



All the latest news for our communities for June 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



Word from the Wardens

Last month was a busy month for the Church as we prepared for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Prior to the meeting my job was to collate all the reports from the church activities so this could be shared in one document. It is always surprising to hear about the different organisations within the church that play a role in outreach or support for the community. From very young babies to the very elderly, the church has something for everyone.

Our recent electoral roll has risen which reflects what we see in Sunday services. New people are attending the church, but what is more important they choose to stay and worship God with us. This is something I feel very passionate about. I make an effort to know people's names, not easy for a dyslectic brain! But moreover, it is the existing congregation that play a really important role in make sure that new members of the church feel welcome. Over the past year I have come to understand that there are people (unknown to us) that are searching for God. Our role is to be there welcoming them where they are.

Once all the reports and finances are dealt with, another important role of the APCM meeting is to welcome the congregation into new roles. Always with Prayer, and confirmation that this is where their gifts lie. Often it is matching a role with a personality. At our APCM this year I was pleased to have a PCC secretary agreed. This will take some pressure of my role as warden in some of the administrative tasks and I welcome the support. We also had refreshment of our PCC membership and welcomed two new members to the meeting. We have also created sub committees to also work on our digital outreach and another subcommittee for the building work. Again, something that I welcome with open arms.

My first year as Warden has been a tough one, but with Gods provision and support from the Church I look forward to the coming 12 months. It is always easier to do things for a second time!

Julie Reynolds
Church Warden, St Margaret's

Pentecost Celebration Service on the Recreation Ground

Once again we were blessed with good weather for our annual outdoor service with Wimpole Road. If anything it may have been a little too hot!

Thank you to everybody who helped to organise and lead this service and to all those who were able to attend.

Additionally we raised £224 towards the work of Christian Aid.



Sorry, we didn't manage to get that many pictures



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.

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



St Stephen's Youth Club report

January - April 2026

Highlights from this term:

- St Stephens welcomed a new group of young people this term who settled in quickly and engaged positively, particularly through baking sessions and group activities.
- The team introduced a range of group-based challenges (e.g. baby food challenge, guess the crisp flavour, cup stack, levitating stick), encouraging young people to step outside their comfort zone, try new things and work as a team. Team activities were chosen to encourage new friendships and to strengthen the sense of community at St Stephen's.
- Regular badminton sessions were delivered with support from volunteers, providing consistent opportunities for physical activity and supporting young people to build confidence, resilience, and develop new skills.
- We continue to have support from a large number of wonderful volunteers. They often lead activities such as baking, sports & crafts.
- Young people planted their own sunflowers. They are currently in competition to see who can grow the tallest sunflower.

Most common topics of discussion:

- School & seeking support at school
- Goals and future aspirations
- Creating new games to enjoy together
- Music and interests
- Friendships
- Mental health

Specific support given to young people this term:

- The team supported young people who wanted to address issues at school. Youth workers helped them understand appropriate ways to address concerns, speak to the right people and feel confident advocating for themselves.

- Young people will often speak to youth workers about things going on in their lives, such as bullying, difficult family dynamics, mental health, confidence and friendships. Youth workers listen and offer support and advice.

What does engagement look like here?

- The team have introduced a refreshed session structure, starting with a group activity. This has created an immediate buzz on arrival, with young people keen to get involved straight away as they know what to expect and feel confident joining in.
- There is a strong culture of openness, with most young people feeling comfortable approaching and talking to youth workers and volunteers. Relationships are consistently built and maintained, meaning every young person is known well and feels recognised at the youth club.
- There's always a mix of activities available at St Stephen's, including relaxed areas for conversation, space for creative activities, as well as sports. This creates a welcoming and dynamic environment that appeals to a wide range of interests.
- The versatile space gives young people the freedom to engage in different ways while still feeling part of a positive, inclusive group atmosphere.

Next term we are looking forward to:

- Continuing to celebrate our young people through the Jack Petchey award scheme.
- Developing new fun and exciting activity ideas through collaboration with the young people.
- Starting the gardening project! This was really popular last year so will be running again. We hope to grow fruit and vegetables. Young people will have opportunities to learn how to prep the soil and carefully plant the tiny plants. Then they will be able to water them and check their progress each week.

Becky Whitaker

Youth Services Manager

YMCA Essex



Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe

Events for 2026

Please see our Facebook page: **Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe Colchester**
@Fosl Colchester

and our Website: www.stleonard-at-the-hythe.org.uk
for further details and up to date information

All are very welcome at all our events and open days. Refreshments available.

Most events are free entry with donations welcomed. Ticketed events are indicated.

We are open every Tuesday from 12noon til 2pm

And Saturdays 2-4pm (normally the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month).

June: 4th Thursday 7pm **John Rayment: The History of the Thames Sailing Barge and the Thames Sailing Barge Trust.**

A local history talk

12th Friday 6.30 **Bellringing**

24th Wednesday **Julie Murphy** (Folk singer)

26th Friday 11am -5pm **Essex Book Festival** event.

27th Saturday 7pm **C over Stories** (John Clifton and his Jazz Band)

July:

10th Friday 6.30pm **Bellringing**

18th Saturday 6-9pm **Beer and Hymns** Our annual celebration of traditional hymns played on our organ and enjoy local beer!

29th Wednesday 7pm **The Adages** (Folk group)

TBC: **Giulia Cipriani (Soprano) and friends.** A special preview of her Castle Park concert in August.



Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe

Events for 2026 cont...

August:

5th Wednesday 7pm **An evening of tribute to Dave Shepherd** – Internationally renowned folk musician who has played at and supported us at St Leonard's , who passed away earlier this year

14th Friday 6.30pm **Bellringing**

14th Friday 7.30pm TICKETED EVENT

Quill and Inking Theatre production 'The Cursed Ring; A Viking Saga

29th Saturday 10am – 3pm **Craft fair** with strawberries and cream

30th Sunday 4pm **Evening Prayer Service**

September:

11th Friday 6.30pm **Bellringing**

Heritage open days . Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th
We will open from 10am until 4pm

October:

9th Friday 6.30pm **Bellringing**

November:

13th Friday 6.30pm **Bellringing**

29th Sunday 4pm **Evening Prayer Service**

December:

11th Friday 6.30pm **Bellringing**

18th Friday 7pm for 7.30pm **Carol Service**

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 ava-lonbsl@outlook.com.

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

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 30th June 2026.

Carbon Literacy Course

13 June 2026 9.30am to 4pm

St Luke's Church, Moulsham Lodge, Gloucester Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 9DT.

This course, being led by the Diocesan Environmental Training Officer, Revd Sandra Eldridge, is designed to help attendees to better understand carbon footprints of individuals, organisations and countries and what action can be taken at many different levels to reduce them. It is run as part of the Carbon Literacy Project. The course is free, but you will need to bring your own lunch or can buy something locally. The church is on a C5 bus route, (the bus stop is right opposite the church), and there is a small car park.

Places are limited. Contact Sara Hodges as early as possible to book: shodges@chelmsford.anglican.org. If you have any queries please contact Sandra: seldridge@chelmsford.anglican.org

Find out about the Carbon Literacy Project Home - [The Carbon Literacy Project](#)

Rev Sandra Eldridge

Diocesan Environmental Training Lead

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

**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

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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



Week 1. From 7 June - Lisle Road, Claudius Road, Cam-
pion Road, Barrington Road, Queensland Drive, Brisbane Way, Melbourne
Chase and Adelaide Drive

Week 2. From 14 June - Gilberd Road. Sadler Close, Western Road, Beche
Road, Hooper Avenue, Fowler Road and Foundation Way

Week 3. From 21 June - Gladstone Road. Granville Road. Mytle Grove, The
Willows, Holm Oak and Silverthorne Close

Week 4. From 28 June - Morant Road. Harsnet Road, Kimberley Road, Mead-
ow Road, Leas Road and Malting Road

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 peo-
ple 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 refresh-
ments 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 revised

We are delighted to announce that our annual camping adventure at Thorrington is back for another year, marking what we believe to be our eleventh visit. Whether you're a seasoned camper or have never joined us before, we warmly invite you to experience all or part of this special weekend.



Thorrington, conveniently located just a 20-minute drive from our church on the way to Brightlingsea, offers both indoor accommodation with bunk beds for up to 14 people and the picturesque Fallen Log campsite nestled in the woods. Although it is a scout campsite, they generously allow us to use the facilities as a church group. The weekend is designed to be inclusive and flexible—open to all ages, individuals, families, and newcomers alike. You're welcome to stay for one or two nights, a single day, or simply join us on Saturday evening.

Our tentative schedule begins with arrival around 4.30pm on Friday, where we'll set up camp and enjoy fish and chips ordered in advance, thanks to Sheila Poole who is coordinating the meal. If you'd like Sheila's contact details or need guidance on placing your order, please message us. After dinner, we'll unwind by the fire, sharing stories and perhaps enjoying music from those who bring instruments.

Saturday promises a relaxed pace, with opportunities to participate in onsite activities, join in sports, read, take a walk, or—if Chris Poole is available—explore nature on a guided walk. In the evening, we'll come together for a group BBQ, sharing food brought by attendees. This is often when more people join us for the day and day visitors or visitors just or the BBQ are welcome and please bring any food to share.

On Sunday, you are welcome to attend the "Scout's Own" outdoor act of worship, which lasts about 15 minutes, before we break camp after lunch.

Last year, Anna led our own open-air service, which was a highlight for many. Throughout the weekend, there's absolutely no pressure—everyone is free to participate as much or as little as they wish. The indoor accommodation includes a fully equipped kitchen, showers, toilets, and we've booked an extra fridge this year to make things even easier.

Pricing is £8.50 per person per night for campers aged over five, with under-fives staying free. Indoor accommodation is £15.50 per person per night, reflecting recent

increases. These fees should cover two activities planned for Saturday. Full day visitors are £2 for the Saturday. If cost is a concern, please know we have a small fund available to help make the weekend accessible to all. Payments can be made by bank transfer to the church account, using "camp" and your surname as the reference. Contact us if you need the bank details.

If you're considering joining us for the first time or have any questions, please reach out. We'd love to welcome you.

Thank you,
Chris and Debbie Liddamore 07752 369 612



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 June



PYRAMID ROCK

Holiday Club Wimpole Road Methodist Church

Holiday Club 2026 will run from Monday 24 - Wednesday 26 August
from 10 am - 2 pm

Places will be limited and we have been oversubscribed over the last few years. If you would like to reserve your place(s), please book as soon as possible by [clicking here](#) or on the link below:.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/
e/1FAIpQLSdt_VMmFEFc_jOR9MWcNOXrH4yNKmZx25lBA74G22OI6dibjg/
viewform?usp=pp_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdt_VMmFEFc_jOR9MWcNOXrH4yNKmZx25lBA74G22OI6dibjg/viewform?usp=pp_url)

Many thanks and look forward to seeing you in the summer.



Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe

Please [click here](#) to view the May edition of the
Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe Newsletter

*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 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





West Mersea Parish Church
invites you to a Taizé service

Taizé

Taizé
Taizé

6.00pm Sunday 19 July 2026

West Mersea Parish Church
High Street
West Mersea CO5 8QD

Cantus Firmus Choir
Norman Eastbrook MBE, conductor
Sharon Tidbury, piano
Christina Volkmann, flute
Service led by Howard Gardner

Retiring collection towards expenses

 cantus
firmus

Cantus Firmus is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, No. 01150862



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 28 June





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


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 July newsletter should be available by Sunday 28 June Please send any items to

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

Tuesday 23 June to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk