



All the latest news for our communities for July 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 9:00—9:30 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 9:30 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 & 3rd Sunday of the month is Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday is All Aged Worship and Morning Worship on the 4th Sunday.

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

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

A leap of Faith

For the last 17 years Fun With Fitness has been my business, and it has been like a baby to me. Watching it grow, and morph into what it has become today, it has been really enjoyable. I have got to know many clients, some that have come and gone, and some that have stayed with us from the outset. It has become a real community of friends. They have not been just clients, they have become a community where people watch out for each other and do fun things together outside the fitness classes.

But sadly, it has come time to stop the classes as we know them and hand the clients onto someone new. This is a very hard thing to do because I am trusting those that I care about deeply onto someone else. I feel like a mother hen over my clients, and I am not sure someone else can look after them like I can. ☹️ Of course, she will look after them, but she will do things her way and not mine, and this will be a nice change for the clients once they get used to it.

Letting go, is hard. Whether it is a job, a business, a child, a lover, a friend or a precious item. And there never seems to be a right time or an easy way to do this. Letting go of anything precious or important to us does not seem right and goes against our natural feelings.

At this time of year, we see parents planning to let their children go to school for the first time in September or maybe watching them go up to secondary school, where they will be a small fish in a big pond. Again, handing over something precious to someone else.

I have a few friends that are moving house and one is buying a house for the first time. I am watching her leave her parents for the first time, and watching them feel nervous as they let her go. Again, trusting her to her partner to look after, instead of them. I am helping a few families plan funerals for their loved ones, and again they are preparing to let go and say goodbye. Not knowing how life will be without their loved family member.

For all those situations, and many more that I have not mentioned, it is about letting go and it is about a letting go that does not seem natural or right. It is a letting go that makes us feel vulnerable, weak and often insecure. Unfortunately, to move on in life situations we often have to let go of the old to bring in the new, and if we don't let go, we cannot move on. If we don't let go, we get stuck, sad and sometimes hold hurt.

It is in that space that God can help us. I like to feel that He can take our hands and lead us over the space between the old and



Clergy Refection Cont...

the new. This is what I imagine when we talk about a step or leap of faith.



A good friend of mine messaged me today because he had seen that I was closing the business. His message read: "I see that Fun With Fitness is closing. What is God leading you into now?" There was no doubt in his mind that God was helping and leading. He did not see a negative or a worry, he saw the future which was with God's leading. He saw something ending, so this must mean something new beginning.

Faith is a verb = a doing word. And we have to move to enable this to happen. We have to let go. The new will be different from the old. We might not like it straight away, but the other option is to stay stuck.

But just like my friend helped and reminded me that God was the one that's leading, quite often God uses us to help each other through difficult situations. God uses a physical person to be his guiding hand. Sometimes it is just the right word at the right time. And that simple word or encouragement can help us remember that it is God's hand at work. At difficult times we often miss God's guiding hand because of worry and anxiety, so God uses others to help us over the gap and to help us take that leap of faith more easily.

There are lots of people in our two churches this week that are having to take a step of faith from something that has been to something new, let us be the encouraging word in the right place at the right time. Let's hope for what we can't see and believe that God has got this and can lead us by the hand all the way.

Hebrews chapter 11 is called the faith passage. Why not read it today? Here is just the start of it, from the message bible:

Faith in What We Don't See

Chapter 11 verses 1-2 The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.

Rev Belinda

Word from the Wardens

Since my last report, so much has happened within our church. It feels like an awakening as St. Margarets, like a flower in spring. We have had some works undertaken to remove some trees from the area in front of the hall which has exposed the building, and we are having some building work to update our facilities. As being a new church warden, I have focused on ensuring that we have a physically safe church. Risk assessments, rotas, ensuring we are meeting our diocesan responsibilities have taken my time.

However, what is on my heart is how we grow the church. Like the flower in bud, how to we develop into full bloom to demonstrate Gods beauty and love? We recently attended a conference on leading the church into growth - which has provided us with the support, guidance and ideas in how to grow. Like any flower we must develop at the right time and pace otherwise we will not reach our full potential. Flowers need sunshine, good soil and water, I believe that our Church is our "good Soil" providing everything we need to develop. This is the space to grow, as in our building, maintenance from the soil is like our church family and we can spread our roots as deep as we wish. However, God is our gardener. Only He can provide the nourishment we need, providing us with our water and sunshine to thrive. Without this we will not grow. In John chapter 15 is states that "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener" and "this is to my Fathers Glory, that you will bear much fruit". Everything we do within our church must be to demonstrate Gods Glory. How do we do this? We listen to God and soak up his words, we absorb what he is saying, and we action this into growth. How exciting is this? Wouldn't be wonderful if we have a garden of flowers all in full bloom demonstrating Gods wonderfulness in all its glory. How enticing would this be for Berechurch, and our hope is that the physical church will grow.

In July I will undertake my visitation ceremony, which to be honest I don't know what to expect. Since I started this journey, I have had to trust in God, there is no other way. I am learning and developing, and there are days I struggle but I KNOW that God is providing me with water and sunshine, and I have wait to see how he wants me to grow.

Julie

Warden at St Margaret's

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

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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



Week 1. From 6 July, Falcon Crescent, Port Lane, St Leonards, Chandlers Row, Cairns

Road, Armidale Walk and Onslow Crescent, Queen Elizabeth Way

Week 2. From 13 July Magdalen Street. Simonds Lane, Brook Street, Magdalen Green, Pier Close, Henry Everett Grove and Aggregate Walk, Terling Close

Week 3. From 20 July, Mersea Road. Nancy Smith Close, Meyrick Crescent, Homefield Road, Baronswood Way, Oakapple Close , Middlewick Close

Week 4. From 27 July, Pownall Crescent, King George Road, Midland Close, Sandringham Drive, Christopher Jolly Court, Bardfield Road, Berefield Way, Inworth Walk , Beeleigh Close

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

Brian Pierpoint

04.01.1930—02.05.2025

Brian was a faithful member of St Stephen's Church for many years until he was unable to get to Church due to increasing ill-health. However, Brian kept in touch through the parish magazine and web site and Christine's visits (Christine conducted his funeral on June 4th at the Crematorium).

"May he rest in peace and rise in glory"

KEEP THE DATE FREE!

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

New Town Open Gardens 6 July—refer to Louise Brown

Holiday Club at Wimpole Road 26-28 August—booking system is now open; [please click here](#) or go to our Facebook page and to reserve your place(s):

New Town Community Day 30 August— refer to Andrew Toppie



Bradwell Pilgrimage & Gathering 2025

Saturday, 5th July 2025



Join us for the annual Bradwell Pilgrimage & Gathering, a day of faith, fellowship, and reflection in the beautiful and historic setting of Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex. This cherished tradition brings together people from all walks of life to celebrate our shared spiritual journey. This year's special guest, theologian, writer and broadcaster Elaine Storkey.

For more information [click here](https://bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk/) or on the link below:
<https://bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk/>

Wimpole Road Methodist Church Presents

Deep Sea Divers

Holiday Club

25 to 28 August 2025 (incl.) 10 am – 2 pm



Scripture Union

To book your places please use the link below or see our Facebook or web site pages

Please [click here](#) to book your place(s)

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

NEW TOWN OPEN GARDENS+

SUNDAY, 6TH JULY 2025 1-5PM

- Local gardens to visit around the community
- Refreshments and activities St Stephen's and Wimpole Road Churches including Lego builders, Pokemon Card Battles, Prayer Garden and music by local musicians

Programmes available to buy from the Odd One Out Pub and St Stephen's Church from 30th June for £2.
Also available on the day from Wimpole Road Methodist Church.

All proceeds raised by the event to be split between Kendall Church of England Primary School PTA and St Georges Primary School PTA.



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

13th and 27th JULY

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 Meeting Monday 28 July

Concorde Singers

PROUDLY PRESENT

"THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC"

Celebrating 50 Years

Conducted by: Margaret Notley
Accompanied by: Barbara Cutter

Saturday 12th July 2025

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH CENTRE

Canterbury Road, CO2 7RY at 3.00pm

Tickets are £10.00 (children £5.00)

Refreshments and Pimms included

Tickets available at door or phone 01206 213065

Free Car Parking at St. George's School, Canterbury Road, CO2 7RU

Sponsored by the
East of England Co-operative Society


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



St Stephen's Youth Club



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

Thursdays
term-time only

6.30 - 8pm
School years 5 - 8

8 - 9.15pm
School years 8 - 12

FREE!



Sign up
here

- Meet new people
- Learn new skills
- Access support & advice
- Sports, baking, gardening, music, quizzes, craft & more!

Any questions, please contact:

becky.whitaker@ymcaessex.org.uk

YMCA

Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH

HYTHE HILL

Beer & Hymns

SATURDAY 19TH JULY 2025

6.00PM - 9.00PM

**FREE
ENTRY**

Come and raise a glass and sing some hymns all in aid of St Leonard's Church and St Stephen's Church roof repairs

• LICENCED BAR • LOCAL ALE • BBQ

All Welcome!!

St Leonard's Church, Hythe Hill, Colchester CO1 2PN

Summer Quiet Day '25
Creative Encounters
with God



Saturday 19th July
10am to 3pm

At Jackies

Please let me know if you can
come 01206530586

P.S. You do not need to be creative, just
ready to enjoy fun with your Creator God.

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

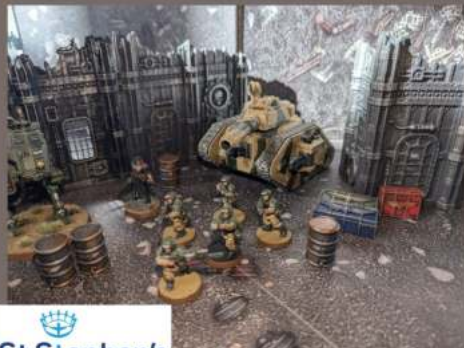
Email: advice@colchestercab.org.uk

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





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

A Pilgrimage of Song

- For all who enjoy walking and singing
- Walk between villages, singing at each church
- A hot meal to end the day

Saturday 19 July
2025

Feering to Tiptree

Full details and booking
at cantusfirmus.org.uk

**cantus
firmus**

Enriching Christian worship
through music and the arts



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 Toppie

Lunch served from 12.30pm



Second Monday of the month (unless otherwise stated)

If you would like to come along, please call Louise on 07598251180

Cost £6 per person

Next Lunch on Monday 14 July



St Stephen's
CHURCH



ST STEPHEN'S
BADMINTON CLUB
FOR ADULTS

Last Friday of Every Month
7:30 - 9:30pm

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



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 9 am– 2 pm , Wednesday 12 noon - 4 pm & Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

Tel: 01206 869091

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

Safeguarding

If you have a Safeguarding concern please report this to our Safeguarding Offices:

St Stephen's—Michael Watkins safeguarding@ststephens-colchester.org.uk

St Margaret's—Kevin Reynolds safeguarding@stmargaretscolchester.org.uk

or phone 07934 486003

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

Facebook:

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

Church Wardens: Ian Brown & Sheila Poole—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 August newsletter should be available by Sunday 27 July. Please send any items to

Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Tuesday 22 July to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk