



All the latest news for our communities for August 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



Clergy Reflection

Esau: Beware!

Readings: Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 8:1-11

For the purposes of this reflection, please imagine you're Esau.

You've been out hunting all day. You're exhausted. You're starving.

And then you smell it.

A rich, red, savoury lentil stew. Mmm, dahl.

Lovely. You follow the smell... and there is your brother Jacob, standing by the pot, holding a ladle.

Esau, listen carefully. Something important is about to happen. Beware! Jacob sees your hunger. He sees your weakness. And he is ready to use it. He's going to say: *"First sell me your birthright."*

And here's the danger: **you are about to trade something priceless for something immediate.** You don't feel that right now. All you feel is hunger. But your birthright is your future. Your identity. Your place in the promises of God. And Jacob is prepared to take it - for a bowl of stew. That is not how the family of Abraham is meant to behave. God's people are meant to be generous, open-handed, giving freely. They reflect a God who says:

"Come, all you who are thirsty... you who have no money, come, buy and eat!"

God gives without exploiting weakness. God welcomes without demanding payment in advance. So Esau - beware. Beware of situations where you are valued only for what you can give. Beware of people who use your need against you. That is not the way of God.

But Esau, the greatest danger here is not Jacob. The greatest danger is how you respond. You don't have to act on instinct, you know. You can pause, even as you salivate. You can step back. You can ask: what really matters here? You can remember who you are - a child of God, with a future shaped by God's

Clergy Reflection cont...

promises. The apostle Paul puts it like this: *“Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on what the flesh desires; but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on what the Spirit desires.”*

To live only at the level of instinct - I'm hungry, so I must eat now - is to live at the surface level of life. But maturity is learning to choose wisely even when it's hard. Even when you're tired or hungry or angry or anxious. Even when your desires feel overwhelming.

Esau, this isn't just about you. This is about us. We too have been given a birth-right. A place in the family of God. An identity as people who are loved, chosen, and accepted - not because we earned it, but because God freely gave it to us. And yet - we are constantly tempted to trade that identity for something smaller:

- approval
- comfort
- convenience
- being liked
- avoiding difficulty

And yes, even churches are tempted to trade what really matters for short-term gain. Churches can seek temporary, shallow numerical growth in place of investing in a sustainable missional presence that will last for decades. Churches can seek charisma in place of humility, strategy without holiness, authority without accountability. Or they can just try to keep the people already in church happy this week, with no view to the presence of Jesus and the call of God.

So, pause, Esau. Create space between impulse and action. Don't decide in the moment of strongest pressure. Because freedom isn't doing whatever we want. **Freedom is being able to choose what is right, without being ruled by our cravings.** Esau, as a natural fellow short-term thinker, who's never going to be the person pictured on a poster advertising self-control, I plead with you: delay gratification. Prioritise later.

And this is where the Spirit of God helps us. The Spirit gives us the ability to respond, not just react.

Clergy reflection cont...

- The Spirit says “no” when we’re about to say something we’ll regret.
- The Spirit says “yes” when the alarm clock goes off and we don’t feel like praying
- The Spirit says “maybe not” when we’re standing near biscuits

The Spirit empowers us to say no now, so that we can say yes to something better later. The Spirit helps us live from our deepest identity - not just our loudest desire.

In the story, Esau doesn’t pause. He reacts. He makes the deal. He chooses lentilles du Puy. And just like that - it’s gone. His birthright, traded away in a moment. And yet - even here - this is not the end of the story. God is still at work. In Genesis, God works through this broken situation to shape the future of his people. That does not excuse Jacob’s behaviour or Esau’s impulsiveness. But it does remind us: **God’s purposes are bigger than our worst moments.**

So, if you hear this story and recognise yourself in Esau - there is good news. *“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

No condemnation. No shame. No rejection. No sneering disdain. But grace for sinners like you and me. Esau, God does not abandon you when you fail. God meets you there, forgives, restores. And the Spirit continues the Spirit’s work - reshaping our hearts, renewing our minds, teaching us, little by little, to choose what truly matters.

Rev'd Andy Griffiths

Lead Adviser for Formation and Wellbeing

(Taken from the Diocese of Chelmsford The View Publication edition 304)

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

Word from the Wardens

Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

...Then You Are Probably The Family Dog!

Author Unknown

Joking aside, we are now in the slightly quieter time of the church year when we can perhaps take stock and look back on the many events and services through which we may have started to get to know our fellow church members better, enjoyed the company of church friends we may have known for years and maybe challenged ourselves by taking on new responsibilities.

As Churchwardens, we really appreciate the support we get from those of you on the many rotas needed for a church to function, and it has been encouraging to see new faces 'out the front' and behind the scenes, together with those of you who consistently 'show up'. Thank you!

At a recent PCC meeting, Rev Anna asked us to consider 'Why' we do what we do. Going back to the above poem, perhaps many of us are seeking the Inner Peace that can come from a relationship with God, through prayer, praise and worship, and wish to share that good news with others. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we love to see you and hope you feel welcomed and part of the church family.

Sheila Poole, on behalf of the Churchwardens

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 10 August

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Week 1. From 2 August, Maple Way, Queen Mary Avenue, Daniel Cole Road, Dunwich Court, Merton Court, Prunus Court and Morella Court.

Week 2. From 9 August, Harrison Road. Gurdon Road. Lord Holland Road. Berechurch Road, Beeleigh Close, Moy Road and Stansted Road.

Week 3. From 16 August, Geoff Seaton Close. Jennings Close, Haddon Park, Chestnut Avenue, Hetherington Close and Gosfield Road.

Week 4. From 23 August, Vega Close. Velenta Close, Ventura Drive, Pertwee Court, Prince Philip Road, Prince Charles Road and Parnell Close .

Week 5. From 30 August, Artillery Street. Victor Road, New Park Street, King Stephen Road, Peerswood Road, Hornbeam Close and Fallowfield Road

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.





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).

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



Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe

Events for 2026 cont...

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**

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



It's YOUR Newsletter

Please don't forget, if you have stories or items
that they would like to contribute to future News-
letters please contact me at: [office@ststephens-
colchester.org.uk](mailto:office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk) .

Andrew Toppie



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.

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could YOU give one day a week to change a life?

Join the team at Beacon House!

Make a Real Difference

Support people experiencing homelessness with practical help, kindness, and connection.

Volunteer Roles Available:

- Kitchen
- Laundry & Showers
- Wellbeing Support
- Admin Support
- Prayer Support

No Experience Needed

Just bring compassion, reliability, and a willingness to help.

Be Part of Something Meaningful

Help bring hope, dignity, and belonging to those who need it most.

Join Us Now!

Contact us for an application form or
to find out more at
office@beaconhouseministries.org.uk

*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

FRIENDS OF ST LEONARD-AT-THE-HYTHE PRESENTS:



Featuring:
*Giulia, Dan,
Jennifer*



AN EVENING OF OPERA

FRIDAY
31ST JULY

7.30 - 9 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 7

OPEN REHEARSAL WITH A LIVE CHOIR

ACCOMPANIED BY
STEVE EVANS

ADMISSION FREE
DONATION WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

HYTHE HILL, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO1 2NP

WWW.STLEONARD-AT-THE-HYTHE.ORG.UK/

LEGO CLUB



Come along brick fans of all ages for a free Lego club on the 4th Saturday of the month at St Stephen's.

Different activities and challenges to join in with lead by The BrickMan.

Children to be supervised.

Running 10am-12midday at The Hub.

**Every 4th
Saturday of the month!**



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 9 August — Andy Nix

Sunday 13 September — David Ingley

Sunday 11 October — Matthew Bason

Sunday 8 November — Daniel Watt

Sunday 20 December — Chris & Jo





**PLEASE
JOIN US**



**Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot.
Enjoy exercise, meet new people and raise much
needed funds for your church**

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



SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2026

For further information scan the QR code or visit
www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride



Charity No 236033



**Mal is planning to ride again this year and is hoping to visit
about 30 Churches to raise funds for Friends of Essex
Churches and St Stephen's. If you would like to join him (and
you are brave enough!) please speak to Mal**

PARSONS of Interest

and other songs

Eccentric Essex Vicars celebrated in song, by
THE ADAGES



Wednesday 29 July, St Leonard-at-the-Hythe,
Hythe Hill: 7pm (doors 6.30)

Acoustic Lady Chapel Session: "PARSONS OF INTEREST AND OTHER SONGS".
Debut of new songs/ slightly themed show by Adrian May, with Jen Conquer
(bassoon) and Marion Kent (accordion), who had their first full gig last year at St
Len's. Eccentric Essex Vicars celebrated in song: two examples - 'Locksie' Heatley,
daughter of Reverend Henry Heatley, vicar of Ingrave, from 1887, introduced
Vaughan Williams to real traditional folk singers. Conrad Noel, vicar of Thaxted from
1910, was known as the 'Red Vicar' because of his Christian Socialism, filled his
town with singing and Morris dancing. And, of course, 'Tea With the Divines'!

FB/Friends of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe WEB/: www.stleonard-at-the-hythe.org
Postcode CO12NP / BUS 54/ near Hythe (Essex) Rail Station





GreenChristian

Colchester Group
invites you to

Exploring Eco Church

Greening your Church

Jo Herbert-James

Head of Engagement,
A Rocha UK



Rt Revd Roger Morris,
Bishop of Colchester

(video presentation)
Chelmsford Diocesan
Environmental Lead

Linda Percival

Chelmsford Diocesan
Eco Church Advocate



Saturday 17th October 2026

Christ Church, Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3AT.

9.30am Registration

10.00am to 4.00pm programme:

- Theology: climate change
- Eco Church: A Rocha's Bronze, Silver and Gold awards
- Workshops

**Suggested
donation: £10**

(payable on arrival)

Please bring your own lunch; drinks provided throughout the day.

Further information: please text to Howard Gardner 07831 101323

Green Christian is a charitable company, reg.no. 328744; charity no. 02445198.





**Wheels
for All**

Wheels for All Colchester

Monday 11am

**Wednesday 10am (school
holidays only), 11am, 1pm
and 2pm**

Colchester Sports Park
Cuckoo Farm Way, Colchester CO4
5YX

Tuesday 10am - 12pm

Old Heath Recreation Ground
Old Heath Road
Colchester CO1 2ER

For any enquiries contact Jo
at

jo.smith@wheelsforall.org.uk

or

07736 974538

Register Here



Wheels for All is the operating name of Cycling Projects, a registered
Charity No.1003309 | Company limited by guarantee Reg. No. 2638968 | VAT No. 673 668294
Emailhello@wheelsforall.org.uk



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Macmillan Coffee Morning



A Whole Latte Sunshine!

Come along and enjoy the company of others at our friendly and fun occasion.

If you bake, you may like to enter our Best Bake competition or maybe bring along your favourite shop bought treat.

Wear something green if you like, to show your support.



August

04

at 9:30- 12:00 noon

WINSLEY'S HOUSE, HIGH STREET,
COLCHESTER, CO1 1UG

In partnership with

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Community

360

Flourish | Develop | Sustain



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

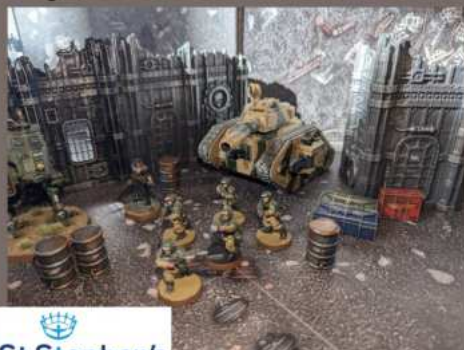
Email: advice@colchestercab.org.uk

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

**We are taking a break for August but will be back
as normal in September, meeting in the hall or
the back of the Church**





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 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 24 August

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.



Rainbow Tots

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: wimpoleroadmcc@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 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—Corinne Cook 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, our
Community Worker Louise or Andrew in the office**

The September newsletter should be available by Sunday 30 August. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Tuesday 25 August to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk