



All the latest news for our communities for May 2026



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 Meetings at 9:00 on Monday & 10:00 on Tuesday via Zoom

Please email Andrew on office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk for access details for these meetings



Easter Weekend 2026



There was a quiet special service for Good Friday Morning, with worship songs, readings, planting of sunflowers, and prayer inside and outside by the cross on this day, finished with hot cross buns and hot drinks on the rather grey morning - literally and figuratively.

Easter Saturday was a wonderful day filled with bouncy castle fun, face painting, stalls, sweets, hot dogs, barista coffees, Easter egg letter hunt.. and so much more!

Lots of happy faces and fun was had- and an amazing £771.37 was raised to be shared towards Tourettes Action UK Colchester Support Group and St Stephen's Church building fund!

Thank you to everyone who came along, brought treats, found eggs, helped set up, clear up, and the rest in between to mean this day was a success!



Easter Saturday evening was time for the Easter vigial at sunset - for the first celebration of Jesus's resurrection from the dead.





Easter Sunday was our Messy Church service joined with Holy Communion. There was worship, craft activities, easter chocolate cakes, hot cross buns, lego building, biscuit decorating and a complete sense of happiness and joyfulness at the news that Jesus Has Risen!





As always here at St Stephen's it is wonderful to see everyone come together to celebrate, enjoy and worship together, this time for Easter.

Thank you to all those who were involved who arrange, plan and lead these activities and services - the work behind the scenes as well as on the day it's self.

Hallelujah - Christ is Risen!



Also would like to say a thank you to East of England Co-Op on Wimpole Road, and Tesco Hythe for their donations towards some of these events.

Word from the Wardens

A few things I have learned over the past year since being becoming a Churchwarden, new to the role:

- Setting up the laptop and screens doesn't have to be a daunting experience
- There are no flowing capes involved when the Area Dean comes to speak to the wardens at the annual 'Visitation'
- It is great to have Revd Anna back at the helms of St Margaret's and St Stephen's
- It's best to keep calm when last-minute changes to the rotas are required
- Ash, for the Ash Wednesday service, can be sourced online, should the need arise
- Don't be surprised if multiple kitchen appliances conk out in the space of a month
- Our administrator, Andrew, is a wealth of information - incredibly helpful and supportive regarding getting things done
- It's handy being married to the Treasurer as answers to financial queries are often required
- The Baptistry takes four hours to fill and it has been a privilege to be part of people's faith journey in this way
- The Quinquennial (great word) Inspection involves an architect surveying the church for three hours every five years
- Martin Kerins has been a hard act to follow- predictably, though - and we appreciate his continued help with practical matters
- Ian Brown is a very supportive warden to work alongside, particularly with his 'can do' attitude. I'm also sure I'll be picking up more about the intricacies of Warhammer over time
- Oh, and there's a Terrier in the vestry...

Sheila Poole

Churchwarden, St Stephen'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.



Then and then now

There was a time when there were lots of Youth Clubs up and down the country—many run by local or county councils and perhaps even more run by local churches.

My parents met each other at my father’s church youth club back in the 30’s. I used to help run a Youth Club whilst still a schoolgirl back in the 50’s. Sadly the number of youth clubs has diminished— both council and church run ones (the reasons for this are varied and complex—but that’s another story!).

I sad “sadly” because you have only to read the regular reports about the St Stephen’s Youth Club & Holiday Club to see how much our youngsters are gaining from their membership and attendance.

Our two youth groups are run by the YMCA (who have had years of experience of engaging with young people). They are supported by volunteers from the church.

We have only to read the excellent regular reports we receive in the Parish Magazine and the APCM Report to see the many benefits these youngsters enjoy.

So thank you YMCA for all the expertise you put into your leadership of these two groups. And thank you for your comprehensive and professional reports and thank you to our Church volunteers.

May God Bless you all, (Rev’d) Christine Shillaker

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.paritygiving.org.uk

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.



Please [click here](#) to see the Events page

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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



Week 1. From 43 May Winsley Road, Beehive Court, Worsnip House, Moy Road and Stansted Road.

Week 2. From 10 May Cannon Street, Rebow Street, Victoria Place, Prince Philip Road and Prince Charles Road

Week 3. From 17 May Belmont Place, Scarlett's Road, Recreation Road, Hooper Avenue and Fowler Road.

Week 4. From 24 May Brookside Close, Bourne Road, Dudley Close, Bourne Court, Perth Close and Rockhampton Walk

Week 5 From 31 May Barrack Street, Provence Place, Challenge Way and Colne Point, Homefield Road, Homefield Road, Baronswood Way, Oakapple Close, Baronswood Way and Oakapple Close

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.

New Town Open Gardens

Once again we will be organising this event supported by our friends at Wimpole Road Methodist Church on Sunday 5 July.

As last year we will be encouraging people to also open up their gardens for craft and information stalls and as appropriate offer them space at our Churches. We also plan to have entertainment at both Churches.

If you are able to help at either Church on the day with refreshments and stewarding, please speak to Louise or Andrew or email;

ntog2026@ststephens-colchester.org.uk Thanks



Camping at Thorrington Friday 12th June to Sunday 14th June 2026

We have booked a return to Thorrington for a camping extravaganza. I think this is our eleventh 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 site is around 20-minute drive from our church.

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 to 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 without camping if that is better for you.

On Sunday we may attend the "Scout's Own" 15 minutes outside act of worship before normally breaking camp after lunch. Last year we were blessed with Anna leading our own open-air service.

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 have also booked an extra fridge for this year.

We are still finalising the prices per person per night but think this will be £8.50 per person if you are camping and over 5, under-fives are free. The indoor accommodation is likely to be £15.50 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 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

07752369612



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



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 11 May

*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



Colchester Keyboard Concerts

**St Margaret's Church Hall
Stansted Road, Colchester CO2 8RA**

Sundays at 2:30 pm.

Entrance fee £10 (all inclusive)

2026 Concert Programme:

Sunday 10 May — Chris Powell

Sunday 14 June — Nick Martin

Sunday 12 July — Michael Wooldridge

Sunday 9 August — Andy Nix

Sunday 13 September — David Ingley

Sunday 11 October — Matthew Bason

Sunday 8 November — Daniel Watt

Sunday 20 December — Chris & Jo





NEW TOWN OPEN GARDENS

Save the date....

Sunday

5th July 2026

To register interest / get in contact
please email:

[ntog2026@ststephens-
colchester.org.uk](mailto:ntog2026@ststephens-colchester.org.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.



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

**Meeting in the hall or the back of the Church on
Sunday 10 May**





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



**Call on 01206 645001
email**

kevin@reynoldsofcolchester.com

My name is Kevin Reynolds, and starting in May 2026, I'll be offering services for all your small group needs. Get in touch by phone or email to discuss your requirements. I provide comfortable, luxury minibus travel for up to 16 people, covering both UK and European destinations.



Follow on Facebook



Follow on Instagram



TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

www.reynoldsofcolchester.co.uk

01206 645001

Trips planned for May 2026

Monday 11th May: For £30pp, Enjoy a trip to Southwold.

Thursday 14th May for £35pp, Enjoy a trip to Margate.

Monday 18th May for £35pp, Enjoy a trip to Cromer.

Thursday 21st May for £30pp, Enjoy a trip to Norwich.

Monday 25th May for £35pp, Enjoy a trip to Canterbury.

Thursday 28th May for £30 pp, Enjoy our final trip of the month to Cambridge.

All trips are dependent on a minimum of 12 people traveling.

Below 12 will be rescheduled, transferred to another trip or the option to pay a surcharge for the trip to go ahead.

Collection times will be given at time of booking. Local pick-up points to be confirmed as well.

Please either call me, WhatsApp on 07794956626 or Email on kevin@reynoldsofcolchester.com

Thank you for looking, hopefully I'll speak to you soon. Kevin

Account Details (Monzo): Account Name: Reynolds of Colchester

Sort Code: 04-00-05

Account Number: 40241399

www.reynoldsofcolchester.co.uk

01206 645001

VAT Reg: GB514264512


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](#)



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



Join us for...

SINGING FOR FUN

Come along to St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road
for an afternoon of musical singing fun!

**Sing along to lots of the old time favourite songs
from stage, screen and everything in between!**

4th Monday of the
month
12.30-2pm

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS 12.30-1PM.
SINGING FROM 1PM -2PM.**



Next Meetings Monday 25 May

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



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.



WEDNESDAYS
TERM TIME ONLY

1.15PM - 2.45PM

ADULT AND CHILD FRIENDLY PLAYGROUP

FOR AGES 0-4YRS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



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



Baby toys



Small world -

Cars and garage
Kitchen and food
Animals
Houses and people

10.30 am Snack time

followed by
Carpet time - story and rhymes

Everyone Welcome!



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

**Contact:
Carolyn
07748795926**

Contact Information

Priest In Charge: Rev Anna Davis

Email: revannadavis@gmail.com

Community Worker : Louise Brown

Email: communityworker@ststephens-colchester.org.uk

Mobile: 07598 251 180

Administrator: Andrew Topples

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 Topples in the Church Office

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

The June; newsletter should be available by Sunday 31 May Please send any items to

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

Tuesday 26 May to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk