



All the latest news for our communities for April 2025



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

Please email office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk for access details for this meeting

You can also access Zoom Meetings via the telephone; please contact Andrew Tople for further information.

Clergy Reflection

It is time for my annual wondering about the connection between a rabbit and eggs - in other words: Easter month has arrived, and plans for our Easter services are well underway! We look forward to the time of year that we remember the heart of our faith: celebrating and reflecting on the resurrection of Jesus, and all that his death means for us in our lives today.

Yet it strikes me, that we may not all be in a place of celebration. When you are in pain, through grief or illness, there can be a certain cruelty about the world 'carrying on', as if you are not broken, as if all is ok. Seasonal events can be an acute reminder of what has been lost, or is currently being missed out on, because of things not being as they used to be, or may I even dare to say, things not being as they should.

It is natural to want to be out of pain (that is actually the point of pain) it shows us that there is something wrong. There are many responses to deep anguish, we can get angry and cry out, and sometimes we withdraw. We can avoid celebrations (Easter, Christmas and birthdays) and sometimes we just do all we can to swallow the lumps in our throats as we fake a smile, and turn up anyway, disconnected emotionally, trying to survive. Sometimes we avoid people, and sometimes we avoid God.

There can be a pressure, especially as Christians, to be happy and have everything all worked out - we do have the 'good news' after all! However, a closer look at the Bible can remind us that the psalms offer a full expression of the human experiences worked out in songs and poetry to God. The psalms of lament express honest suffering, they can help us articulate our emotions, which we know is essential to recovery from grief. But lament psalms are about more than psychological well-being, they are about worship to God. We do not have to conceal any parts of our lives from God, even if we want to. In worship we seek to draw near to God, not to hide our true selves.

If we worry that such honesty might reflect doubt and disbelief, then we can have ended up with an emphasis only on the positive, which may lead to a limited relationship with God. It is important that we have space in church, and in our lives, for lament. We need to be able to grieve; individually and collectively. New seasons are wonderful, but it doesn't mean that it never hurts.

I would like to invite you, if any of this has resonated with you, to join our service on Good Friday at St Margaret's, from 2pm - 3pm, for the last hour at the cross. This is a service you can come for as long or as little as you like. This is a place for lament, for grief, for crying out to God (quietly inside or out loud is fine). If transport is an issue, please speak to someone, I would never want this to be a barrier for someone. We have plenty of other things going on over Easter - full of joy and celebration - as always,

Clergy Reflection Cont....

across both parishes, and you can find the details in this newsletter. But Good Friday is a unique time that I encourage you to access if you feel prompted.

I would also love to mention our parish surveys - please do complete these if you haven't already, they are completely anonymous. Every single person matters, and so your voices matter too - thank you so much for those who have shared already. There will be a link in this newsletter as well as (limited) paper copies available. I look forward to seeing many of you over Easter.

Much love,

Anna

Word from the Wardens

Well after 6 years as churchwarden it's time for me to step down. It seems like a long time ago since I took on the role alongside Andrew King. Andrew was very helpful guiding me and showing me the ropes. Although there is a handbook for churchwardens it could never include everything required. I have found the role very insightful, there is always something new to deal with and new challenges.

It has given me the opportunity to meet and work alongside lots of people in various roles. One person was the Reverend Dan who has recently finished his curacy at St Stephen's, during his time here he has made a lasting impression and he will be fondly remembered as he takes on his new role in Suffolk. There will be several members of St Stephen's attending his installation as Vicar in his new parish at the end of March.

I shall still be part of St Stephen's and volunteer and support whenever I can and undoubtedly I'll still get the usual maintenance duties. I'll sign off for now and hopefully see you all at the upcoming APCM.

Yours in faith,

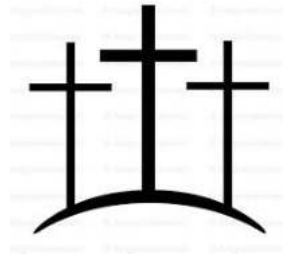
Martin
on behalf of The Wardens.

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-colchester.org.uk .

Andrew Topple

Easter Weekend Services



Maundy Thursday

Last Supper at 6:00 pm - St Margaret's

Holy Communion at 6:30 pm - Wimpole Road

Good Friday

Walk of Witness starting at 10:00 - St Stephen's

Time reflection at 10:00 am - Wimpole Road

Last Hour at The Cross at 2:00 pm – St Margaret's

Saturday

Easter Vigil 6:30 pm – St Stephen's

Easter Sunday Celebrations

All Age Holy Communion at 10:15 – St Margaret's

Café Church with Holy Communion at 10:15 – St Stephen's

Morning Worship at 11:00 am - Wimpole Road

Three TOGETHER



Parish Survey

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ AND RESPOND (WILL ONLY TAKE YOU A FEW MINUTES)

Hello,

We are currently undertaking a parish survey, to help us gain a deeper insight about how things are at our churches. The survey will be open until Wednesday 30 April and be accessed from the links below:

For St Stephen's, [please click here](#) or on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7eG1x4Kz9DxOzZ8SOa3_CGehsVUxHY4J-a7ShmbK2JdGL-Q/viewform?usp=header

For St Margaret's, [please click here](#) or on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRSDZpYszBITow1Mlm1aEO0oMGTloBZ3ENBW4P9wli_8TSyQ/viewform?usp=header

We would love you to respond and share as honestly as possible. The survey does not ask for your name or contact details and no one will be able to look at your individual response after it is added to the system, they will only be able to see the added up results for the church as a whole. We hope that being anonymous will allow you to respond freely. We won't share your data outside of St Margaret's and St Stephen's.

There is no right or wrong answer to any of the questions, you can just state what you think or do. Not all of the questions might feel relevant to you and you don't have to answer them all. The survey responses will help us understand ourselves as a church and shape our prayers and our planning for the year ahead.

On behalf of our PCCs, thank you so much for your time and feedback.

Warm regards,

Anna

Rev'd Anna Davis

Priest-in-Charge at St Margaret's and St Stephen's Churches

PS I if for any reason clicking on the links does not work, please try copying and pasting these into your browsers. If you need a paper copy please speak to Andrew in the office

KEEP THE DATE FREE!

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

St Stephen's 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

Holiday Club at Wimpole Road 26-28 August—refer to Andrew Topple

New Town Community Day 30 August— refer to Andrew Topple

Bishop Guli's Duty Week in the House of Lords, February 2025

Most months in the Chelmsford Diocese weekly notices [The View](#) there is an update on Bishop Guli's Duty Week in the House of Lords. I read this with interest as I find it helpful to see that the issues which many of us face day to day or we encounter as we seek to serve our communities here in New Town and Berechurch are being raised by **OUR** Bishop in the House of Lords.

By [clicking here](#) or on the link below you will be taken to this update:

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/news/bishop-gulis-duty-week-in-the-house-of-lords-feb-2025>

If you are reading this in paper copy and you would like a copy of this please ask me to print one off for you

Andrew, Church Administrator

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

Easter Walk Monday 21st April.

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 station. We propose meeting at 9.50 to sort tickets as if we get a group save ticket and travel together the cost is £7.50 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 12.30pm.

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 minutes to the hour.

Everyone is welcome. Thank you

Chris and Debbie Liddamore
07752 369 612

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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



Week 1. From 6 April Lisle Road, Claudius Road, Campion Road, Barrington Road, Rockhampton Walk, Freemantle Road and Sydney Street.

Week 2. From 13April, Gilbert Road. Sadler Close, Western Road, Beche Road, Mayberry Walk, Wych Elm and Willow End .

Week 3. From 20 April. Gladstone Road. Granville Road. Mytle Grove, Berechurch Hall Road, Lethe Grove and Friday Wood Green

Week 4. From 27 April. Morant Road. Harsnet Road, Kimberley Road, Camulodunum Way, Kohima Road and Arakan Close

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



Camping at Thorrington

**Friday 13th June to
Sunday 15th 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 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. 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



On your marks . . .

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

Get set . . .

- Add Saturday 13 September 2025 to your diary
- Source sponsorship from friends and family
- www.friendsofsexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride for further information or scan the QR code



Charity number 236033

Go!

- Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot
- Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church
- **Please join us!**



Trustees Vacancies for St Mary Magdalen's Hospital Almshouse Charity Colchester, Essex – CO1

St Mary Magdalen's Hospital Almshouse Charity is a small, friendly almshouse charity based in the heart of Colchester. The charity manages 6 properties.

As a volunteer Trustee, you will work with other Trustees to manage and improve the residential buildings and gardens, to appoint new residents, provide pastoral care to the existing residents and provide good governance of the charity's services, assets and finances. The charity contracts the services of a professional Clerk who manages day to day issues with the residents, liaison with contractors and financial accounting on behalf of the Trustees.

The charity particularly welcomes experience in the following skills

- # Building maintenance and management, experience of refurbishments and knowledge of building regs
- # Experience in social housing provision or knowledge of social care and supported independent living
- # Experience of charity sector
- # Finance background

In addition, some local knowledge and interest in the geographical area served by the Charity would be an advantage. You will be able to contribute regular time and interest to the work of the charity:

- # General communications – 1 hour per week
- # Almshouse visits and associated actions – 2 hours every once per year
- # Quarterly trustee meeting – 2 hours every 3 months
- # Project work bespoke to the individual trustee's skill set – as agreed

New Trustees will serve for a 5-year term in the first instance.

To apply, please send a CV and cover letter to the Clerk at avalonbsl@outlook.com.

For further information or an informal chat, email your name and contact number to the address above and the Clerk or Chair will get in touch with you.

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

Sunday 13 & 27 April

Please Join us



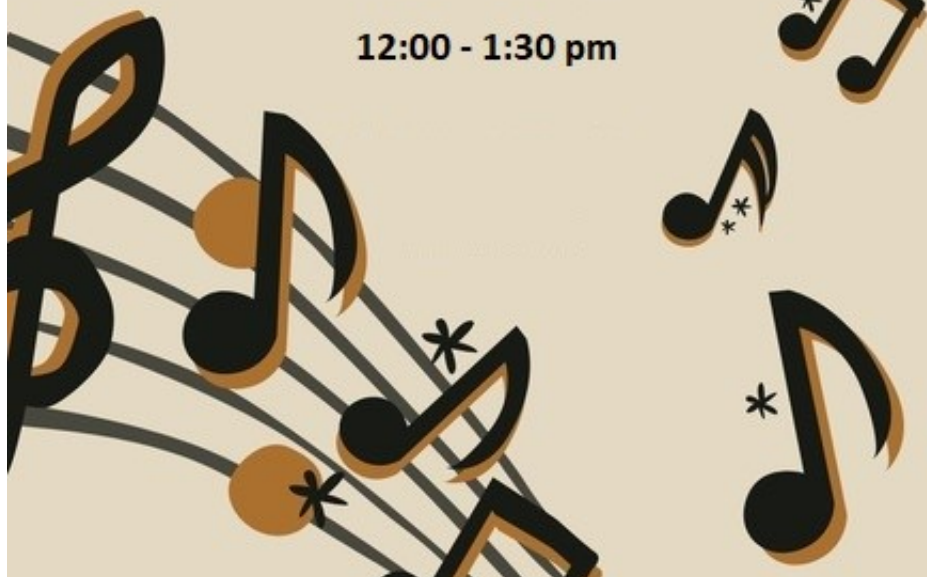
SINGING FOR FUN

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

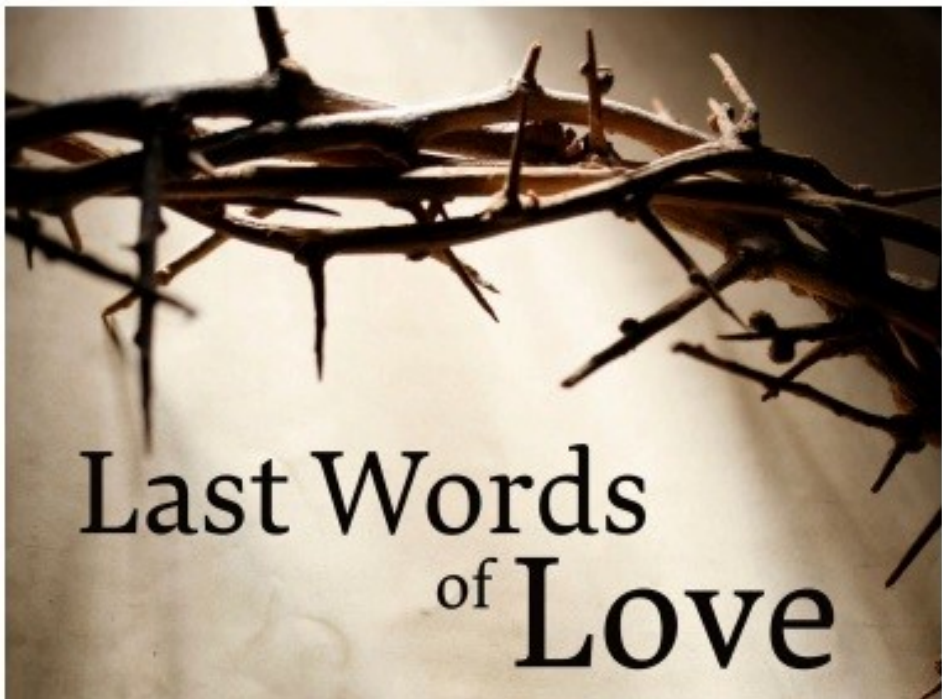
JOIN US TO SING ALONG TO LOTS OF THE OLD TIME
FAVOURITE SONGS AND MANY OTHERS TOO!

Fourth Monday of the month

12:00 - 1:30 pm



Due to Easter & Bank Holidays date of next meeting on to be advised



Last Words of Love

*A reflection on the last words of Christ
on the cross, with music and readings*

**Palm Sunday, 13 April 2025 6pm
St Luke's Church, Tiptree CO5 0SU**

Led by Howard Gardner
Cantus Firmus Choir conducted by Norman Eastbrook MBE
Piano: Sharon Tidbury Organ: Clive Eastbrook

Speaker: Rt Rev Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester

**cantus
firmus**



Retiring collection

cantusfirmus.org.uk
howard.gardner@cantusfirmus.org.uk

Cantus Firmus Trust is a charitable incorporated organisation No. 1142862


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

FREE

12 Week Digital Learning Programme

DIGITAL ACCESS

supporting you to get online



Limited Spaces
Booking
Required

Top Tips For Finding a Job
4 Sessions (S1)
08/05/25 - 29/05/25

Essential Digital Skills Workshop
10 Sessions (S2)
08/05/25 - 10/07/25

Online Safety
4 Sessions (S1)
12/06/25 - 03/07/25

Using Emails
1 Session (S1)
01/05/25

Online Shopping
1 Session (S1)
17/07/25

Browsing the Internet
1 Session (S1)
10/07/25

NHS App
2 Sessions
01/05 (S2) & 05/06 (S1)

Drop in and ask anything digital
1 Session (S2)
17/07/25

Thursdays in Colchester City Centre

Session 1: 13:30-15:30 2: 16:45-18:45

Colchester: **01206 282452** Mobile: **07970 551153**

DigitalAccessSupport@colchester.gov.uk



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

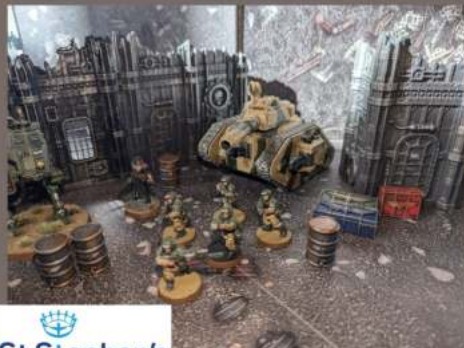
Email: advice@colchestercab.org.uk

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!

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 afternoons

Tea and Company - 1st Wednesday of each month
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Knit and Natter - 2nd Wednesday of each month
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Fun and Games - 3rd Wednesday of each month
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Food for Thought - 4th Wednesday of each month
12.30pm - 1.45pm

Booking essential for catering purposes.
Please book the week before.

If there is a 5th Wednesday in the month, there will
be Fun and Games - 1.30pm - 3.30pm

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 14 April

 **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)**



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

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 6th January 2025

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

**Contact:
Carolyn
07748795926**

Contact Information

Priest In Charge: Rev Anna Davis

Email: revannadavis@gmail.com

Curate: 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 & Wednesday 12 noon - 4 pm & Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

Tel: 01206 869091

**Email: office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk &
office@stmargaretscolchester.org.uk**

Website: ststephens-colchester.org.uk & stmargaretscolchester.org.uk

Facebook:

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

Church Wardens: Martin Kerins & Ian Brown—St Stephen's
Julie Reynolds—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 May newsletter should be available by Sunday 27 April. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Tuesday 22 April to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk