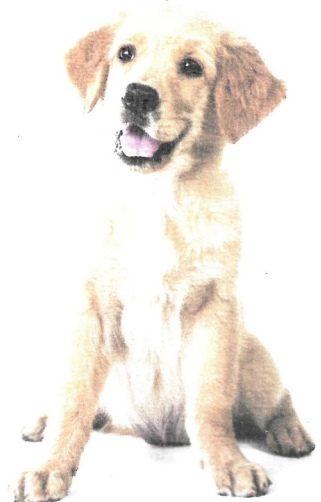
Guide dogs, Pups in training

Come and meet these wonderful  
Life Changing Dogs  
and hear the difference  
they make to their  
owners lives.

Light refreshments after  
the service



The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by  
guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617)  
and Scotland (SC038979) GD0640 05/22



# 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**

**9 October 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



St Margaret's  
Berechurch

MERSEA ROAD • COLCHESTER • ESSEX

## 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**  
WINDHOLM • EDUCATION • CHURCH

**Contacts:**  
**Carolyn**  
**07748793926**



# **Baby & Toddler Group**

## **Coffee morning**

**Mondays 9 – 11 am  
(term time)**

**Toys, singing,  
fun and refreshments**



Contact us at: [wimpoleroadmcm@gmail.com](mailto:wimpoleroadmcm@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**

**Community Worker : Louise Brown**

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

Mobile: 07598 251 180

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 November newsletter should be available by Sunday 29 October Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Monday 23 October to:

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