



All the latest news for our communities for October 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

The last will be first, and the first will be last; [Matthew Ch. 20, vs. 1-16](#)

Have you ever got frustrated when you are waiting for something to happen, an appointment or a queue of some kind, and then somebody you feel is behind you in the order gets brought forward and dealt with ahead of you. I guess the most obvious times when this might happen might be in a pub or hospital.

Now, of course, there may be lots of very good reasons why that might happen, they could have a greater need to be seen urgently, their time slot might be different, or they could just be in a totally different queue which shares the waiting space with the group you are in.

Whenever I have found myself to be in that situation I have to confess to usually feeling there has been some kind of injustice delivered unless and until I know the reason for the unexpected early attention to another. I think if I were one of those hired early in the parable Matthew sets out in the above passage from Matthew I too would also be feeling a sense of injustice at those who get the same reward for seemingly doing a whole load less work. After all should we not all get treated the same way and with fairness?

Matthew seems to be developing an important idea here, which is that belonging to the Kingdom of Heaven is not dependent on what you do, but begins with who you are and how you are known. The quality of the relationship the landowner has with each of the workers may well be very different to the quantity of the output they make whilst working. To be a faithful disciple of Jesus does not depend on what you do, but rather on the quality and depth of relationship with God in Jesus Christ. There is a generosity of grace expressed uniquely in each context.

I remember once in a parish we were looking for somebody to serve as a eucharistic minister and decided to invite somebody who was relatively new to the church community. Those who had been around for a long while (some of whom had worked out that they were likely to be next to be called in to this ministry) articulated their frustration and displeasure.

The parable of the Landowner does invite us to think about the Christian community and the life of the Church in a different way. Discipleship and indeed the invitation to

Clergy Reflection cont...

share in Christian ministry is not a status you acquire once you have done enough time, performed enough tasks or proved yourself. It is an expression of our baptismal calling and an act of grace grounded in God's love for us all.

In the Matthew reading the landowner calls to his service a range of people over a wide timescale, all in receipt of the same benefits. Those who challenge his generosity are challenged to think again about the abundance of God's grace, which is sufficient in each context.

In the life of the local church community we can sometimes be good at developing hierarchies which become barriers to participation, we can also sometimes overload new people feeling that they can quickly pick up the work others have been doing before them. I have heard so many times over the years that people are hoping and praying for the young people who take over the roles they have been doing and keep the show on the road.

Matthew, though, records Jesus inviting us to start from a different place. To start with an awareness of God's grace, the depth of his love and to share a desire to enter in relationship which is transformative, life giving and flourishing.

When we welcome new people into our church communities we should begin with an invitation into relationship well before we ask them to join the flower rota or the PCC. If together we can share and express what it means to live in grace filled and loving community it seems to me that the vocation to service and ministry will follow and what emerges will be grounded in a depth of relationship that will be truly sustaining.

If we ever find that our concern with hierarchy and order gets in the way of an open expression of love and grace then I think we may have things to think about, and we would do well to read this parable carefully. The landowner is clearly generous, invitational and relational. This parable is an invitation for us to express our own discipleship in similar terms.

Reflection by The Venerable Christopher Burke, The Archdeacon of Barking

Extract from the weekly Diocesan View publication (number 313)



Word from the Wardens

Welcome back after a lovely summer! I hope some of you managed to get away enjoy some sun, enjoy some places outside of Colchester and maybe you found God's presence in a new area? Make sure to tell people you know if this did happen because it's always good to share with others when we found a bit of spiritual release in new areas.

Personally I found mine in Sweden on a scout jamboree with 15,000 Scouts! First thing in the morning at 6 a.m, before most even thought about getting up, the entire campsite was so quiet with different trees around, different sites and different sounds. I managed to find a bit of spiritual rejuvenation, and as we look towards Christmas we look for some building rejuvenation; Saint Stephen's has been cleaned quite thoroughly by myself, Sheila, Denise and Doreen. Thank you to those helpers. We can now look onwards towards Christmas and even more rejuvenation as we celebrate one of the best times of the year both at home and within the church buildings.

Ian Brown, Church Warden
St Stephens Church



Carol Singing 2026

Just a little note to say I am having a year off organising the carol singing around our community this year. If anybody else would like to organise this of course they would be most welcome and please speak to me and I can tell you what is needed.



There is a possibility that we might be invited to sing at the Rec Market in December and, if we are asked, it would be really great if we can make that a Church and Community carol; event.

Thank you

Chris Liddamore

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 12 October

PRAYER FOR ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Week 1. 4th October, Lisle Road, Claudius Road, Campion Road, Barrington Road, Rockhampton Walk, Freemantle Road and Sydney Street.

Week 2. 11th October, Gilberd Road. Sadler Close, Western Road, Beche Road, Mayberry Walk, Wych Elm and Willow End .

Week 3. 18th October. Gladstone Road. Granville Road. Mytle Grove, Berechurch Hall Road, Lethe Grove and Friday Wood Green

Week 4. 25th October. Morant Road. Harsnet Road, Kimberley Road, Camulodunum Way, Kohima Road and Arakan Close

Anybody who wants to Prayer Walk these roads please do.



Deanery Day is on 10th October this year – sign up now

On Saturday 10th October, the Deanery of Colchester are holding another Deanery Day, following the success of last year's event when over 150 people attended. The Day is for all members of the 24 Churches in our Deanery, and we'll be going along. It's at St. John's Church in Ipswich Road Colchester from 9:30am to 3:30pm, and there'll be lots of seminars and workshops as well as worship – with refreshments provided including tea, coffee and pastries as we arrive and a buffet lunch.

This year's theme is Mission; and there's a strong line-up of presenters and seminar leaders, completely different from those who led last year, to help us develop our Church's work. There will be experts on being a Christian at work; in our leisure; in later life; in urban, estate and rural settings; caring for the environment, being welcoming to all, and more.

There are so many seminars that we'll need to go as a Church and spread ourselves out if we want to be part of them all, but we can get together in the breaks and share lunch together. And of course we'll all be worshipping together too

All the topics and biographies of the speakers are on the Deanery website at www.colchesterdeanery.org.uk/deaneryday.

People who went last year said it was good, so let's make up a bigger group this year. We're making a list of who's coming along – put your name down—please speak to Rev Anna or one of the Wardens if you are interested in attending. There's no cost. Let's plan to have a great day out!



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).

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**

People's Emergency Briefing Sunday 11th October at 4pm

Join us at St Stephen's Church to watch the screening of the People's Emergency Briefing – an eye-opening film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like extreme weather, biodiversity loss, food security, health and cost of living.

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, and a range of voices from across the UK. The film is only being shown at in-person screenings and is not available online. After the film we will have a short open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do to help.

The film is 50 minutes long and we would like to invite everyone to this important briefing. Please bear the film is not suitable for people under 16 years old.

Here is a link for the trailer :

[The People's Emergency Briefing - Watch the latest trailer](#)

Many thanks

Chris Liddamore and John Clifton.

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



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



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 11 & 25 October**



St Leonard at the Hythe

On the 5th Sunday in the month, we hold a time of evening prayer worship at St Leonards at the Hythe at 4 pm.



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 11 October — Matthew Bason

Sunday 8 November — Daniel Watt

Sunday 20 December — Chris & Jo



Orchard Baptist Church and Cantus Firmus
invite you to a Taizé service

Taizé

6.30pm Sunday 4 October 2026

Orchard Baptist Church
23 Blackheath
Colchester CO2 0AE

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

Retiring collection
Light refreshments from 6.00pm

More details at cantusfirmus.org.uk



**cantus
firmus**

Cantus Firmus is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, No. 01192862

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



Saying Goodbye

When a baby is lost, whether during pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, it is a devastating experience for the parents and the extended family.

Sadly for people that lose prior to 24-weeks gestation, services to commemorate the life that has been lost are seldom held, while for parents who lose later in pregnancy, at birth or in early years, the parents are usually in the depths of grief when a service is held.

The Saying Goodbye services are the first international set of remembrance services, for people who have suffered the loss of a baby at any stage, and whether that be recently or decades ago. **They provide a time and place to acknowledge and remember your baby, whilst collectively 'saying goodbye'.**

The services also welcome anyone grieving the fact that they have been unable to have children.

The services are for people of any faith or no faith, are free to attend, no tickets need to be booked, and people are invited to bring family, friends and children with them. Held at cathedrals and similar venues across the globe, chosen for their beauty and grandeur; a wonderful tribute is created for all lost babies.

Together we will stand and say, "our children may have only been on this earth for days, weeks, months or years, but they were truly loved, and will always be missed!"



Chelmsford Cathedral, Tuesday, the 13th of October, 7.00pm

For up to date service details, please see www.sayinggoodbye.org

Saying Goodbye is a division of the bereavement support charity, Mariposa International, and is supported by a wonderful set of Ambassadors including Kym Marsh, Kate Ferdinand, Jools Oliver, Sally Phillips, Professor Lord Winston, Kate Beckinsale, Baroness Floella Benjamin, Nigella Lawson & more.



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!**

St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road Presents...

Cuban Night

We're having a party!

Come and join us for an evening of food, drink, fun and entertainment in aid of Cuba

Saturday 17th October

Doors open 6pm

Drumming workshop 6.15pm

Dinner and more entertainment from 7pm

***Adults
£12.50
Child £6***

Music

***Food &
Drink***

Quiz

PIÑATAS

***Drumming
workshop***

***Tunes
by Cover
Stories***

***Spanish
language
games***

***Salsa sessions
with teachers
Eddy & Goyo***

To purchase tickets please scan the QR code, use the google link, visit St Stephen's church office during open hours or visit us at The Hub on Saturdays 10-12pm.

Food & soft drinks included

Alcoholic drinks available to purchase on the night.

There will be no tickets for sale on the door.



To book your place please [click here](#)

To make payment for your tickets please [click here](#)

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

**St Stephen's Church,
New Town,
Colchester**



St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Road,
New Town, Colchester

Sunday 11 October 2026 at 16:00

Come along watch the film
and join the discussion

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www.nebriefing.org



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



COLCHESTER COMMUNITY SUPERMARKET

✔ Community Led ✔ Affordable ✔ Dignified ✔ Sustainable



MOBILE SUPERMARKET

Bringing affordable food and friendly support
to your community.



LOCATION:

St Stephen's Church



Date: 1st Thursday
of every Month



TIME:

10:00am



CITIZENS ADVICE REPRESENTATIVE

A representative from
Citizens Advice will be
available to offer support
and guidance.



STAY FOR A DRINK / REFRESHMENTS

There will be a space
to stay, have a drink
and enjoy some
refreshments too.



Everyone welcome!

Good food, friendly faces,
stronger communities.



Community led • Affordable • Dignified • Sustainable

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

A poster for a 'Bricks and Beer' event. The background is light blue with scattered colorful LEGO bricks (red, yellow, blue, purple). The title 'BRICKS AND BEER' is in large, bold, white letters with a yellow outline. Below the title, the text reads: '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.' The St Stephen's Church logo is in the top right corner.

**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.**

St Stephen's
CHURCH

A poster for a 'Warhammer Games Night'. The background is dark grey. On the left, there is a photograph of a Warhammer miniature battle scene with various models and structures. The title 'WARHAMMER GAMES NIGHT' is in large, bold, white letters. To the right of the title, the text reads: '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.' The St Stephen's Church logo is in the bottom left corner. Two dice are shown in the bottom right corner.

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 Stephen's
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.**

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
Starting again on 7th September 2026

Monday mornings in term time 9.30 – 11am
£1.00 per family

Playdough



Physical Play



Crafts



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 November newsletter should be available by Sunday 25 October. Please send any items to Andrew for inclusion as early as possible, and no later than

Tuesday 20 October to:

office@ststephens-colchester.org.uk