

All the latest news for our communities for May 2024



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 Tople for further information.

Rectors reflection

I love the season of spring. I love the wonderful fresh green colours of the hedgerows and trees blending in with the blossoms of Blackthorn and daffodils. Colchester is to be congratulated for its yearly displays of daffodils along road sides and in parks and the beautiful flower box displays in the city centre.

Also I especially love the spring because this is when my gardens (front and back) are at their best. This year has been especially beautiful because added to my usual daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, euphorbia (spurge) and cherry blossom, my garden has been blessed with masses of pale yellow natural primroses. (I'm praying these primroses are going to keep the weeds down.)

I suspect this is one of the many reasons I love so many of the traditional Easter hymns. So many of them focus on the new life that the world is given through our Lord's glorious Resurrection – often using the metaphor of spring with its new life to assist our worship. And when such imagery is written in words of sheer poetry my spirit soars.

For example 'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ has burst his prison
And from three days sleep in death
As a sun hath risen.
All the Winter of our sins
Long and dark is flying
From his light, to whom we give
Laud and Praise undying.'

Written by St. John of Damascus c.750 (translated by JM Neale).

Spring and Easter came early this year. It doesn't seem so long ago we were throwing out the Church's Christmas trees and now we will only have a few weeks to go before we will be celebrating Pentecost (19th May) when we will be celebrating Jesus promised gift of his Holy Spirit to enable us to continue his earthly ministry. I think it was probably one of my biggest life-changing moments when I realised we are not just celebrating a one-off historical event but a continual life-changing gift to us all. Our faith is not stuck to a fixed text/a book/ but a living, growing, Spirit-led understanding. And I thank God that the Anglican and Methodist Churches uses its calendar of changing seasons to help us in this growth. I am so glad we will be celebrating this wonderful gift with our friends from Wimpole Road Methodist Church and from St. Margaret's, Berechurch on New Town Recreation Ground. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to publically witness to our faith and to our three church's solidarity. Please try to be there – 19th May – 11 am.

Cont...

I'd like to end this letter with another Easter song. Note the comparison with the ancient one I quoted from earlier. This one was written mid 20th century by JMC Crum (1872-1958) (and note there's no mention of Easter Bunnies in either – Halleluiah!!).

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;

Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

Love is come again,

like wheat that springth green.

2

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,

thinking that never he would wake again,

laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

3

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,

he that for three days in the grave had lain,

quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:

4

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

thy touch can call us back to life again,

fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been.

Love is come again,

like wheat that springeth green.

J.M.C.CRUM (1872-1958)

God bless, **Christine**

Churchwarden's letter

Dear friends,

Interview for Priest in Charge of St Stephen's and St Margaret's

Following the thoughtful and prayerful process of putting together a shared parish profile, one candidate applied for the post and it was agreed they should be interviewed. The candidate came to St Stephen's on 23 April and met informally with the ministry team and members of both PCCs and preached during a short morning prayer service. They were then interviewed by representatives from both churches, the Area Dean, Archdeacon Ruth and the Deanery Lay Representative. By the time you read this or shortly afterwards we hope to know the outcome of the interview process but no further details are available at the moment. We will share any news as soon as it is available.

Our Annual Parish General Meeting

Spring is here and that means (among other things!) that we are approaching the Annual Parish General Meeting, which is due to take place after the morning service on Sunday 26 May. Holding the meeting is a legal requirement but it is more than that. This is an important milestone because it provides an opportunity to look back at our progress and review all the activity that takes place in our church life and think about the next year. It is your opportunity to see more about the life of the church than you would pick up from attending services or other church groups. This could provide you with a look behind the curtain at, for example, the decisions made by the PCC, the churchwardens and the ministry team; how our finances are going and progress on the building programme: St Stephens Looking to the Future and much more.

You will remember that for most of the last year we have been in "vacancy" (i.e. without a priest in charge) since the departure of Rev Lorraine in July 2023. It was also a year in which we and other churches were continuing to find our way back to full operation after the pandemic. You will see from the annual report which is nearly ready to be shared that, in spite of the vacancy a lot of change and development has taken place and there is a lot of activity and Mission to review. Those that attend the meeting will have a chance to ask questions and make comments. If you are on the electoral roll you will be asked to vote on certain issues. But even if you are an attendee but not yet on the electoral roll, you can take part in everything short of being appointed to the PCC or voting.

Do you want to be more involved?

We hope you feel at home at St Stephen's. Maybe you have reached a point you might consider whether God is calling you to join our team of volunteers who make things happen here week on week. For example, could you be called to be a welcome people to worship? Are you good with laptops or sound desks (if not, would you like to learn)? Are you a singer or musician? Would you make refreshments, lead intercessions, do

Cont...

gardening? Do you have a heart for God's creation to help us work towards Gold Eco-Church? Would you like to learn how to be a sacristan: i.e., to help the priests prepare for Holy Communion? Could you be a fundraiser or grant getter for the building project? Talk to one of us, PCC member or member of the ministry team if any of these things (or something else) might correspond to gifts you have been given to share with others.

Moving on...

I (John Clifton speaking here!) am standing down as churchwarden at the annual meeting. It has been a huge honour to do this job for the last four and a bit years. I do feel though that it is time for me to move on and time for someone else to bring their gifts to bear on the job. When I took this diverse role, there was not very much preparation or information available about what was entailed. I am pleased to say that now the situation has improved. One thing that I have also discovered is that although there is a core of responsibilities attached to the job, people with very different gifts and approaches can bring their own style to it. At St Stephen's there is lots going on. You need to enjoy variety, learning new stuff and being quick on your feet (so to speak). What is most important is to love people and be committed to working as a team to help God's people to be Church in the fullest sense. And you have to keep turning up! But I am not planning to go away. I will carry on with day-to-day project managing St Stephens Looking to the Future reporting back to the PCC and with the other things I do. Anyway, thanks to all of you for your help and support! Please continue to pray for Martin as he continues in the role and for the right person to be the second churchwarden.

Love and blessings,

John Clifton on behalf of John Clifton and Martin Kerins, Churchwardens

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

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 Tople**

St Leonard at the Hythe

On the 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!



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 5 May Winsley Road, Beehive Court, Worsnip House, Moy Road and Stansted Road.

Week 2. From 12 May Cannon Street, Rebow Street, Victoria Place, Prince Philip Road and Prince Charles Road

Week 3. From 19 May Belmont Place, Scarlett's Road, Recreation Road, Hooper Avenue and Fowler Road.

Week 4. From 26 May Brookside Close, Bourne Road, Dudley Close, Bourne Court, Perth Close and Rockhampton Walk

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.



Winner - our very own Izzy Liddamore performing on stage



(Image: Generation Feral & extracts from the report in the Colchester Daily Gazette)

A TALENTED musician who the Gazette tipped as ‘one to watch’ has beaten more than a thousand acts in a competition to play at a popular music festival this year. Izzy Liddamore, 23, from Colchester, has been picked out of more than 1,500 bands to perform at this year’s Truck Festival in Oxford.

The solo artist, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, is based between Colchester and Cardiff, and makes music under the name of Generation Feral.

Izzy entered the festival’s annual Band App competition and was voted through the initial first round by the public.

A panel of music industry tastemakers whittled down the entries to 28 promising bands and artists that have now joined the line-up.

Cont...

Izzy is now on the same bill which boasts headliners like Jamie T, Wet Leg, The Streets, and more, when the festival takes place July 26 to 28.

The news has not sunk in for Izzy yet. She said: "To be honest, it's absolutely mental and still hasn't hit me yet."

"It's impossible to comprehend actually playing a national festival like Truck when I feel like I've spent the last three years dreaming and praying to the festival gods to get an opportunity like this.

"When I got the email, I fully went into shock, it was like the last three years of emails and midnight national express coaches back from gigs all flashed before my eyes."

Izzy makes avant garde music as Generation Feral, and boasts incredible vocals, powerful piano playing, and slick ukulele skills.

Izzy is thankful for the opportunity to play at Truck Festival, which attracts thousands of attendees every year.

For more of this story and to see some more stunning pictures check out the [Gazette web site](#).

Well done Izzy!

KIDS' CLUB IN MAY

Youngsters are invited to join us on

SUNDAY 26 May

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



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



ON YOUR MARKS...

Holiday Club at Wimpole Road Methodist Church
Wednesday 31 July – Friday 2 August (incl.)
from 10 am – 2 pm
To book your places and for more information
Click on link below

[Click here](#) or on the link below for more information
and to reserve your place:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5aRc3CBGmrzqQfWFhaULi9X06QEktDYplj0e7RRrEkbKY7w/viewform?usp=pp_url

*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 details
or speak to

Chris Liddamore (07752 369 612)



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



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**

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

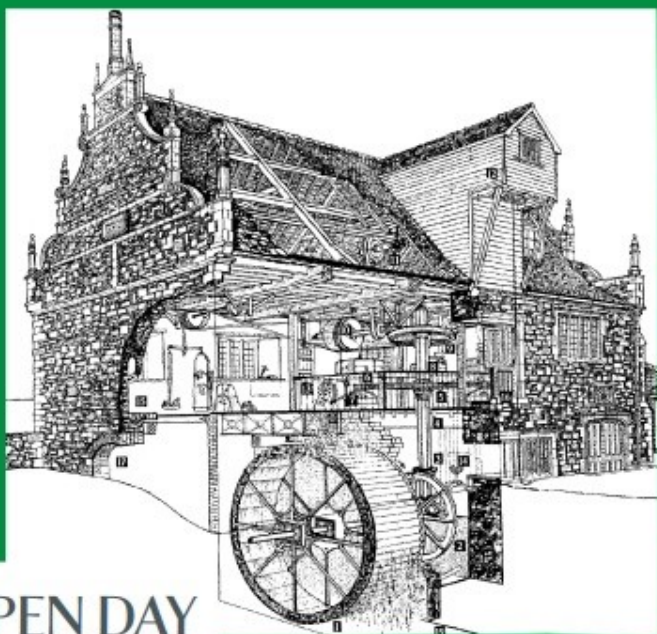
Heritage Weekend
7-8 September

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**



National
Trust



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MILL OPEN DAY

Bourne Mill, Colchester

Sunday 12 May 2024, 11:00 - 4:00
FREE ENTRY

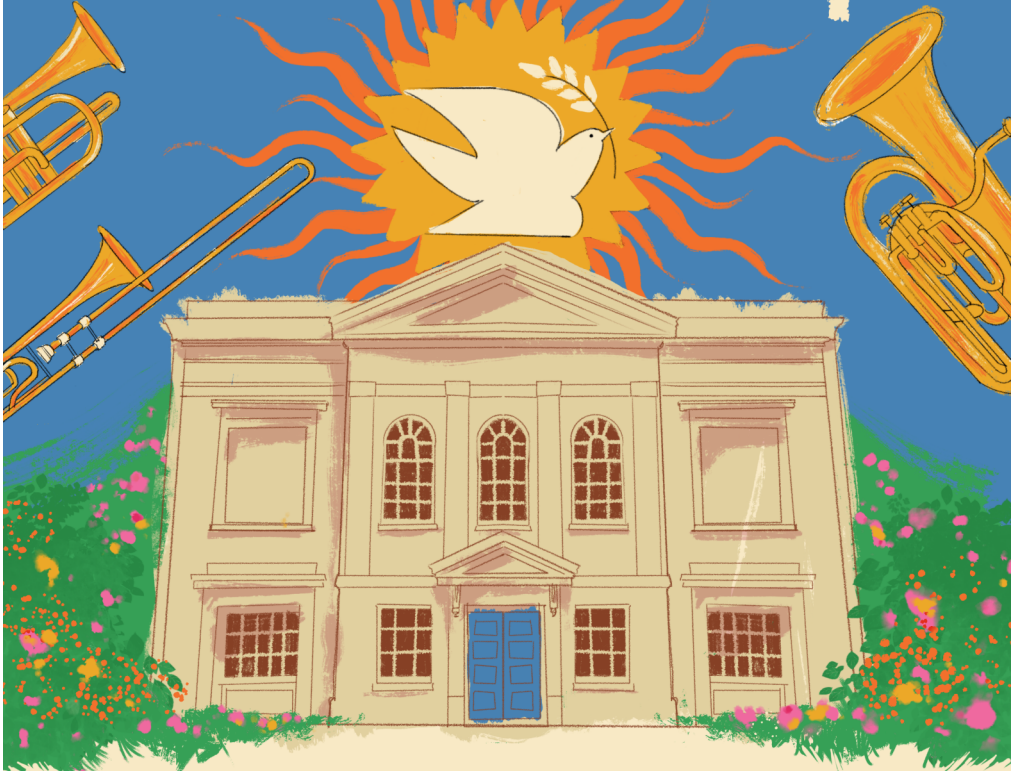
Historical tours, 18' waterwheel running,
spinning & weaving demos, refreshments.

nationaltrust.org.uk/bourne-mill

In partnership with



Music of Hope



**A Medaille Trust charity fundraising concert
hosted by Colchester Baptist Church
featuring the East of England Coop Band and
Chelmsford Salvation Army Songsters**

Colchester Baptist Church, Eld Lane CO1 1LS

Saturday 11th May 2024 | 19:30 | Free Admission

Donations to support the work of Medaille Trust

For more info: e: office@colchesterbaptistchurch.org.uk t: 01206 571879



DETAILS



Wise Music Group



MEDAILLE TRUST
REFUGEE AND FREEDOM FROM MODERN SLAVERY



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 1111416

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.

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

13 May 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



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 /
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 June newsletter should be available by Sunday 26 May. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Monday 20 May to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk