

All the latest news for our communities for September 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

Doing something differently

This year, as I write this there is only one week of Summer holidays to go. Then the children are back at school and Church activities resume as normal, if they stopped over summer. We have certainly had a long hot summer this year and I have found myself wanting to be outside as much as possible when it wasn't too hot, making the most of the good weather when it was possible. There were still services to take at times, some sermons to write and some pastoral visits, plus home and garden to manage, but I took time to appreciate more of God's creation and do things differently when I could.

For my main holiday away this year I attended a Retreat Association Conference on Creativity in June and found it stimulating and exciting as we were reminded that God the Creator, created each of us in his image. Gen 1: 27. So whether we feel we are particularly creative or not, each of us essentially has a degree of creativity in us. We were encouraged to remember how we can use art, poetry, novels, films etc to connect with God and a friend I met inspired us with the way she illustrated important Bible verses.

Also, while there, a lady called Jacquie Parkinson, a textile artist, showed us some of her creative expressions of faith and I discovered that her main huge displays were then at Ely Cathedral. A friend and I arranged to visit and we were hugely inspired, so much so for me that I based the individual Pleshey retreat and our local quiet day on the theme of her 'Threads of Creation.'



I haven't suddenly produced great works of art over the summer though I had a go at making a childlike square vase, but I was aware of looking at the sky more often and being fascinated by the clouds like I used to be as a child.

I have also been inspired by a book by a previous colleague on my ministerial training which details how her relationship with God grew as she communed with him on her daily walks, (The Field by Helen Gheorghiu Gould.)

Clergy Reflection - cont..

With family visits and taking a wedding etc I haven't always been able to be as relaxed and creative as I'd like but I have done holiday day trips differently, by having fun seeing where all our buses go and taking bus trips out further afield. I've also learnt to notice when I need to do something differently. It just so happened that I had reached chapters of the Bible that were all about judgement so I revived my times by reading the story of Daneil and allowing it to inspire me.

Although Church life might speed up again as we go into a new term, I aim to build in those days that are not just about catching up with home tasks but truly about taking time out and finding different ways to be inspired and appreciate the creativity around me and even play creatively sometimes -the vase now needs painting.

What about you? Are there ways you can re-appreciate and celebrate our Creator God? And are there ways you can step forward into September with built in times to enjoy others creativity through books, art films, poetry etc or even be creative yourself. Do you take time to stand and stare and are there ways you might do something differently to re-inspire you in your daily walk with God?

God Bless

Rev Jackie

Word from the Wardens

As I sit here to write this today, I am hearing the builders busy at work improving our facilities in the St Margaret's Church Hall. The progress is slow, but we are starting to see what a great space it will become. As I look around the Church and Hall buildings, I do see a lot of work to do. Not to mention all the other organisation in the background, that runs a successful Church.

When I came into the role, I really didn't know what needed to be done. I am now starting to understand the enormity of the role, and I applaud all those who have gone before me. I am often filled with self-doubt, but I know that

Word from the Wardens Cont...

this is God's work. This is not just a role in the Church but working to demonstrate God's love for all.

When I am worried or troubled, I look back to God and see that he knows what is required and is helping me to achieve. Jesus, on his sermon on the mount told us "Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things. Do not worry about tomorrow; It will have enough worries of its own" Matthew 6 v33-34.

So, I have started a new habit – I write a list of what I need to do today. Only think about today. That list may only have one thing on it - or twenty, it doesn't matter but only worry about today.

The new school term is here, a new start for many. I think about all our children going back to school and parents making new routines. Coming to church may be daunting and anxiety provoking but as we consider new starts and new routines, consider adding Jesus, to your "today's list". I am reminded of the phrase everyone has a Vicar, and everyone has a church. It is not an elite club, with rules and preconceptions. It does not cost, it provides instead. If you are looking for peace, calmness, laughter, joy (and my bad singing!) just come as you are. A warm welcome will await you.

Julie Reynolds

Church Warden, St Margaret's Church

Bench Restoration



Three benches in the St Stephen's church back garden would benefit from some repairs and sprucing up. We would love to hear from you if you have the necessary skills to bring them back to life. It would be great to see them in use again. If you might be able to help, please speak to one of the Wardens (Sheila or Ian) or Andrew in the Office).

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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



Week 1. From 7 September— Winsley Road, Beehive Court, Worsnop House, New Town Road, Marasca End, Garrod Court and Thaxsted Walk .

Week 2. From 14 September— Cannon Street, Rebow Street, Victoria Place, Felstead Close and Pebmarsh Close.

Week 3. From 21 September— Belmont Place, Scarlets Road, Recreation Road, Parkland Court, Smith's Field, Darwin Close, Bathurst Close and Perth Close .

Week 4. From 28 September— Brookside Close, Bourn Road, Dudley Close, Bourn Court, Trowel Place, Wall Mews and Spencer Road.

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

KEEP THE DATE FREE!

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

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 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.



NEW TOWN COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday 30th August

11am-3pm



Entertainment, live music, stalls, children's rides and inflatables, refreshments, BBQ, mobile skate park, cargo bikes, face paints, dog show and more!

In aid of Mind Mid and North East Essex and St Stephen's Church.


Mid and North
East Essex


Wimpole Road
METHODIST CHURCH


St Stephen's
CHURCH

Free
Entry

**OLD HEATH RECREATION
GROUND COLCHESTER**

**PPL
PRS**
United for Music

Deanery Day - 'save the date'

Deanery Day that is scheduled for **Saturday 11th October 2025**.

This will be a day of networking and nurture, with many different things going on and a number of different speakers. It will take place at St. John's Church, Colchester.

The day is for everyone – every church member across the deanery. The program for the day is as follows:

- 9:30am – Coffee & Pastries
- 10:00am – Worship & Keynote talk.
- 11:00am & 12:00 noon – Workshops & Seminars.
- 1:00pm – Lunch.
- 2:00pm – Workshops & Seminars.
- 3:00pm – Closing Worship.

Activities for the children will also take place with more information as the day comes nearer.

If you have any further questions, please speak to one of our Deanery Synod Reps; Denise or Eddie or Rev Anna

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



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

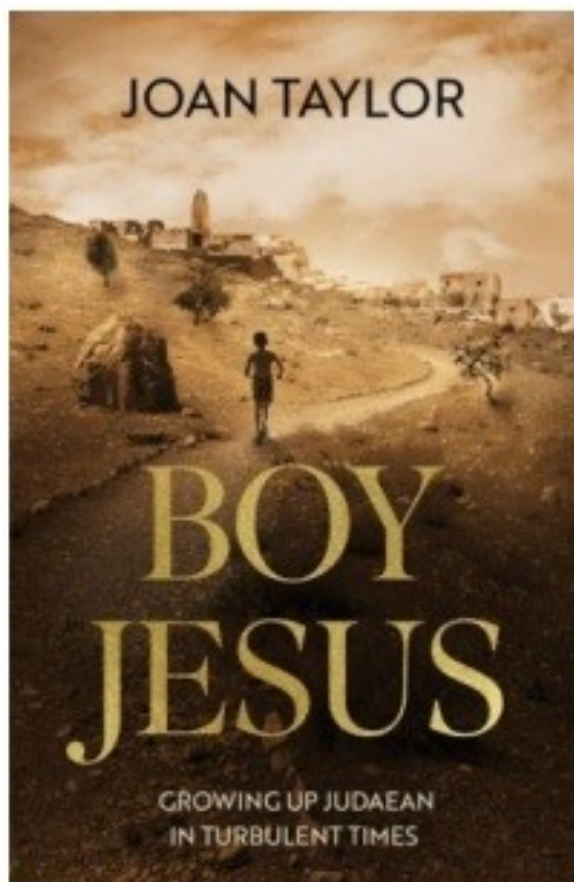
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6th, 2pm

JOAN TAYLOR

On her new book *Boy Jesus*

Growing Up Judaeen in Turbulent Times

Jesus grew up at a time of deep social disturbance, as the Jewish people struggled to come to terms with Roman occupation. "Taylor is able to present the air Jesus breathed and the world he grew up in. She is the most capable and engaging of guides and her book is gripping and a delight." - Church Times.



LADY CHAEL, ST LEONARD'S AT THE HYPHE, COLCHESTER

By kind invitation of the Priest and people of
St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church,
Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex CO3 9BE

**Cantus Firmus with Green Christian present a
Taizé Service for Evening Worship**



PEACE *with* CREATION

Saturday 4th October 2025

4.30pm: Peace with Creation: a presentation by Sian Thomas-Cullinan (Director, Caritas, Brentwood Diocese) with discussion, resources from the Green Christian Local Group, buffet tea (please reserve your place for the tea: laudatosilexden@btinternet.com).

6.00pm: Service in St Teresa's Church

Service led by Howard Gardner
with the Cantus Firmus Choir
Norman Eastbrook MBE, conductor
Sharon Tidbury, keyboard
Christina Volkman, flute

Retiring collection to be shared between CAFOD and Cantus Firmus

Further details from:

Cantus Firmus Trust: www.cantusfirmus.org.uk

St Teresa's Catholic Church: laudatosilexden@btinternet.com

Green Christian: www.greenchristian.org.uk

**Cantus
firmus**

GC
Green Christian



Cantus Firmus Trust is a UK-registered CID No. 1192862.
Green Christian is a UK-registered charitable company,
Reg. No. 328744, Reg. Co. No. 02445198.

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

We will be meeting as normal

on Sunday

14 & 28 September




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

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

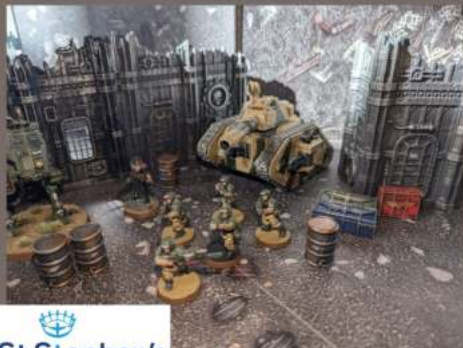
Email: advice@colchestercab.org.uk

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



Silver Threads at St. Margaret's



**A warm welcome awaits
you every
Wednesday afternoon**

Come along for refreshments &
company and a variety of activities
between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm

On the 4th Wednesday of each month join
us for lunch with "Food for Thought"

12.30pm - 1.45pm

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

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 8 September



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 October newsletter should be available by the end of September. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Wednesday 10 September to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk