

**PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER  
MAGAZINE OF THE  
CHURCH OF ST LEONARD**



and also for Steeple Parish  
**The Church of  
St Lawrence & All Saints**



This picture shows the Remedy Band playing at St Leonard's Church on Sunday 28th April from 3pm. The concert was greatly appreciated and generous donations provided a great total for the Brompton Foundation (See page 5)

**JUNE 2024**

**Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and  
you will find; knock, and the door will be  
opened for you.**

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***NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:***

*Articles for the July magazine  
should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
**Sunday 16th June**  
New contributors are welcome.*

To cover our costs we have to charge for this magazine. The charge per issue is £1 but if you pay for the whole year in advance the charge will be £10 - (obviously a bit saved!)

# Curate's Reflection

Rev'd Jacqui King

This is a picture of a labyrinth prayer cushion I love to use whenever I visit the Diocese House of Retreat in Pleshey. I find it a wonderful way to pray.



The labyrinth is like a maze but with a big difference, a labyrinth does not set out to challenge or frustrate us with dead-ends. Labyrinths have one uninterrupted route to the centre, a continuous flow representing a spiritual journey.

Labyrinths are familiar in all cultures but have been an important part of the Christian faith since the fourth century. Thousands of labyrinths are registered with the Worldwide Labyrinth Locator, with over 200 listed in England. They can be found on hospital grounds, museums, and public gardens, offering people the chance to contemplate and quieten the mind. In the Dengie, one is mown into grass in the grounds of the Othona Community at Bradwell-on-Sea. A little further afield, one can be found in the central grass area of the Norwich Cathedral cloisters, commemorating the late Queen Elizabeth II's golden jubilee.

Journeying to the centre of a labyrinth is a pilgrimage. It invites us to slow down, focus our minds, and notice things that God may point out to us as we move to the centre. It helps us engage our body and mind and do some soul-searching. Quietly tracing a finger around a labyrinth or physically walking around one outdoors can

be a powerful way to ask God to help us resolve problems, cope with grief, release a fear, seek forgiveness or just be with God in a deeply personal way. When we arrive at the centre, we spend time being open and receiving God's love and dwelling with God before returning along the route with fresh insights through what God has revealed. As we journey back to the entrance, we pick up our life with the perspective God has revealed and blessed us with.

The exciting thing is that this summer, we are cutting a labyrinth in St Leonard's churchyard. Everyone is invited to visit the labyrinth, enjoy a period of reflection, think through things that concern us, thank God for something, or just spend time being quiet and basking in the serene peace only God provides. A labyrinth can help us experience the affirming and gentle guiding hand of God, who, even when we may feel lost or confused, is always leading us onwards.

If you can't make it to the churchyard, here is a picture labyrinth to use as described above: pray and dwell with our God, who is always listening.



*'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Matthew 7 : 7-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

God bless,  
Rev'd Jacqui

## Recent Concerts

On Saturday April 13th the Sid Bolan Big Band concert in church raised £379.60 for the Knightswood Day Care Centre. Our PCC agreed to round up that amount to £400, which Knightswood has now received.

On Sunday 28th April during the afternoon the Remedy band were in church. They support the Brompton Fountain Children's Charity which is based at the Brompton Heart & Lungs Hospital for Children. The concert was greatly appreciated and generous donations provided a valuable total of £850.

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## **Latest Pillingers News** (Complete version is on church notice board.)

The most significant development this year is that we have both now taken an important step towards retirement. While we remain working members of Wycliffe, I, Steve, have moved into what's called a reduced assignment. This means that I'll continue as usual with Scripture type-setting (3½ days a week), but will no longer be managing the international Maps & Illustrations Repository. Meanwhile Johanna has reached the end of her secondment to Wycliffe South Africa, and as a continuing member of Wycliffe UK she'll have the new, but not-new, role of supporting spouse, assisting our joint ministry as she's always done by keeping in touch with partners, helping to produce newsletters and updates, doing various administrative tasks, and so on. This is a valued role in Wycliffe UK.

### **For praise and prayer Please thank God with us...**

- For the successful handover of the Maps & Illustrations Repository to a well-qualified successor.
- For the completion of the Dinka Cam Bible.

### **Please pray with us...**

- For final funds to come in so that the Dinka Cam Bible can be printed and distributed.
- For Steve & the Mitto translation team as they work on preparing the NT for typesetting.
- For son Stephen and Mel as they adjust to married life.
- For Johanna as she adjusts to life after her many years' involvement in Wycliffe South Africa.

Finally, as always, thank you so much for your prayers and support! Without you, none of this would be possible. The Lord bless you!

**Steve**

# A RAINY DAY

I expect many of you have heard the expression “You’d better put aside a little money for a rainy day.” It was meant to encourage us to set aside money for the future or if any unseen financial or health crisis occurs. A rainy day though often conjures up visions of future difficult times, cloudy skies, dampened prospects but it isn’t always necessarily the case.



Many people want to save so that they can leave a good inheritance for their children and I read recently that one of the latest ideas is ‘Forget about the children’s inheritance, let’s go skiing!!’ “Skiing” to my amusement means let’s go ‘Spend the Kids’ Inheritance.’!! Not sure the inheritors will like this though!!

I read that a “rainy day fund” means that we should have at least 3 months’ worth of essential outgoings in our accounts as an emergency fund. This is ok for some but almost impossible for many who find it difficult to live day to day let alone save.

Matthew 6: 19-20 says: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moths and vermin destroy for where your treasure is there your heart is also.” I sense in this Scripture that God doesn’t say that we can’t have savings, in fact if we are able, it’s sensible to put some by for a “Rainy Day.” I sense God is saying that if we see a person in need and we have more than enough for ourselves it is good to help them, to invest in people, rather than invest and store up money that can be used for good now.

As Christians we often say in Church, when giving thanks for our financial giving, “All things come from You (our God) and of your own do we give You”. Hebrews 13:16 says “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased”. God gives to us and reminds us that sharing isn’t just about finance but also our time and our talents. Let’s use what we can offer to make someone else’s rainy day a little bit brighter.

**Brenda Sheppard**

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An appropriate prayer discovered by Ken Dunstan

In 1851 George Sumner became Rector of Old Alresford, Near Winchester. His wife, Mary (1858-1921), gave him three children. When her daughter became a mother, Mary remembered her own difficulties as a new mother and held support meetings of mothers in her parish. These grew to become the Commonwealth-wide Mothers’ Union. Her personal prayer is preserved in Old Alresford Rectory. It’s worth using, especially when faith sharing seems daunting.

All this day, O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee,  
and every life I touch,  
do thou by thy Spirit quicken,  
whether by the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe  
or the life I live.

Amen.

## **Sharing Pastoral Care**

by Jenny Pratt and Brenda Sheppard

Jenny and Brenda recently went along to a Pastoral Carers training morning in Chelmsford aimed at gaining insights into setting up Effective Pastoral Care Teams in a Parish. The session was facilitated by: Andy Griffiths and Jane Richards from the Chelmsford Diocese. We, at St. Leonard's, are exploring ways of being more effective in our pastoral care.

Years ago, the majority of Pastoral Care was done by the Vicar of the Parish who usually only had one church to oversee. Most Vicars today have the care and oversight of up to 3 or more churches; this makes it almost impossible for them to have the time to carry out the vast amount of care needed within the church congregations and the surrounding parishes, as well as carrying out all their other pastoral duties which contrary to popular belief Vicars certainly do not only work on Sundays!!

During the training morning, we looked at a model for a Pastoral Care Team and discussed in small groups what we already had in place in our own churches and how we could continue to build up our existing teams. We were really encouraged from our discussions to see that in our churches of Southminster and Steeple we are already very active in our Pastoral Care ministries and hope to develop and encourage others in our congregations to take on roles within the teams in a however large or small capacity.



As with any team formed it's important to have a leader or shared leadership to oversee and make sure care needs are met in an appropriate way, be they spiritual or practical, always understanding the boundaries to be aware of in any situation. One of the boundaries Andy spoke of was, if possible, when recognising a need is to not only give assisted help but also to encourage self-help as well. This may be short term or longer. Andy shared the quote: "Never do for others what they can do for themselves." which recognises the importance of people keeping their independence as much as they are able and for the carer to be wise in their caregiving.

Pastoral Care is recognising a need and acting on it appropriately and also, if necessary, passing on a person needing help to someone more knowledgeable in a specific area. Pastoral care is giving time to visit or phone someone as well as recognising the ongoing need for contributions to the local food pantry or hospital or care home visits. Above all, good communication is the key to effective networking so as many needs are met as possible.

May we, as churches, continue to develop our pastoral care, always relying on our Lord's help for compassion, grace and wisdom and His Godly strength in all we do.

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### **Eco tip of the month from A Rocha: June**

Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space - sign up to take part in "Churches Count on Nature" (8-16 June 2024) at [caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churchescount-on-nature-faqs/](http://caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churchescount-on-nature-faqs/).

## Sunday 2nd June

## 1st Sunday after Trinity

### 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher  
2 Corinthians 4 : 5 - 12  
Mark 2 : 23 - 3; 6  
Sidesperson

Rev'd Jacqui & Norman Pratt  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Gordon Baker

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### 11.00 Holy Communion

President/Preacher  
Readings as above  
Intercessions  
Prayer Ministry  
Audio-visuals  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui & Norman Pratt  
Linda Payne  
Brenda Sheppard  
Keith Hatfield & Yvonne Thurbon  
Christine Morgan  
Gwyneth Iffland  
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

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## Sunday 9th June

## 2nd Sunday after Trinity

### 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher  
2 Corinthians 4 : 13 - 5 : 1  
Mark 3 : 20 - end  
Sidesperson

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Paul Lucas

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### 11.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION

Leaders  
Audio-visuals  
Prayer Ministry  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

**Theme: Alpha 2**  
Karen, Jenny, Dawn & Jacqui  
Christine Lucas  
Sylvia Adams & another  
Kathy Carnell  
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

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
## Sunday 16th June

## 3rd Sunday after Trinity

### 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher  
2 Corinthians 5: 6 - 17 & Mark 4: 26-34  
Sidesperson

Rev'd Jacqui / Brenda Sheppard  
Celebrant  
Leon Flack



## **11.00 Morning Worship**

Leader/preacher	Rev'd Jacqui / Brenda Sheppard
Readings as at 8 am	Pauline Siggers
Intercessions	Fiona Begley
Prayer Ministry	Christine Lucas & another
Audio-Visuals	Christine Morgan
Sidesperson	Kath Dunstan
Refreshments	Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

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**Sunday 23rd June**

**4th Sunday after Trinity**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
2 Corinthians 6: 1 -13 & Mark 4 35 - end	Celebrant
Sidesperson	Keith Hatfield

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## **11.00 Morning Worship**

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
Readings / Intercessions	Kath Dunstan / Jenny Pratt
Prayer Ministry	Fiona Begley & Frances Hatfield
Audio-Visuals	Sylvia Adams
Sidesperson	Brenda Sheppard
Refreshments	Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

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**Sunday 30th June**

**5th Sunday after Trinity**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt
2 Corinthians 8: 7-end & Mark 5:21-end	Celebrant
Sidesperson	Keith Hatfield

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## **11.00 UNITED WORSHIP at ChristChurch** (Details page 14)

Leader/Preacher	Norman Pratt / Jenny Pratt
Readings / Intercessions	Kathy Carnell / Rupert Killick
Audio-Visuals / Sidesperson	Christine Morgan / Sylvia Adams
Prayer Ministry	t.b.a.
Refreshments	2 Volunteers

# Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on the church door. We have Morning Prayer with activities for children on the first and third Sunday each month, and Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays. An on-line service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on [www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)



The Annual Parish Meeting of Steeple Church was attended by the Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council. All agreed to serve for a further year, with some taking on added responsibilities for which they were thanked by Vicar Peter.

Steeple is blessed with congregations that are remarkably varied. Many regular attendees are from other Dengie parishes and at most services the “under 16s” outnumber the “over 65s”!

Our next fund raising event will be Wheels, Hooves & Paws at Burnham Equestrian on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July, by kind permission of Anne Hull. This provides an important income for Steeple, Althorne and Creeksea Churches, with the congregations from Southminster and Steeple particularly responsible for the ever popular refreshments marquee.

## **Steeple Church contacts:**

Rev'd Canon Peter Begley, Vicar, 01621 772 300

Rev'd Jacqui King, Curate,

Rhona Leech, Churchwarden and PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Assistant Churchwarden,

Fiona Ashworth, Assistant Churchwarden,

## **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

You have probably seen notifications about the Southminster Bereavement Group in this magazine before but this is to tell you a little more about it.

This Group is open to anybody to attend and it's not necessary to commit to regular visits. You may come once, twice or every week – whatever suits you.

There is no “theme”, as such, to the Group. You are free to discuss any topic to do with bereavement, and I'll be the first to admit that sometimes the conversation strays on to other subjects too. But I hope that by being in the company of other people who have lost a dear one you will find sympathy, empathy and understanding. You might even make new friends.

There is no affiliation of any kind to any other organisation.

There is no “leader” of the Group – I am grateful that we can meet at the United Reformed Church on Tuesday mornings at 10am. Once again, my thanks to that church and to Rev. Anne Sardeson and Rupert Killick for permitting us to meet there.

My hope is that by joining others, you will feel free to talk and/or listen to conversation that you can relate to, and gain something from it. There is a certain comfort in knowing that others have suffered the same unhappiness that a bereavement brings and hope that by being with others who understand, you may find a way to cope, day to day, with your loss.

Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss this further. I am not a counsellor of any kind, but I feel that having lost my husband, mother and only brother in the space of 12 weeks a few years ago, I do have the qualifications needed to be of help!

Best wishes,

**Chris Martin**

# Henry Church Cleaning Club 2024

The cleaning continues on in the Church! We are blessed to be part of a really faithful team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits. We have also been blessed by the addition of two new members who are a great asset and do a great job as do the faithful members who have been cleaning for many years. We meet fortnightly on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am. If you could spare just a little time during those 2 hours and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me on my phone. You will be made very welcome.



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## The Southminster Food Pantry

continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at Christ Church, but it now has an extra collection point: on Thursday afternoons at Burnham URC

If you are willing to donate food for the Pantry there is a list of basic requirements at the back of church.

In these difficult times more and more people are in need of what some of us take for granted.

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## SOUTHMINSTER HUB

As we heard last month, a “Clear-up Day” will be 10am-4pm on Saturday 1st June. Please tell staff if you are able to help.

Also a **Celebration Event** to mark the official signing of the ecumenical agreement between St Leonard’s and Christ Church will be an all-age act of worship at Christ Church, North Street.

Everyone is welcome to this at 11am on Sunday 30th June.

For more information please contact  
Rev’d Jacqui or Rev’d Anne Sardeson.

## **SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL**

**LUNCH CLUB** meets on alternate Mondays.

If you would like any information please phone  
Dave Christie 07775 758118.

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Chatterbox continues to grow in numbers. Each week we look forward to being together with our faithful friends, and also to welcoming new people who would like to come and join us on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the Memorial Hall. It is a great place to meet and make new friends. Chatterbox lives up to its name as there is always a lovely buzz of chatter and also lots of tea and coffee and biscuits. We also have jigsaws always on the go and different craft activities. We have also recently acquired a laptop computer for people to learn new skills.



You will be made very welcome and If you would like more information, please ring Norman.

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**LITTLE LIONS' usually** meet on Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall but this is **during term-time only**. It is for babies, toddlers & their carers. They enjoyed Christmas events, and families joined the main services. News of the Craft Morning will come soon.

### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

**will meet on 25th June**

**Tabitha: Textile Artistry**

**Competition: Item of Patchwork**

**POSSIBLE ROTA DETAILS: YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS**

We can worship regularly in church again, but with appropriate safety limitations, so we need to be well-prepared. Please let Paul Lucas know if you are willing to be part of his volunteer team but cannot be available on any of the following dates.

August 2024	4	11	18	25	
September 2024	1	8	15	22	29

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFIL YOUR DUTY YOU SHOULD CHANGE WITH SOMEONE AND INFORM THE WARDENS OF THE ARRANGEMENT.**

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**Prayer Ministry on Sundays after the 11 am service**

Please come to the area outside the Chapel if you have a particular need for prayer, (for yourself or someone close to you) where there should be two people available to pray with you.

Keep praying for everyone who has recently lost a loved one, and for others who are in need of healing and general care. Pray for all medical personnel, local and wider afield, and all the regular carers. Don't forget all the local farmers who are struggling with effects of recent weather problems. And also remember people who have become unemployed for various reasons - and the people who are trying to help them.

**ALSO PRAY FOR** all the preparation for this year's **HOLIDAY CLUB** which will be held in church on August 20th, 21st and 22nd. Its subject is **DEEP SEA DIVING**. See posters for details. Children will be registered at the school from 4th June. Registration closes at the end of term.



## CORONAVIRUS 2024

We are pleased that most restrictions were lifted but we do need to be aware of possible new viruses, so we must continue cautiously. New information will be available on posters & on-line.

To keep aware of what is happening, and to participate on line with services, log into the website <https://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stleonardstogetherapart/>

Also, we have a WhatsApp group entitled “Together Apart Our Church”. Lots of people are involved in that.

These links have been greatly appreciated by regular Church family members and also by people who have not, to date, attended our church services. In difficult times, like this, we need to ‘allow’ God to point us in possible new directions and then to respond. **God has a plan .... with hope for future.**

If you would like specific prayer, please contact the vicar. preferably by email but otherwise on 01621 772300

### A notice about our offerings to God.

Many of us use the facility of the offering plate to give our gifts to God. Whether we are attending in person, or not, it is always a good time to think about a standing order to the church so that we are still bringing our gift. Many of us are doing this already – Thank you, but those who may be wondering how they can continue their giving through Standing Order the details of the church bank are here:

Barclays Bank

Sort code: **20.54.30**

A/c No. **80825107**

A/c Name: Southminster Parochial Church Council.

**For Steeple use:** Sort code: **20.54.30**

A/c No. **60842494**

A/c Name: Steeple Parochial Church Council.

# **Special notices for your diaries**

**On Saturday 8th June from 11 am - 4 pm**

**at St Andrews' Church Hall, Althorne**

**D-Day Remembered**

**1940s photographs, memorabilia & newspapers**

**Free Admission**

If you have anything of interest from the 1940s that you would like to bring along, please do so.

Please stay with your items and take them away when you leave.

**Refreshments available**

**with donations to charity HELP FOR HEROES**

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**Dengie Hundred Horticultural Society**

**are holding a QUIZ**

**on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

**in Southminster Memorial Hall**

Teams of up to 8 members, £5 per person.

Proceeds will support Southminster Flower Show.

Quiz Masters will be Radio Essex presenters

Steve Scruton and Ian Wyatt.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided,

but players are welcome to bring their own food and drinks.

**To book a table please phone Paula Neall**

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## **PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:**

w/b	2 June	Central - North-West
w/b	9 June	Central- East
w/b	16 June	Central - South
w/b	23 June	South - West
w/b	30 June	Central - West





## WHO ARE WE? Mission Statement



"To be a people offering praise and worship to God and serving him by being the Good News by our words and actions"

**Web Site** [www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**Contact:** [vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

If you wish to contact the Church regarding a Safeguarding issue  
please contact us by telephone on 07745 688845  
or via [safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**See pages 10-11 for details during this season.**

**Weekly notices, covering any changes, will be available to read  
on the outside church notice-board.**

### SUNDAY SERVICES

**8:00 am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer 1662)

**11.00 am** Holy Communion or Morning Worship

**Steeple** Services similarly continue at **9.15am**

**Children and Young people** are always welcomed  
especially for the **Family Celebration Services.**

### WEEKDAY SERVICES:

**Monday. Wednesday & Friday at 8 am Morning Prayer**

**Tuesday at 8.30 am Just Prayer**

**'LITTLE LIONS'** usually meet on Wednesday mornings  
In the Memorial Hall but this is **during term-time only.**  
It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.



**BIBLE STUDY GROUPS** usually meet in the  
church on **Mondays (10am) and Thursdays (8pm)**

Everyone is  
welcome to join.  
Details on board.

The course details (this time based on the  
New Testament book of Ephesians) will be on the  
notice board and at the back of church.