

All the latest news for our communities for April 2024



Cover picture kindly taken by Steven

be, belong, encounter, grow

Keep up to date on our websites:

www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk

www.stmargaretscolchester.org.uk

Regular Weekly Services and Meetings

(these may vary from time to time)

**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.

**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.

Rectors reflection

Passion and Post Easter Thoughts

I am writing this before Easter, but it is for the April magazine which comes after Easter. We are privileged because we are post Easter people. We mark the events of Christ's passion knowing Christ has risen. He has won the victory over sin and death. It was not like that for the first disciples.

Bearing that in mind, I thought I would give you a few thoughts that are part of the Passion story but speak into post Easter, even post twenty first century, where what seemed negative turn positive for us as we believe and trust in Jesus our Saviour. These are thoughts we shared recently at our Evening Housegroup.

Our first thoughts were about Jesus' blood. Matt 27 reports how Pilate said that Jesus was innocent of any crime that would deserve death so the crowd should release him. However, persuaded by the high priests and elders, they loudly roar out 'crucify him.' Pilate could see he was not going to get anywhere with them and there would soon be a riot. So, giving in, he washed his hands to declare he was innocent of 'Jesus' blood, so that made them responsible instead. In those times, someone had to take responsibility to implement a death sentence. Over eagerly, they answered 'His blood be on us and on our children.'

Sadly, especially in the world war years, so called Christian countries used that declaration as justification to persecute and kill Jewish people, not realising that their actions also showed the evil in their own hearts. As they harmed fellow human beings, they also became guilty of crime against Jesus and guilty of his blood. Even though Pilate refuted his guilt, he too was guilty of allowing this unjust death to happen. Indeed, we all miss the point if we do not see that all of us are guilty of shedding the blood of Christ, because in our own human nature, we are all creatures of sinful thought and actions. It is only through Jesus' blood that brings us into God's intimate presence, as clean and whole restored people.

The pre-Easter message was that in a sombre way, the 'blood of Jesus was on us all.'



BUT the post Easter message is that joyfully, as we accept it, 'the blood of Jesus is on us all,' in a positive way saving us from sin and death. Just as the Passover lamb's blood was sprinkled on the doors so that the whole household knew life, so we know God's love and life through the shedding of Christ's blood, and we remember that positive every time we take communion. As an old song put it: 'It's your blood

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that's shed for me, it's your blood that gives us life.'

Our second thoughts were about 'Jesus as King.' They convicted and mercilessly mocked Jesus for claiming to be the 'King of the Jews.' The soldiers, seeing his sorry state, crowned him with thorns, a royal-coloured robe, and a makeshift staff, then bowed down to him before hitting him over the head. At the crucifixion, others joined in the mocking, saying if he was King, he should come down from the cross, then they would follow him. To their chagrin though, the sign on the cross declared him as 'King of the Jews.' The Bible declares that he is even more than that -he is Lord of the universe. Revelation describes him as 'Lord of Lords and King of Kings.' At the end of the ages, humanity will see his true glory and reverse the mocking. Instead, 'every knee will bow before him.'



Today, people continue to mock Jesus by blaspheming his name, by jeering at or persecuting his followers, or ignoring or rejecting his claim to be Saviour and Lord. I would suggest that our pre and post Easter response is to recognise where we mock him when we accept him as Saviour but still live to please ourselves, rather than seeking God's ways. He calls us to recognise him as Christ and Lord of all and worship him now in song and action, to be an Easter people throughout the year.

Happy pre, post and present Easter.



Rev Jackie

St Leonard at the Hythe

From March, where there is a 5th Sunday in the month, we have agreed we will hold evening prayer worship at St Leonards at the Hythe.

Further details will follow, but for now please mark this in your diary!



Churchwarden's letter

Dear friends,

Changes is a'comin'

Sometimes things just seem to be going on much as they have done with not much sign of change but now is not such a time. We have been in a vacancy for eight months since Lorraine's departure. Vacancies can be just a time of waiting but actually a lot has been happening in the meantime. The relationship between the three churches has deepened given a further push forward by the recent awayday and working on the parish profile together. Many of you will have contributed to that profile. Café church is evolving and attracting more people. Messy church and the Hub continues to thrive. Louise is making the new role of community worker her own. Belinda has been priested and Dan prepares to apply to take on his own new challenges.

Interviewing for priest-in-charge

And now there is the possibility that the priest-in-charge vacancy may be coming to an end. Last Sunday, we read out the following message from Archdeacon Ruth about the decision to interview a candidate for incumbent at St Stephen's and St Margaret's. She writes:

"The interview panel met last week and we were very pleased to receive a strong application for the post of Rector of St Stephen's and Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's. We will therefore be going ahead with an interview on Tuesday 23rd April. There will be more information about that soon, particularly for Ministry Team members and PCC members, who we would like to involve in the interview day. The interview panel (which AD Ruth chairs) includes your parish reps (John Clifton, Annie Porteous-Butler, Ron Carr and Linda English) as well as Area Dean Erwin Lammens and Deanery Lay Chair Lynne Gettings. Please do pray for the panel, for the candidate and for your parishes as we discern together God's will for your parishes and for the candidate's future ministry.

Many thanks, Archdeacon Ruth."

The interview panel were in agreement that it is not just about whether a candidate is strong but whether they are a 'good fit' for the two churches. Yes, please pray for the interview panel and indeed the candidate to be given wisdom in this important decision for our churches and communities.

Being an inclusive church.

I was attracted to St Stephen's years ago because of the welcome that was given to me and to all comers. At the recent PCC, there was a unanimous decision to make that policy of welcome more explicit by seeking to sign up as an "Inclusive Church". What does that mean? This is the Inclusive Church statement:

"We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it

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continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

It doesn't mean that we are already doing everything we should to make things equal for all. It means that we promise to do all we can to make that a reality. If you want to know more about our application, talk to a PCC member and have a look at the IC website (<https://www.inclusive-church.org/>)

Looking ahead to the Annual Parish General meeting

Our meeting in May is a time for reviewing the past year but also looking forward and electing people who are called to serve on the PCC who will represent everyone and do their very best to look after the church and pursue the church's mission in New Town. Maybe you are someone who would like to consider that role or to nominate someone else? Talk to a churchwarden or PCC member to find out more. Or perhaps you are thinking that you would like to be more active in others ways. What is there to do? We have lacked a sacristan for some time now. That is a person that helps prepare for services by setting out what is needed for communion and lights candles. Making teas and coffees after services is much appreciated. Our gardens need regular love and care to look their best. These are just a few examples.

Moving sideways...

I have been a churchwarden for the past 4 years which has been an extraordinary privilege. I now feel that it is time to pass on that role to someone else. I am not planning to go away or just sit at the back though! Instead, I will be doing the day-to-day work to push forward on the energy project and the church roof repair, reporting back to the standing committee and the PCC. I will be writing more about that (DV) in future magazines.

Sunday wardens

But Martin and the next churchwarden could sure do with a bit of back up... The PCC agree that it would be good to equip some more people to do what churchwardens do on a Sunday to make things run smoothly. The role is bigger than that, but we are just talking about things like unlocking the church, making sure the worship area is set up, giving notices, checking all the jobs on the rota are covered etc. PCC members were asked to think about if they might do that perhaps once every couple of months. Interested? That's work in progress.

With every blessing,

John Clifton

For John Clifton and Martin Kerins, churchwardens

Update of the Electoral Roll prior to the APCM

Forms to apply to be on the Electoral Roll will be available between Sunday 31st March and Sunday 28th April at the rear of the worship area or can be downloaded by [clicking here](#) so that we can update it before the APCM.

Amendment forms will also be available.

If your name is not on the Electoral Roll and you would like to be able to attend the APCM, you must have been attending St Stephen's for a minimum of six months, have been Baptised, and be 16 years of age and above.

If you would like to check which details are currently held for you on the Electoral Roll, please either email GDPR@ststephens-colchester.org.uk , call or text

Annie Porteous-Butler on 07940 837452.

Car Park and Canterbury Road Congestion

To all Church Centre Users

I have had a couple of comments from local residents about how busy both Canterbury Road and the car park are getting at present and I was wondering whether you might be able to delicately encourage your members / attendees to walk to their classes / meeting here if they are able to.

Clearly, for very good reasons, a number of people are unable to walk and if they have to travel by car, but are able to walk a short distance, might they consider parking a few hundred yards away and walking the last bit and / or slightly staggering their arrival and departure to see if we might reduce the congestion in the car park and on Canterbury Road a little that way.

As you will no doubt be aware, we are working to achieve our Gold Echo Church Award (we already have our bronze and silver awards); we have some big plans in progress which will support this, but if we can also reduce the number of people travelling here by car this will also contribute positively towards this. If there is anything that we can do to support this (such as more bicycle parking etc), please do let us know and we will see what we can do.

I know it isn't easy, but any help that you or your people could give would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks, **Andrew Topple, Church Administrator**

Easter Walk Monday 1st April.



Hello everyone have no fear it's not a April fool. Our Friday night house group would like to arrange a few get togethers this year and this is the first.

We are organising a walk from Walton train station to Walton on the Naze Tower a walk of about 1.5 miles.

We plan to catch the 10.07 train from Colchester Town (St Botolph's) station. We propose meeting at 9.50 to sort tickets as if we get a group save ticket and travel together the cost is £6.55 per adult return and £2 for children. (For a group save a minimum of three adults must travel together although train tickets can be a bit complicated, but this is the price I found).

If you do not fancy travelling by train, please meet at 11am at Walton train station. There is parking at Walton train station.

If you fancy just joining us at the Naze there is parking, there and cafes. I guess we will be there around 12 noon.

At the Naze Chris Poole may organise a short nature sightseeing wander if the weather is good. We may also have a few games again if the weather is ok.

Feel free to bring a picnic for Lunch. Or take advantage of the cafes on site.

We will then return the walk back to the train station with the trains at 2 mins to the hour. Everyone is welcome.

If it is bad weather, we plan to still meet at the church for a picnic and activities. This would take place from 11am. Feel free to call on the day on number below to see which activity we will be doing.

Thank you

Chris and Debbie Liddamore on behalf of the Friday night house group
07752 369 612



Camping at Thorrington Friday 5th July to Sunday 7th July 2024

We have booked a return to Thorrington for a camping extravaganza. I think this is our ninth year of going. However, if you have not been we would love you to join us for all or part of our weekend away.

We have the indoor accommodation which can sleep 14 people (in bunk beds) and then the fallen log campsite which is a lovely big open camp site set in the

woods. Thorrington is a lovely quite big campsite on the way to Brightlingsea, it is the scout campsite, but they allow us to use it as a church group.



The weekend is open to all ages and some people come for two nights, one night, one day or just the Saturday evening. It is really flexible it doesn't matter if you are on our own or in a family. Everyone is welcome.

The rough plan for the weekend is arrive around 4.30pm on the Friday set up camping and then have some fish and chips which Sheila Poole as offered to collect and bring to the site for us. Nearer the time we will place an order.

We then relax around the fire while enjoying a sip of your favourite tipples. If we are lucky some people sing and play any instruments they bring.

The Saturday is relaxed and we will probably book some of the onsite activities. We also set up some sport activities on our site. Some people sit and read; some people go for a walk. If we are lucky Chris Poole may arrange a nature walk. For tea we arrange a group BBQ and share food which people bring. This is sometimes where people join us for the evening. We sometimes then attend the large campfire for a sing song, run by the site wardens before returning to our site for a more relaxed fire.

On Sunday we may attend the "Scout's Own" 15 minute outside act of worship before normally breaking camp after lunch. The site is around 20 minute drive from our church.

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.

We are still finalising the prices per person per night but think this will be £8 per person if you are camping and over 5 under-fives are free. The indoor accommodation is likely

to be £15 per person per night. This indoor accommodation has increased quite a lot over the last few years. These prices will hopefully include two activities we will book to do on the Saturday. We really want people to come and have a small fund set aside that people can access if you the cost is difficult.

If you haven't been before we hope to see you and please ask us if you have any questions. Thank you

Chris and Debbie Liddamore
07752 369612

Andrew King's research about St Mary Magdalen

You may be aware of the work which Andrew did exploring the history of St Mary Magdalen Church and it was his wish that this work not be lost and if possible taken on and continued by somebody else with a passion for it.

If you are that person, please can you contact Andrew Topple in the office (office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk) and can then arrange for you to make contact with Andrew's executors to progress this.

Andrew Topple

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Week 1. From 7 April Lisle Road, Claudius Road, Campion Road, Barrington Road, Rockhampton Walk, Freemantle Road and Sydney Street.

Week 2. From 14 April, Gilberd Road. Sadler Close, Western Road, Beche Road, Mayberry Walk, Wych Elm and Willow End .

Week 3. From 21 April. Gladstone Road. Granville Road. Mytle Grove, Berechurch Hall Road, Lethe Grove and Friday Wood Green

Week 4. From 28 April. Morant Road. Harsnet Road, Kimberley Road, Camulodunum Way, Kohima Road and Arakan Close

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.



Saturday
6th
April
2024


St Stephen's
CHURCH CENTRE

Free
Entry

Arts & Crafts Fayre

Browse stalls of
handmade items that you
won't find on the high street!

Date: **Saturday April 6th 2024**

Time: **From 10.00am - 2.00pm**

At: **St. Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road, Colchester CO2 7RY**

See www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk for more info

**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



Vacancies

Church Warden

We will shortly be looking for a Church Warden to replace John, together with Sunday Wardens (please see the Warden's Letter for more details).

Sunday Rota

We are always looking for new people to join this rota to help with readings, the sound and laptop, welcoming and help with refreshments after the service.

Hub Café

Volunteers are needed to help on a Saturday morning.

Please speak to one of the Warden's, Rev Dan, Rev Belinda, Louise or Andrew if you think you might be able to help or would like more information

Little Scientists Wanted for Essex Babylab!

At the University of Essex Babylab, researchers study how babies and children learn and develop. As babies cannot tell us what they know, feel and think, Essex Babylab conduct fun studies that investigate development through a variety of methods, such as observation and safe, non-invasive brain imaging. But they cannot do this without you!



Little Scientist Wanted!



Would you like your child to take part in our exciting research to help us understand how children develop and learn? Register your interest so we can get in touch!



If you are interested in taking part in Babylab research, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/essexbabylab> and a researcher will contact you with more information when your little one is the right age for one of their studies!

The Hub Café

If you would be able to join this team to help in the kitchen; making and serving drinks and other refreshments, please can you speak to Belinda.

As you will know this is an important part of our mission work at St Stephen's and has a mass impact on our local community.



All Welcome

The Hub

St. Stephen's cafe & community hubbub
Saturdays 10am - 12 noon

- Coffee and cake
- Knit and natter
- Lego club
- Worship and more

Wheelchair Dancing

Hello, my name is Gillian Clayton and I attend the coffee mornings St Stephen's church on Saturday mornings that I thoroughly enjoy going to. I am a member of St Luke's church in Highwoods Colchester as I live in Highwoods and we a group of disabled people who come to the services now. I am disabled myself and as a Christian I love to other disabled people.

I am trying to set up a Wheelchair dancing group in Colchester at the moment as I love watching Strictly come dancing on TV and I have been inspired by the deaf lady Rosie Alling Ellis, I am deaf as well as other disabilities and as I am a wheelchair user, I found out about other countries that do wheelchair dancing and I thought it would be fun and a challenge to see if I can learn and teach other. I do have some of my own ideas and I would be very interested if anyone who is disabled or none disabled actually as we are obviously going to need some none disabled people to help if possible. So I am really asking is if there is anyone interested to hear and learn more?

If you would like any more information, please message Andrew in the office at office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk and he will pass your message onto Gillian

KIDS' CLUB IN APRIL

Youngsters are invited to join us on

SUNDAY 14th and 28th APRIL

**when KIDS' CLUB
will meet in the hall
at 11am**



*All
Welcome*


St Stephen's
CHURCH

The Hub

St. Stephen's cafe & community hubbub
Saturdays 10am - 12 noon

Coffee
and cake

Knit and
natter

Lego
club

Warhammer
club

Church Camping Weekend at Thorington

5 – 7 July

**Please see later for more de-
tails or speak to Chris Lidda-
more (07752 369 612)**





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

COLCHESTER KEYBOARD CONCERTS

Sunday 11th February - David Last
Sunday 3rd March - Michael Wooldridge
Sunday 14th April - Pete Shaw
Sunday 12th May - Robert Davies
Sunday 9th June - David Ingley
Sunday 14th July - David Thomas
Sunday 11th August - Claire Grieg
Sunday 8th September - Andy Nix
Sunday 13th October - Michael Carter
Sunday 10th November - David Harrild
Sunday 15th December - Matthew Bason

All at 2.30pm
£10 Entry Including Refreshments
St Margarets Church Hall
Stansted Road
Monkwick
Colchester
CO28RA

Follow Us On Facebook
www.facebook.com/colchesterkeyboardconcerts



Moses

Story, Crafts, children's activities,
followed by a sandwich lunch.

£2 donation per family please.

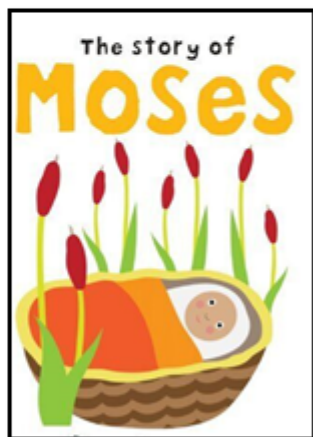
Monday 8th April 2024

Start at 11am to 1pm

in St. Margaret's Church Hall

Everyone welcome

- please book your places
- children must be accompanied by an adult.



Contact: Carolyn

Tel: 07748795926

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 . **Andrew Topple**



Friends of St Leonard at-the-Hythe Events 2024

Free events

Poetry Book Launch
Joan Norlev Taylor
Sat 6th April 2pm

Local Jazz Band
Cover Stories
Sat 18th May 7.30pm

Essex Book Festival Launch
Sat 1st June

CCT Community Day
Thurs 27th June

Cafe Chantant
Outdoor Concert
Sat 31st August 3pm

Evening Prayer with *Rev Belinda Kerins*
Sundays 4pm. 31st Mar, 30th June, 29th Sept, 29th Dec

Refreshments, donations please

Celebrating
St George & Shakespeare
Sun 28th April 2pm

Book Event
Holly Pester
Fri 31st May 7pm

Folk Singer - Song Writer
Pete Morton
Thurs 6th June 7pm

Heritage Weekend
7-8 September

Carol Service
Bells 7pm, Service 7.30pm
Thurs 19th December

**Please see Facebook for full details and dates
or email: st.leonard.at.the.hythe@gmail.com**

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Community fun day

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL
10-3PM

TABLE TOP
SALES

REFRESHMENTS

LUNCH
AVAILABLE -
SOUP AND
OTHER ITEMS

FREE CHILDRENS
CRAFT ACTIVITIES

TOMBOLOA
AND
BRICKABRACK

FREE BOUNCY
CASTLE AND
SOFT PLAY

FREE FACE
PAINTING

£2 ENTRY
/ £5 FOR
A FAMILY



ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

community fun day

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL
10AM - 3PM

ARE YOU DRIVING AROUND THAT CHARITY SHOP BAG OF BITS
THAT YOU MEANT TO TAKE IN WEEKS AGO?!

IN NEED OF A TOY SORT OUT??

TIRED OF POSTING ITEMS ON MARKET PLACE??

SPRING CLEANING AND ORGANISING READY TO START??

.....THEN WHY NOT HAVE A TABLE AT THE ST STEPHENS
COMMUNITY DAY!?

£5 FOR THE SPACE- IF YOU'RE INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO
DENISE ASQUEZ,
COMMUNITYWORKER@STSTEPHENS-COLCHESTER.ORG.UK
OR THE OFFICE @ ST STEPHENS!



Boxted Methodist Silver Band



Beyond the Sea



Saturday 20 April, 6pm

Fundraising Concert

St James' Church, Brightlingsea CO7 0AE



**Enjoy traditional sea shanties, music
from the movies, chart hits and more!**

FREE ENTRY No advance booking required.

Retiring collection so you can 'pay what you can'.

Interval refreshments • Raffle





Hands tied by debt?

CCDC

COLCHESTER CMA
DEBT CENTRE

Previously Colchester CAP Debt Centre

**Our friendly team are ready to come
alongside and work with you to find
financial freedom**

Call:

0300 102 4478

email: hello@colchestercmadebtcentre.co.uk

cma

Freedom from debt
Hope for the future

CCDC registered charity 1152204 working in partnership with the national charity Community Money Advice 1111436

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

15 April 2024

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

7:30 - 9:30 pm

St Margaret's Church

COMMUNITY CAFE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH COLCHESTER
FOODBANK

All are welcome to our weekly cafe for free refreshments in the church hall.

We also have various community support groups providing drop in sessions as well as the food bank volunteers who are able to issue food parcels for those in need, whatever the reason.

Come along for a cuppa and a chat!

EVERY FRIDAY

11-1PM



Colchester



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

HELP NEEDED PLEASE



Might you be able to help with St Stephen's Kids' Club on the 4th Sunday of the month?

If you might be able to help, please speak to Belinda or Beryl.

Thank you.



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**
BERECHURCH • ESSEX • COSSA

Contacts:
Carolyn
07748793926



Baby & Toddler Group

Coffee morning

**Mondays 9 – 11 am
(term time)**

**Toys, singing,
fun and refreshments**



Contact us at: wimpoleroadmcc@gmail.com /

Facebook message / 07847 846292

Contact Information

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

Curates: Rev Dan Cant & Rev Belinda Kerins

Community Worker : Louise Brown

Email: communityworker@ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Mobile: 07598 251 180

Administrator: Andrew Topple

The Church Office is normally open on:

Tuesday 12 noon - 4 pm

Wednesday 12 noon - 4 pm

Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

Tel: 01206 869091

Email: office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Website: www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Facebook: [St Stephen's Church Members -Colchester](#)

Church Wardens: John Clifton and Martin Kerins

For Centre bookings contact: Andrew Topple in the Church Office

For **urgent** prayer requests (Prayer Tree) contact Andrew in the office or one of the Curates

The May newsletter should be available by Sunday 28 April. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Monday 22 April to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk