



# All the latest news for our communities for March 2025



be, belong, encounter, grow

Keep up to date on our websites:

[www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk](http://www.ststephens-colchester.org.uk)

[www.stmargaretscolchester.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretscolchester.org.uk)

# Regular Weekly Services and Meetings

(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

As the snowdrops break through the cold ground, I'm excited to see signs of Spring emerging as we look forward to the promise of warmer weather. I have now been here for 6 months and am still so enjoying getting to know people in the congregations and parishes. It has been a busy time visiting our local schools, and having the schools visit our churches, getting involved in church building projects, discovering the joys of school governance and charity trustee work, as well as spending my first Christmas here, planning for Easter, praying with and for our teams, dreaming about what could be, and trying my best to listen to what I am hearing from the church and discern what I feel God is saying.



One of life's biggest challenges is to really believe this one simple truth: God loves you. To know deep in your bones, to understand it and to live in the knowledge of that truth - it sounds as though it should be easy too understand, but God's love and mercy are both very profound. Someone recently gave me a prophetic question for our churches: 'are we living, believing that God loves us?' It is a good question to ask ourselves, as individuals and as a church.

I am delighted to be able to share that we will be hosting a Lent course across both St Stephen's and St Margaret's churches, welcoming both congregations as well as those from Wimpole Road Methodist, and any other people who would like to join. We are able to run this during the day (Wednesdays at St Margaret's) as well as in the evening (Tuesdays at St Stephen's). It is at times like this that we really benefit from our connections; supporting each other and coming together to go deeper in our faith. This year we will be following a course by Steven Croft called 'Exploring God's Mercy'. My hope is that this course takes us deeper on our journey of really understanding God's love for us, and more of what the good news of the gospel means for our lives and our world today. The course consists of 5 sessions, but please do not be put off from attending if you cannot make them all. I am also planning a table specifically for youth at our evening Tuesday sessions, so please do invite and share this with any young people you know who may be interested, especially as I hope to launch a youth home group in the near future. Please see the advert in the newsletter for more information, or contact me directly with any questions or to confirm.

Continuing my theme of wanting to listen, I am arranging a church survey which will be coming out in due course. This will be sent out by email and available to access through our website, there will also be paper options available at St Stephen's and St Margaret's. I really want to encourage everyone to complete this survey, even if you only

## **Clergy Reflection Cont....**

answer some of the questions: all honest responses are helpful and everyone is able to remain anonymous if they wish (particularly through the digital version; it is slightly harder to be anonymous if you complete it with your beautiful recognisable handwriting and hand it to me, although not entirely impossible). I look forward to sharing the results at our upcoming APCMs and possibly sharing some plans in response. More details will follow shortly - watch this space!

As we adjust to our new season as churches, facing an ever changing landscape globally, may I also encourage us to continue to pray for our churches, and especially the roles that we all have. As we say farewell to Dan and his family, we pray for them in their new chapter and for us as we settle in to what God has in store for us next. You may notice an advert for a new Church Warden at St Stephen's, as Martin comes to the end of his tenure. We are so thankful for Martin and all that he has given during his time in this role. Please pray for our new warden, that God will stir in their heart that they are called. If you are interested in this role, please do get in touch with me and I can answer any questions.

There are so many important roles in church, many of which are quietly happening all the time that most people may not even realise. I really believe that God calls each of us to a unique role, that we are made with purpose, that we all have a part to play and something to offer - that could be prayer, good listening, pastoral support - it could be practical help with the building, refreshments, cleaning - it could be administration, paperwork, risk assessments - it could be organising people and teams - leading worship - children and youth - outreach - and even preaching! There are so many I haven't listed - but I am certain that each of us has a role, however big or small that be at the moment. Please do consider what God is putting on your heart, and if you wish to discuss any of this with me, I would be delighted to talk it through.

Much love, **Anna**

## **Do you have excellent pastoral skills, a mature faith and a sense that God is calling you to something?**

Could you be our next Church Warden at St Stephen's? We have a vacancy coming up and are looking for someone who is a spiritual leader to support the smooth running of the church, in collaboration with the existing team. This person will be prayerful, good at listening, an encourager and have a passion for the church.

If you are interested please contact Rev Anna for more information.

### **Word from the Wardens**

As Wardens of the churches one of our many responsibilities is looking after the actual building itself. Now why is this so significant at this moment, why not focus on lent?

Well it's no secret in this country that churches have leaky roofs....Which is very evident if you've ever been at St Stephens or St Margaret's after a week of constant heavy rain. At St Stephen's we have for some time now been working on this problem with various engineers and specialists meeting John Clifton up on the roof to plan out how we go about solving it. It's a very complicated process that we are working through to not only fix but to make the church better on the long run.

But it's not so different at St Margaret's who have their own reports to go through and just as many, if not more, complex decisions to look at and solve. So this Lent when your taking some time to pray, please hold our building in your prayers and the people who are looking to solve the problems they face.

**Ian Brown on behalf of The Wardens.**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTION NEEDED PLEASE**

**(St Stephen's Church members & congregation)**

### **Full revision of the Electoral Roll prior to the APCM**

This year we will be fully revising the Electoral Role. This means that all names will be removed, and anyone wishing to be on the Electoral Role will need to complete a [new application form](#).

Forms to apply to be on the Electoral Roll will be available between Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March at the rear of the worship area or can be downloaded by [clicking here](#) or on the link below so that forms are completed and returned by 9 March before the APCM:

<https://ststephens-colchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/St-Stephens-Electoral-Roll.pdf>

If you would like to be able to vote at the APCM, your name must be on the Electoral Roll and, 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 more information, please either email [GDPR@ststephens-colchester.org.uk](mailto:GDPR@ststephens-colchester.org.uk) or contact Annie Porteous-Butler on 07940 837452.

## KEEP THE DATE FREE!

Dates that you might want to add into your diary for later this year:

**Lent Courses** on Tuesday evening at St Stephen's & Wednesday morning at St Margaret's starting on 11 & 12 March respectively (please see advert for more information)

**Annual Church meeting (APCM)**- Sunday 6 April (after the morning service)

**Church Camping Weekend** 13 to 15 June— please see newsletter for more information or refer to Chris Liddamore

**New Town Open Gardens** 6 July—refer to Louise Brown

**New Town Community Day** 30 August— refer to Andrew Topple

## Parish Giving

Whether by phone, by post or online, you can set up a Direct Debit donation with PGS that will help our parish fund the mission and ministry, enriching the life of our church in our community.

Begin your giving journey in just a few clicks at [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

## Camping at Thorrington

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June to  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

We have booked a return to Thorrington for a camping extravaganza. I think this is our tenth 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 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 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 we normally order and collect to bring to the site. Nearer the time we will place an order.

We then relax around the fire while enjoying a sip of your favourite tippie. 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. People can visit all day Saturday if that suits.

On Sunday we may attend the "Scout's Own" 15 minutes 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 find 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 369 612**

You are warmly invited to  
St Margaret's and St Stephen's Lent Course



# Exploring God's Mercy



**Tuesdays 7pm - 9.15pm**

11th March - 8th April at St Stephen's

**Wednesdays 10.30am - 12pm**

12th March - 9th April at St Margaret's

A 5 week course to help us discover the simple truth that God loves us  
passionately, deeply and unconditionally.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, contact Rev Anna

[revannadavis@gmail.com](mailto:revannadavis@gmail.com)

07549 643914

## **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](mailto:office@ststephens-colch eser.org.uk) .

**Andrew Toppie**



# Quiz Night

With Fun and Games!

Everyone Welcome

(Church Family; friends; family and community)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

From 6pm

St. Margaret's Church Hall

Tickets £7.50 each

Chippy Supper and  
Tea and Coffee included

Bring your own drinks and  
spare change for games.

Tickets from Kevin and Julie  
Reynolds in person or phone

07989741991

## PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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

**Week 1. 2 March**, Artillery Street, Victor Road, New Park Street, King Steven Road, Morella Court, Marasca End and Garrod Court.

**Week 2. 9 March**, Kendall Road, James Street. Charles Street, Goodey Close, Finchingfield Way, Thaxsted Walk and Felstead Close.

**Week 3. 16 March**, Winnock Road. Wimpole Road, Terling Close, Middlewick Close and Beeleigh Close.

**Week 4. 23 March**, Old Heath Road, Winsley Square, Onslow Crescent, Darwin close and Bathurst Close.

**Week 5. 30 March**, Artillery Street. Victor Road, New Park Street, King Stephen Road, Peerswood Road, Hornbeam Close and Fallowfield Road



Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

## 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.

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



## A Message from Beacon House

Hello!

I am reaching out on behalf of Beacon House Ministries to extend an invitation to your congregation. Every Tuesday afternoon, we run a group for our Guests that encourages them to explore the Christian faith and allow them to ask any questions in a safe supportive environment. We are seeking individuals who are willing to share their personal stories of faith as we believe that hearing firsthand testimonies of God's work in the lives of others can be both encouraging and inspiring. If there are any members of your church who have experienced God's transformative power in their lives and would be willing to share their stories, we would be so grateful for their participation.

Here are the details of our weekly gatherings:

**Day & Time:** Every Tuesday Afternoon, 2-3pm

**Location:** Beacon House Ministries, 24 Crouch Street, Colchester, CO3 3ES

**Format:** Informal, allows for questions to be asked either during or at the end. Usually 20 mins of the story but this is completely flexible.

**Audience:** Adults 18+ - Some have never heard about Jesus before. They access our service due to having been homeless or are currently experiencing homelessness.

We warmly welcome any stories of faith, whether they come from personal challenges, moments of growth, or powerful encounters with God's grace. Your congregation members' willingness to share will certainly make a difference in the lives of our Guests who attend Beacon House.

If you or anyone from your church is interested in speaking, please contact me directly at 01206 761960 or [sjoslin@beaconhouseministries.org.uk](mailto:sjoslin@beaconhouseministries.org.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you and are excited about the opportunity to draw individuals closer to Jesus.

God bless,

Sarah Joslin

Lead Occupational Therapist Working Tuesday-Friday 0930-1600 Beacon House, BEACON HOUSE, 24 Crouch Street, Colchester, CO3 3ES. [sjoslin@beaconhouseministries.org.uk](mailto:sjoslin@beaconhouseministries.org.uk), 01206 761960, Work Mobile: 07506 253302



everyday  
**faith**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Can we 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.

## **ST STEPHEN'S KIDS' CLUB**

**9th and 23rd MARCH**

**As usual, we will meet in the hall at 10.15**

**Please Join us**



# 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 24 February & then 24 March**

  
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.

citizens  
advice

Colchester

Free, impartial and confidential advice for all

## CONTACT US

### Online:

[www.colchestercitizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.colchestercitizensadvice.org.uk)

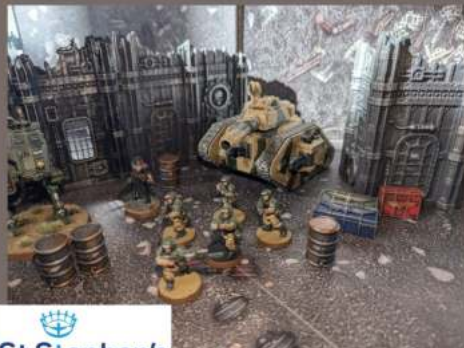
Email: [advice@colchestercab.org.uk](mailto:advice@colchestercab.org.uk)

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!

## 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.





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





# Scouts

9th Colchester  
Colchester Estuary



Want to share an adventure?



Have fun and learn key skills for life?



Why not Join us?



Recruiting now for volunteers and young people!



Spaces in all sections!

## BEAVERS

Mondays  
5pm to 6pm  
Wimpole Road  
Methodist Church

## cubs

Mondays  
6:30pm to 8pm  
Wimpole Road  
Methodist Church

## SCOUTS

Mondays  
7:15pm to 9:00pm  
St Stephen's Church  
Canterbury Road

# EXPLORERS

Fridays  
7:30pm to 9pm  
Rowhedge Village Hall

**Contact us:**

Alex - 07540 455343  
David - 07904 702562  
George - 07476 781885





# coffee with cops



Your chance to get to know your Local Community Policing Team over a coffee. Ask questions, voice concerns – tell us how we can help you.

## Location:

Wimpole Road Methodist Church, Colchester, CO1 2DL

## Date / Time:

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10am



**This month this will be on 14 February**

# 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](mailto: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 10 March

  
**St Stephen's**  
Church Centre



# ST STEPHEN'S BADMINTON CLUB FOR ADULTS

MEETING IN THE HALL ON  
THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE  
MONTH

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7:30 - 9:30 pm



# ***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)**



# Baby & Toddler Group

## Coffee morning

**Mondays 9 – 11 am  
(term time)**

**Toys, singing,  
fun and refreshments**



Contact us at: [wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com](mailto:wimpoleroadmc@gmail.com) /  
Facebook message / 07847 846292





# Little Lambs –

Parent/Carer and preschool group

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

Playdough



Crafts



Physical Play



**Small world –**  
Cars and garage  
Kitchen and food  
Animals



Houses and people  
Baby toys

10.30 am **Snack time**

followed by

**Carpet time - story and rhymes**

**Starting again**

**on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**St. Margaret's Church  
CO2 8RA**

**Contact:  
Carolyn  
07748795926**

# Contact Information

**Priest In Charge: Rev Anna Davis**

Email: [revannadavis@gmail.com](mailto:revannadavis@gmail.com)

**Curates: Rev Dan Cant & Rev Belinda Kerins**

**Community Worker : Louise Brown**

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

Mobile: 07598 251 180

**Administrator: Andrew Topple**

The Church Office is normally open on:

Tuesday & Wednesday 12 noon - 4 pm & Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

**Tel: 01206 869091**

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

**Website: [ststephens-colchester.org.uk](http://ststephens-colchester.org.uk) & [stmargaretscolchester.org.uk](http://stmargaretscolchester.org.uk)**

**Facebook:**

**[St Stephen's Church, Colchester](#) & [St Margaret's Church, Colchester](#)**

Church Wardens: Martin Kerins & Ian Brown—St Stephen's  
Macie Ovenden—St Margaret's

For hiring / bookings contact: Andrew Topple in the Church Office

**For urgent prayer requests contact [Rev Anna](#), one of the Curates, our  
[Community Worker Louise](#) or [Andrew in the office](#)**

The April newsletter should be available by Sunday 30 March. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Monday 24 March to:

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