

**All the latest news for our
communities for December 2024**



Picture by Eleanor Turner

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 10:15 am
together with our Wednesday morning Holy Communion or
Morning Prayer services at 10:30 am.**

Every Sundays 9:30—10:00 am in the Chapel (before Sunday Service) a time of silent Christian meditation. Please can an effort be made to be quiet if arriving at Church before 10:00 to avoid disturbing the meditation in the Chapel.

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 10:15 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.

Clergy Reflection

I love this time in the church calendar. It is a time of remembrance. A time to look back at the Saints that have gone before us who fought for our spiritual freedom, and a time to reflect on the selfless acts of our soldiers who fought for our physical freedom.

I love the bible verse from John 15:13, where it says, 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

When we look at this period in the church calendar, we had All Saints Day the week before last and Remembrance Day this week just gone, both enable us to see this bible verse typified.

In messy church at the beginning of the month, we looked at the men and women who had given their lives to Jesus and had often died or been tortured for the spreading of the gospel (Jesus' call to us all). Men and women that lived out their saintly lives on earth, regardless of the consequences, so that we might get to hear that Jesus loves us and died for us. Of course, we are just following in His footsteps, because he also laid down His life for His friends (each one of us).

Each Saint that we remember today, was remembered for something slightly different which marked their calling and fame – St. Stephen was stoned for speaking fearlessly about salvation through Jesus, even when he knew that he would be stoned for his words, a true martyr of the faith, and St. Margaret we are told was a figure of profound holiness and strength, known for her charity, and devotion, Margaret's journey to sainthood was shaped by courage, resilience, and unwavering faith. Both of the Saint's that our churches were named after truly laid down their lives for their friend Jesus.

And then this Sunday just gone, we remembered our fallen soldier, men and women who fought for our physical peace and freedom. Who laid down their lives so that you and I can have the liberty that we cherish today. Families left motherless, childless and fatherless for us all. Truly laying down their lives for us for the good of us all.

I took the Remembrance Day service in Little Chesterford again this year. Little Chesterford is a little Village near Saffron Walden. It is where I found over 300 years of my ancestors recently. Ancestors that I did not know I had. 5 siblings of my father's, aunts, uncles and cousins and many more. I found the graves of my ancestors, a bench in the church yard dedicated to them, and Remembrance to one of them on the war memorial of the fallen.

We had no idea until 2 years ago that these family members even existed, it was only after my father passed away, that I began an ancestry search, and many relatives were

Cont...

found to be born and bred in Little Chesterford.

I love to go there and remember my family; I love to pay my respects to Frank Searle that is on the war memorial. A man that I never knew but one that fought for our freedom. I feel a sense of belonging there as well as pride in those that lived through the war and believed that we all had a right to live peacefully and not be oppressed.

As I reflected on All Saints Day and Remembrance Day, I wondered what I would be remembered for. Knowing that we are all saints through Jesus's death, I pondered – 'was I living as a saint of Jesus? Was I laying down my life for the sake of others to let them know about Spiritual freedom in Jesus?

We did a craft in Messy church where we made bunting and on each flag we had to draw a picture of ourselves and the words underneath saying = 'Saint in The Making!'

I concluded that I still had quite a lot of Saint Making to go, and I'm sure that we all often don't feel like saints, but that is ok, because we are saved by Jesus' sacrifice = made saints by his grace and we all will be continually changed into his likeness. 2 Corinthians 3:18: 'And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.'

Let us be inspired by our Saints of old and our brave soldiers. They gave up their lives for our freedom.

Let us lay down our lives in the service of Jesus. Let us spread the word that Jesus's love has set us free. How will people know the freedom in the love of God unless we tell them. And let us also take courage from our soldiers and try to make this world a better place by putting others needs before ourselves.

John 15:13, 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

Rev Belinda

A Word from the Wardens

It's finally my favourite time of the year, Christmas!!

I enjoy these longer nights and colder weather and especially enjoy the festive season. But that's mainly because I'm a big child that loves food, chocolate and toys.

Cont...

Of course it's a really important part of the church's year too with the advent services leading up to the big day itself.

Some use this time of year to go the extra mile for others, do a good turn or to even donate more of their unused items and clothing to charity. I've done all of these in the past and wondered why do I make more of an effort at just one point of the year more so than the rest?

Why do some people not do extra?

Romans 14 verse 5 says - *"One person Esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in their own mind". It doesn't matter how much you do, extra or not. It only matters that whatever you decide to do you are convinced in your own mind that's what you should do"*.

But I would like to throw in a suggestion to you all especially this year, and it comes off the back of a conversation I had recently with someone who frequents one of our regular activities- they reminded me that while we use 'Our' buildings and call them churches. They are nothing more than just buildings. What really makes it a church, and just as importantly a community, is the people inside. So this year I'd like to see more of the amazing people we have popping into some of our clubs popping into the coffee mornings and everything else going on and showing off a bit more of what makes our collective churches so amazing. Whether it's just for one special time or for them all that's for you to decide, but I hope that whatever you choose to do you have a Merry Christmas!

Ian Brown
Church Warden at St Stephen's

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.



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-colch eser.org.uk .

Andrew Topple

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!



ALPHA

Following the success of our last joint ALPHA course with Wimpole Road in the summer, we have plans to run a further course for 6 weeks starting on Tuesday 7 January. The ALPHA course is an opportunity to explore the basics of the Christian faith through discussion assisted by watching short videos. It is open to all people; regardless of where they might be on their faith journey to simply understand more about Christianity and what it might mean to us in the world today. During the course we will be exploring topics such as:



Is there more to life than this?

Who is Jesus?

Why did Jesus die?

Why and how do I pray?

How and why should I read the Bible?

Who is the Holy Spirit and what does the Holy Spirit do?

If you would be interested in coming along or know anybody who you think would find this helpful please speak to Rev Anna (email address revannadavis@gmail.com) or Rev Belinda (email address blin.church@yahoo.com) at St Stephen's & St Margaret's or Rev Hannah at Wimpole Road.

Your help is needed please!

Foodbank

We are trying to recruit a few more volunteers to join the rota and I was wondering whether you might be able to help or have any friends and / or family who might be interested in joining our team of volunteers. If you know anybody who might be willing to assist us, please can you ask them to make contact with me (either by email or phone. Thank you.



Soup Run

We are also looking for some additional volunteers to help with the Soup Run. This, as you may well know, is run by a large number of Churches across Colchester and Wim-pole Road Church is rota'd to staff this in the evening on the 4th Saturday of the month on alternate months. In other words we do a maximum of 6 sessions a year but the hope is that we have sufficient people on our rota so as not to need to ask people to do each of these sessions. Once again, if you feel that you could help with this or know a family member and / or friend who might want to help, please let me know or ask them to contact me.

Andrew Topple

0780 394 3019 or office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Carol singing Saturday 21st December 2024 from 4pm

We would love you to join us carol singing on Saturday 21st December at St Stephens Church centre from 4pm. No experience needed and all ages welcome.



The plan is to walk round the streets of new town bringing some Christmas cheer and singing while collecting money for Beacon House homeless support centre and Colchester CMA Debt Centre. We have applied for the correct licence.

We then will make our way to the Odd One Out beer garden where we have been invited to sing to folk at the pub who will hopefully join us for some carols.

At the pub we will serve free soup and roles to all carol singers. We then normally offer soup to members of the pub for a donation!

It would be great if as many people could join us to make a joyful noise or help. We

also have David from Wimpole Road who brings this marvelous portable keyboard that accompanies while we travel around.

Last year we collected over £300 for beacon house which was a record. The pub have offered the back room to us to serve the soup.

Please invite all friends to join us, and if you have any lights or lanterns this would be great. I hope you can join us we need you.

Many thanks

Chris and Debbie Liddamore Mike And Janet Watkins.

The Barn Dance with Pie and Mash

I would just like to say a massive thank you to everyone that supported the barn dance back in September. We had an amazing turnout of over 80 people, and we had to stop selling tickets.

We raised £378.25 for the church building fund and £128.82 for the defib being placed on the church.

This would not have been possible without everyone coming along and buying tickets and everyone who helped.

Special mention must go to my wife for her great cooking assisted by Janet Watkins, Sara Heard who made the pie tops and Chris Poole. In addition Sheila Baker made a great number of puddings. Mike Watkins helped me set up, Peter Porteous Butler designed and helped with the poster. Hannah my daughter sold the raffle tickets and a marvelous team of many helped clear up. Also special thanks to Wayne who only charged us a small amount for his music and calling.

I have probably forgotten someone so really sorry if that's you. I Perhaps should not write this after working for over 12 hours. Oh yes of course there is Andrew Topple the man who does so much for this church and was at hand to always sell tickets in the office.

Thank you everyone for your support and coming along we may well do another one.

Chris Liddamore

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.

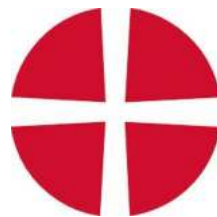
Begin your giving journey in just a few clicks at www.parishgiving.org.uk

An article I saw in The View weekly notices from the Chelmsford Diocese which

I thought you might find of interest:



Church of England and Methodists recommit to working together as Covenant turns 21



Anglicans and Methodists in England have been underlining our commitment to forging closer ties as we mark the 21st anniversary of a historic covenant between our two churches.

The Anglican-Methodist Covenant was signed by leaders of the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain in front of Queen Elizabeth II on November 1, 2003, with services of celebration at both Methodist Central Hall and its immediate neighbour Westminster Abbey.

The Covenant recognises how much the two churches - which separated in the 1790s, after the death of John Wesley - have in common and commits them to removing further obstacles towards unity.

It has opened the way to new partnerships on the ground between local Church of England and Methodist congregations, ranging from joint worship and sharing church buildings to shared community projects and staff such as youth and family workers.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, joined the President of the Methodist Conference the Rev Helen Cameron and the Vice-President, Carolyn Godfrey to reaffirm the two churches' commitment to the Covenant at a service of celebration at Methodist Central Hall followed by evensong at Westminster Abbey on 4 November.

Joint Carol Service at Wimpole Road on Sunday 22 December

We are looking for people to join the Wimpole Road Choir for this special joint event.

There will be a practice on the Friday 20 December from 2:30 pm

Please speak to me if you would like to be involved with this or email me at

wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com

Thank you

Andrew Topple

Community Work Update

November is almost over, and there is certainly a drop in the temperature.....which means it's a great opportunity to let you all know about the Warm Spaces that we have got available locally in the churches locally.

Wednesday mornings 8.45-12.30 at Wimpole Road Church, Thursday mornings 11-1pm at St Stephens, Friday mornings at St Margaret's 11-1pm.

Please do come along for hot drinks, refreshments and lots of friendly faces with good conversations!

With the ending of November it means we are heading right into Advent and all that it brings... and there is of course lots taking place over the three churches. The Christmas card with its beautiful design has now been designed which will be printed with the details of services listed inside - Congratulations to Mahaut Joubert for winning the competition!

In second place is Eleanor Turner, whose design is being used on the front of this newsletter! A certificate and gift has been given to both children.

Thank you to everyone who entered!

Please do come along to the activities at The Hub on Saturday mornings from 10 am; with special Christmas activities during December it's perfect for the family to get into the Christmas spirit!

Lunch Club, Silver Threads, Singing For Fun will also have festive afternoons lined up, as well as the annual Christmas parties for Rainbow Tots, Wimpole Road toddlers and Little Lambs too!

We welcome you all to spend time with us for these activities, and if you are wanting to perhaps lend a helping hand at any event, or preparation for services then please do get in touch!

Louise Brown
Community Worker

Job Vacancies

There are a couple of job vacancies at present for local charities who we work along side on being [Autism Anglia](#) for a Community Liaison Manager and the other being with the [Colchester Debt Centre](#) looking for a Centre Manager and a Centre Administrator.

Further details can be found on the vacancies pages of their respective web sites:

[Autism Anglia Vacancies](#) and [Colchester Debt Centre Vacancies](#)

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Week 1. From 8 December - Winsley Road, Beehive Court, Worsnop House, New Town Road, Littlefield Road, Elmwood Ave and Lordswood Road .

Week 2. From 15 December - Cannon Street, Rebow Street, Victoria Place, Launceston Close and Canberra Close.

Week 3. From 22 December - Belmont Place, Scarlets Road, Recreation Road Parkland Court, Smith's Field, Hitherwood Road, Breachfield Road and Eight Acre Lane



Week 4. From 29 December - Brookside Close, Bourn Road, Dudley Close, Bourn Court, Rose Allen Avenue, John Hammond Close and John Mace Road .

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

Two day tour of the battlefield of Ypres 29 and 30 March 2025

An opportunity for St Margaret's St Stephens and Wimpole Methodist congregation members to join together for a two day trip around the battlefields of Belgium.

The itinerary includes a coach trip down to Dover for a ferry crossing. Arriving mid afternoon we will visit the second largest British military cemetery and have a tour around including individual stories of those buried there. We move onto a Museum involving a number of artefacts and recreated trenches from WW1. There will be an opportunity to visit the Menin Gate- the Memorial to the Missing in the Ypres Salient and be involved in the Menin Gate ceremony at 8pm. A meal at the excellent Captain Cook will follow the ceremony. Our Hotel Regina is in the beautiful Main Square of Ypres.

After breakfast on Day 2 we visit a German cemetery as a comparison to the

numerous British cemeteries in the area. We move on to a preserved battlefield site of Hill 60 scene of major fighting throughout the war including gas and underground warfare. We then have the opportunity to visit Toc H famous as a house behind the lines run by Chaplains to provide rest and recuperation for weary soldiers, It houses an upper room where soldiers took communion and had services there. We plan to have our own service there as part of our tour. There will also be an opportunity after the service to visit the holding cell and firing post for those who were to be shot at dawn. Ironically this was close to Toc H.

We make our return mid afternoon for Calais for an early evening crossing with the intention of arriving back in Colchester at about 9pm on the Sunday evening.

The cost of this trip is as follows:

- o £335.00 per person based on a minimum of 30 full paying passengers in twin rooms.
- o £355.00 per person based on a minimum of 25 full paying passengers in twin rooms.
- o Single room supplement: £40 per person per night, subject to availability.

Items Included

- o Executive Coach.
- o Return Channel crossings.
- o 1 nights' bed and breakfast Hotel accommodation.
- o An evening meal on day 1.
- o Visits and any entrance fees to the sites listed on your attached itinerary.
- o The professional services of 1 Anglia Tours Guide.
- o Insurance specifically designed for groups (see paragraph on insurance).
- o 24 hour emergency response cover whilst on tour.
- o A poppy wreath for the group.

An initial deposit of £70 per paying person to confirm booking.

o A second deposit of £70 per paying person will be required 8 weeks after booking.

o Final payment is due 10 weeks before departure, by Friday 17 January, 2025.

John Raynor 07948156837 and johnraynor860@gmail.com

St. Margaret's BERECHURCH

Summary of PCC meeting 13.11.24 for distribution to the congregation



At present, money set aside to help pay for repairs of the church has been saved in a restricted fund within the church bank account. However, very soon it will be transferred into a separate Fabric Fund account. That fund now stands at just over £16,000 thanks to several donations.

Charitable Giving. PCC decided to make gifts of £300 each to four local charities - Christian Youth Outreach (CYO); Beacon House; Colchester (Community Money Advice) Debt Centre; Foodbank; and to the international charity, Tearfund.

In addition, a gift of £50 is going to be given to Bridgeway Mission, a Colchester Christian charity working to support immigrants and asylum seekers from Eastern and Middle Eastern Countries.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Architect who carried out the last inspection of the church building are still working behind the scenes. However, there has been a bit of a hold up because there is a problem with finding a copy of the plans which were used when the church was built.

JohnO is continuing to research and experiment with potential solutions to heating the church – more information to follow!

In addition to the hall being offered as a Warm Space for members of the community to access during Foodbank – Fridays 11am until 1pm – a 'Light Lunch' is being offered every other week. Volunteers and donations will be welcome. Please see Judy.

Safeguarding – Kevin's training for the role of Parish Safeguarding officer is now well under way. Kevin and Julie have started offering online Safeguarding Awareness Introduction training sessions to everyone who holds a role within the church. Please speak with Kevin and Julie if you are interested.

Foodbank has used the stage area to store their resources during the warmer weather. Now that we need to move back into the hall for our services and the children will need to meet on the stage, Foodbank storage has been moved into the church entrance.

The Sound Team is planning to upgrade the church internet connection.

The Colne Endeavour Band rehearse in our hall every Friday evening. This year the band will put on a Christmas Concert on Friday 13th December at 8pm, costing £5 per person including refreshments.

The next Messy Church will be on Saturday 7th December from 2.30pm until 4.30pm

Becoming a School Governor

As I am sure you are aware there are a number of schools across our two parishes all of which will have some form of governing body.

Becoming a school governor can be an excellent way for members of our congregation to support the local community. Governors play a crucial role in shaping the future of local schools, helping to ensure that they provide the best possible education for all children. We are often contacted from the schools to ask whether we know of anyone would be interested from our church community in taking up a governor role when there are vacancies.

It really is a wonderful way to give a little something back and help within the school community! No prior experience is needed either.

Do you think this is something that you could perhaps lend your time too?

Or do you have some questions about what it means to be a governor?

Please do have a chat with me if this is something that you are interested in.

Louise Brown, Community Worker

everyday
faith



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

If, like me you are finding that you can go weeks and weeks without going near a bible can I recommend the 'Everyday Faith' app which popped up on my FaceBook recently? It's developed by the Church of England and is a 5 minute read / listen which includes a bible reading, brief commentary, prayer and action point. Easy to download from the App store (easy as in I managed it). If you don't 'do' apps here is a link to use online which you might want to explore...

<https://everydayfaith.churchofengland.org/s/preview>

Hope you find this resource useful for taking your journey of faith into your weekly routine.

A happy Christmas from your local churches.

Please feel welcome to join us at any of the events shown.

Thursday 19th December

Carol Service

at St Leonard-at-the-Hythe at 7:30 pm
(with bell ringing from 7:00pm)

Friday 20th December

Community Carol Singing in Berechurch
meeting at St Margaret's Church at 5:00pm

Saturday 21st December

Community Carol Singing around New Town
meeting at St Stephen's Church at 4:00pm
and ending at the Odd One Out Pub

Sunday 22nd December

Three Together Carol Service
at Wimpole Road Methodist Church
at 6:30pm with the Boxted Methodist Silver Band

Christmas Eve

Crib Service

at Wimpole Road Methodist Church at 4:00pm

All Age Nativity Service by Candlelight
at St Margaret's Church at 4:30pm

Midnight Communion Service

at St Stephen's Church at 11:00pm

Christmas Day Celebration

with a Joint All Age Holy Communion Service
at St Stephen's Church at 10:15am



KIDS' CLUB

ST STEPHEN'S KIDS' CLUB

Join us on

8th and 22nd DECEMBER

when Kids' Club will meet at 10.15 am

Messy Church

Christmas

Saturday 7th December 2024

Story, Crafts, children's activities,
with drink and snack included.

(£2 donation per family requested)

Start at 2.30pm to 4.30pm
in St. Margaret's Church hall.

Everyone Welcome –

please book your places –

children must be accompanied by an adult.



Contact: Carolyn

Tel: 07748 795926

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US



ALPHA COURSE

FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE AND DISCUSS THE BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY AND LIVES BIG QUESTIONS WITH OTHERS IN A SUPPORTIVE GROUP SETTING, A MEAL WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED EACH WEEK.

Six weeks starting 7th January 2025

7-9.15pm at St Stephen's Church and

Wimpole Road Church

For more information please get in touch.



Wimpole Road
METHODIST CHURCH



St Stephen's
CHURCH



St Margaret's
Berechurch



Join us for
Newtown
**Carol
Singing**

Saturday 21st December

**Meet at St. Stephen's Church Centre at 4.00pm
Finishing up at the Odd One Out at
about 6pm for soup**

(Free to all Carol Singers, or for others with donation)

**Raising money for Beacon House
And Colchester CMA debt centre**

ST BOTOLPH'S COLCHESTER



AN EVENING OF BELTING OUT THE CHRISTMAS POP SONGS
LED BY THE AWARD WINNING MUSICIAN CHRIS READ
...ALL IN SUPPORT OF CHRISTIAN AID

SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS



MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER



7.30 PM





St. Stephen's Church

Canterbury Road, Colchester CO2 7RY

Invites you to a

Free Christmas Concert

With

Abbeygate Concert Band

Musical Director

Stephen Watkins

Wednesday 11th December 2024

2pm - 4pm

Refreshments and Raffle

Retiring Collection

Free, impartial and confidential advice for all

CONTACT US

Online:

www.colchestercitizensadvice.org.uk

Email: advice@colchestercab.org.uk

Freephone: 0808 278 7853

We can offer help with a wide range of issues including:

- Debt or money advice
- Energy bills, efficiency and budgeting
- Benefit checks or help to make a claim
- Family or personal
- Housing
- Employment
- and more!



Join Wheels for All at a consultation event:

Wednesday, 27th November: We'll be available at St. Stephen's Church from 6:30pm to 8:00 pm to answer questions and discuss our proposal for a mini cycle hub



Additionally you are welcome to complete an online survey by scanning the QR code below. The survey will be open until 16th December



Christmas Concert

Friday 13th December 8pm

Come and support

Colne Endeavour Band -

a charity based community concert band, dedicated to bringing people of all ages and abilities together for fun, friendship, and the joy of making



music.



£5 per person including refreshments

AN OPEN INVITATION EVENT ORGANISED BY OPEN ROAD

By:
Charles Dickens

Recited by:
Anthony Roberts

With Piano by:
Jamie Cunliffe

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

**MONDAY 2nd
DECEMBER at 7pm**

ST Leonard-at-the-Hythe Church
Hythe Hill, Colchester CO1 2NP

Tickets £10

Mulled wine and mince pies
available to purchase on the evening.

Advance bookings:

01206 369782 or

email info@openroad.org.uk

All profits to Open Road

open road

your journey to recovery

Registered Charity No. 1019915

If you're grieving the death of a loved one

Forget Me Not Bereavement Counselling

is here to help

We offer bereavement counselling for adults on a one-to-one basis with our expert, qualified counsellors, either in person in Colchester, over the phone or by video link, based on your preference.



Request an appointment at
www.sthelena.org.uk/forgetmenot

All of the profits raised from Forget Me Not goes towards St Helena Hospice to provide their free services to the people of north east Essex.

forget me not
BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING

In support of
StHelena



HILLS CHRISTMAS GIFT AND TOY FAIR

HILLS SELF STORAGE, BROOK STREET, COLCHESTER

SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 11-2

- **MEET SANTA (CHARITY DONATION) AND SNOWFALL**
- **ESSEX TOY CAVE - FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT WITH ALL PURCHASES**
- **FACE PAINTING, CLOTHING, FLOWERS, GIFT AND LOCAL BUSINESS POP-UPS**
- **TOY STORES 'MERLIN'S VAULT' AND 'FISHING FOR TOYS' ALSO ON SITE!**
- **FOOD VAN SERVING PREMIUM HOT CHOCOLATE**



Suffolk Quilts & Bags



SCAN ME

**MEET SANTA EXPERIENCE
INCLUDING FREE TOY
£5 CHARITY DONATION
PER CHILD**



SINGING FOR FUN

COME ALONG TO ST STEPHENS CHURCH FOR AN
AFTERNOON OF MUSICAL SINGING FUN!

JOIN US TO SING ALONG TO LOTS OF THE OLD TIME
FAVOURITE SONGS AND MANY OTHERS TOO!

Fourth Monday of the month

12:00 - 1:30 pm



Next sessions on XXXXXXXXXXXXX


St Stephen's
CHURCH

Neurospicy

Support and information for the
neurodivergent and their families



Join us for a cuppa and a chat

Tuesday 10am - 12pm (term time)

St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road, CO2 7RJ

Further details can be found about this group
by [clicking here](#)

*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



**BRICKS
AND
BEER**

**COME ALONG ON THE 4TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH FOR AN GROWN UPS EVENING OF
BEING CREATIVE AND BUILDING LEGO!
BRING ALONG A FEW DRINKS OF YOUR CHOICE (DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ALCOHOLIC!)
AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH US!
7.30-9.30PM AT ST STEPHENS CHURCH.**






St Stephen's
CHURCH

Neurospicy

Starting Tuesday 5th November 2024

WARHAMMER GAMES NIGHT



Come along with your army and join us for a game's night - adults only.

You are welcome to turn up or get in touch us or the Warhammer Club leaders for more information.

8pm, 3rd Friday of the month at St Stephens Church.





MEN, COULD YOU DONATE TIME TO BE A Reading mentor?

WHY WE NEED YOU

- ❗ 1.1 Million children in the UK are growing up with little or no contact with their father (CSJ 2018)
- ❗ 2.9 Million children are raised in lone parent families (ONS 2019)
- ❗ Boys fall considerably behind girls in reading abilities throughout their school life
- ❗ Boys are a 1/3 less likely to go to University than girls
- ❗ Boys have been falling behind girls in GCSE's for three decades
- ❗ Boys who see their father read for 30 mins a day read more than boys who never see their father read
- ❗ Boys from homes where a father is absent are at a greater risk of under achieving in school



"He loves reading, he loves his mentor, he looks forward to their sessions, he appreciates the time he is given by his mentor who volunteers. Thank you for everything - it has been life changing for my son". - Mother.

"Since reading with x weekly, I have noticed the profound impact it has had on his behaviour during sessions, and from the feedback I receive from teachers. x has disclosed his new ability to manage his anger and not react on impulse to situations. x is now able to talk about how he feels to diffuse situations at school and at home". - Mentor

"Mum talked about the importance of her son having a male role model especially as she mentions that the school has only one male teacher, and she worries that he is in a very female 'world'. Knowing he has engaged well with a male mentor has been a relief for her". - Family Worker.

"The volunteers don't quite realise the impact they are having on these boys. They really have been strong role models. I know it's not just about the reading BUT to have a male read to them shows them that it's not a 'geeky' thing to do. Thank you". - Teacher.

Are you male, over 18 and live, study or work in Tendring, Colchester or Basildon? Could you commit two hours a week for three months, (starting in January 2025) to read to a boy in a local school? If so, Lads Need Dads would love to hear from you.

Applicants will be subject to a DBS check.



equipping, engaging & inspiring young men

Tel: 07834 402017

✉ info@ladsneeddads.org follow us  /ladsneeddads.org

www.ladsneeddads.org

Lads Need Dads CIC, Little Green Offices,
Colchester Road, Elmstead Market, Essex CO7 7EE

Lads Need Dads is a Not-For-Profit Community Interest Company. Company No. 9626924.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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





SIGN UP FOR FREE BOOKS AGAIN THIS CHRISTMAS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

We know Christmas can be a tough time of the year for many and we aim to provide books, free of charge, to families struggling each Christmas. Just scan the QR code to sign up for free books.



If you have any questions or wish to donate please email Keepcolchesterreading@gmail.com or phone Lee at 07947541573

You can also follow us on Facebook at Keep Colchester Reading.

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**

Modern slavery is happening around us in Colchester

Controlled
Forced
Owned
Abused
Afraid
Isolated
Dehumanised
Constrained
Bought & Sold
Threatened
In debt

Find out more at
www.colchester.gov.uk/modern-slavery

SCAN ME



CONCERNED SOMEONE COULD BE A VICTIM? DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

For advice or to report concerns call
Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121700.

Email Safer Colchester Partnership on
safer.colchester@colchester.gov.uk

For Essex Police report online
www.essex.police.uk or call 101
or in an emergency 999.

cam's
Colchester Against Modern Slavery

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.

Youth
Club

YMCA



St Stephen's Church
Canterbury Road CO2 7RY

Thursdays

term-time only

6.30 - 8pm
School years 5 - 8

8 - 9.15pm
School years 8 - 12



Sign up
here



FREE!

CHILL | CHAT | SPORT | MUSIC | ART

becky.whitaker@ymcaessex.org.uk

Lunch served from 12.30pm



Second Monday of the month (unless
otherwise stated)

If you would like to come along, please
call Jill on 01206 572605

Cost £6 per person

**Next Lunch on
Monday 9 December 2024**


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)**


St Stephen's
CHURCH CENTRE

be
encounter
belong
grow





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



Little Lambs – Parent/carer and preschool group

Monday mornings in term time 9.30 – 11am
£1.50 per family

9.30 – 10.30 Free play



10.30 am **Snack time**
Followed by **Carpet time -
story and rhymes**

Everyone Welcome

**Starting again on
Monday 9th September**



Contact Information

Priest In Charge: Rev Anna Davis

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: Martin Kerins & Ian Brown

For Centre bookings contact: Andrew Topple in the Church Office

For urgent prayer requests contact Rev Anna, one of the Curates or Andrew in the office

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

Wednesday 18 December to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk