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





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



Some Southminster people saw the Northern Lights in May This photograph was taken by Leon Flack.

# JULY 2024

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1: 17

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<b>NOTE FROM THE EDITOR</b> : magazine. The charge				
Arti	icles for the August magazine	per issue is £1 but if you pay for the whole year in advance the		
	should be with			
Ka	ath Dunstan by, at the latest,			
	Sunday 14th July	charge will be £10 -		
	ew contributors are welcome.	(obviously a bit saved!)		

### Vicar's Reflection

The changing scenes of the landscape of the Dengie have been in my thoughts over these past few weeks and months, in the way that we see the rivers changing and the fields around us changing, and adapting to the new environment that they/ and we find ourselves at present. The fields that were more traditionally planted with rapeseed, wheat and barley, have transitioned over the years to include Lucerne, beans and peas for animal feed uses, and, even more recently we've seen many fields have been planted with vines. It demonstrates the changes to climate that we have experienced in these past ten years, and maybe an indication of demand for certain produce, as well as the ability of the land to produce. Some of the fields have now had major housing developments built upon them. We have welcomed those new to the village and the families that have come along since to the church and into the community. Our parish churches have changed and have adapted to utilise some more up-to-date technologies with screens, sound systems and wi-fi; making adjustment to the way that we hear and receive God's word and also the way that we make our regular giving. The culture of surrounding villages is changing too, as new technologies and new people move into them, contributing with their particular gifts to the community.

How do we feel about those changes? Are they inevitable or random? Are they an interruption to the way of life that we have enjoyed these past years? The changes that we see may be refreshing or confusing to our way of life, however, we cannot help but change with the times, in some things we must 'keep up' or we may miss a blessing. All around us change is occurring it can demonstrate to us the creativeness of God and the gifts that other people possess and are willing to share. The Community Hub is a prime example of gifts being shared for the good of the community, where people are able to draw on professional help and meet with others who are able to assist in times of need.

Change will occur over this next year as we 'send' Jacqui, with our blessing, on to her new post as incumbent in another parish. A daunting yet exciting moment for her as the years of study and practice come to fruition in her new context. Change will have come to that parish, new seeds will be sown, the gospel will be told in a different vein and another harvest is sure to be gathered. Similarly, Fiona and I will move on to a new place as we retire, although this will be after late 2025 once I arrive at 70, and into the beginning of 2026: it is another change that will occur in the next year or so. The environment in which we worship may change but the gospel never changes. God is the same yesterday today and forever, we serve a God who is consistent in every respect. God is our sure foundation, a certain hope and our anchor in times of changing circumstance. How good it is that we have a heavenly Father who will always be there for us, may be found by us and will hold us in His love today, through all of our tomorrows and into eternal life.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1: 17

**Rev'd Peter** 

**Congratulations and Thanks to Leon Flack** for his recent challenge which was supported by our prayer and funds.

Here is Leon's description of the day.

I took on a one-day walking challenge in June, which involved covering 20 miles and stopping at the royal parks in London. The challenge was designed to be inclusive, offering two levels of difficulty, a 10-mile or 20-mile route. I decided to push myself and go for the 20-mile challenge.

The day was long and tough at times, but it was exceptionally enjoyable. I shared a slideshow of some of the highlights, with my total distance travelled recorded as 21.2 miles.

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to all who generously donated. I managed to raise a personal total of  $\pm 1050$ . Thank you all who contributed to such a worthy cause.

In total, 62 people participated in the event and raised a combined sponsorship amount of £21,000. My company, Access, has agreed to match all the funds raised for this challenge, which means every donation will have an even greater impact on communities facing hunger.

If you would like to know more about Magic Breakfast, please visit their website: <u>https://www.magicbreakfast.com.</u>

Some more details about Magic Breakfast are on page 14

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### **Build A Bear**

I don't know about you but I am a bit of a sucker for Teddy Bears and it was no exception when I went into a local Charity shop and there was a lovely red 'Build a Bear' made with Spider Man patterned material. I couldn't possibly leave it there so home it came!



I first came across the idea of 'Build a Bear' at Lakeside many years ago where there was a shop especially promoting this craft and it was very popular. The idea was to choose what pre-prepared bear size, style and colour was needed. Then the bear was stuffed, stitched, dressed and named then finally taken home. The bear was then one of a kind and special and unique.

This whole concept of building a bear reminded me of Psalm 139 which tells us that God created our inmost being, He knitted us together in our mother's womb, He made us to His preference and we are fearfully and wonderfully made. God knows our style, our colour, our size and even if we get a bit worn through use God will never discard us and give us away.

I tend to be drawn to hospital programmes on television, especially the ones performing intricate surgery, and I marvel at the skills of the surgeons and the resilience of the human body to cope with such surgery. Our bodies as wonderfully made as they are do need TLC at times and thank God that we have the knowledge to do the repairs needed. I expect my 'Build a Bear' will sit quietly on his shelf so hopefully won't need any repairs for a long time, unlike our own bodies that are constantly being used and get worn out and frayed at times and need some repairs and stitching up! Thank God that He doesn't just create us and leave us. He also doesn't want us to just sit on a shelf gathering dust and so will give us the help we need physically and spiritually to be active in sharing his love and care, and through it all constantly building us into his likeness.

### **Brenda Sheppard**

### Eco tip of the month from A Rocha: July

Taste the benefits of seasonal and local food. Plan to incorporate locally grown produce into your diet and shopping list throughout the seasons, as it is harvested at its peak ripeness, ensuring superior flavour compared to imported alternatives that have travelled thousands of miles. If saying grace before a meal is a regular practice in your household, this month, include giving thanks for your local food producers.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the amount of money raised this year for Christian Aid Week was £656.62



Obviously some people donated individually on line rather than through our church system, so we are grateful to them as well. Please continue to pray for Christian Aid as it carries out so many essential tasks worldwide.

#### Have a little faith! Our recent visit to St Paul's Cathedral Christine Lucas and Sandra Billinghurst

When we heard that the Rev kate Bottley was going to be talking at St Paul's Cathedral on 16th April, we decided it would be too good an opportunity to miss. Each of us enjoys visiting places in London and we thought it would be wonderful to see Rev Kate Bottley! The event was in the early evening so we decided to make a day of it and left around midday on the train. We planned to see a few places close to St Paul's first. We visited Postman's Park, which opened in 1880 on the site of the former burial ground of St Botolph's Aldersgate church and later expanded to incorporate the adjacent burial grounds of Christ Church Greyfriars (this is now a ruin). Since delving into her ancestry, Sandra discovered her 4x great grandparents were married there on 4th May 1817.

In 1900, Postman's Park became the location of a memorial to ordinary people who died while saving the lives of others who might otherwise be forgotten. There is a wall housing over 150 memorial tablets that give a short description of each event. There are some tragic stories and some remarkable tales of heroic rescues. The park is now laid with gravel paths and flower beds but there are still some ancient gravestones to be seen.

We later found ourselves in Paternoster Square near Ludgate Hill, formerly one of the highest points in the City of London, just behind St Paul's Cathedral. It was formerly the site of Newgate Market. On the night of 29th December 1940 during the Blitz many of the buildings here were destroyed. Here we saw some beautiful bronze animal sculptures that are the work of the prolific duo, Gillian and Marc, who are behind the chimp sculptures near London Bridge and the bronze lions near Waterloo. After some difficulty with map reading (!!) we eventually found the St Paul's Garden of Reflection but were disappointed to find it partly covered over. However, we did manage to glimpse the Cathedral in the water, especially when Christine climbed onto the low surrounding wall, although she was politely reprimanded by an official who promptly emerged from an adjacent building! We enjoyed some lunch and a couple of coffee breaks and then attended Evensong <u>at 5pm</u>. The café in the Cathedral crypt is spacious and peaceful, but doesn't shy away from London pricing, which probably contributes to the upkeep of the beautiful Cathedral! Kate Bottley describes her faith in a way that makes it encouraging for young people to join the church. She was also signing copies of her new book, and posing for selfies and photos.

#### Have a little faith!

Are we nurturing our mustard seeds? The Lord Jesus teaches us that if we have faith even as small as a mustard seed, it can move mountains! God moves mountains through our faith, however tiny it is.

This very encouraging and challenging thought underpins Kate Bottley's recent book. "That vicar off the telly", as Rev Kate Bottley is often referred to, gave an engaging early evening lecture in St Paul's Cathderal on 16th April as part of their Adult Learning programme, which also served to promote her new book "Have a little faith!" We probably recognise Kate through her presentations and appearances on YouTube, Radio 2, Songs of Praise, Pilgrimage, or Gogglebox. She has what one might perhaps call a 'marmite' personality, claiming to be disapproved of by some members of the church hierarchy, who consider her approach and style to be too undignified and populist. A self-confessed extremely extroverted show-off, Kate is unashamedly passionate about sharing the Gospel with the wider non-religious community beyond the church doors, who seldom enter the building. The numerous folk who "aren't religious, but. ..." The 'cultural Christians' who like church buildings, candles, singing carols, and want their children christened, and who choose to be married and buried in church. To her, their mustard seed faith is every bit as valid as that of any preacher in a pulpit.

Kate was introduced by Dr Paula Gooder, who is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's. A respected theologian, writer and speaker, she's responsible for the Cathedral's extensive Adult Learning programme, which is available both on line and in the building, free of charge. This is well worth a look, as it comprises a wealth of interesting talks, etc. Kate has a fascinating life story, jam-packed with amusing anecdotes. She was christened in a non-churchgoing family who didn't even go at Christmas! As the first generation fully literate female in her working class Sheffield family, Kate initially attended church through a school friend, so as to meet the vicar's son, Graham, to whom she's been married for 26 years. Her moment of 'absolute conversion' came when someone asked her if she believed in God, when Kate realised that her faith had been like a rarely-worn coat hanging in her wardrobe, that she'd only recently tried on. I love that analogy! Kate thinks that this is a common experience for many folk who are 'cultural Christians', who often discover faith at times of life's big events. Given the right encouragement from us, their faith has huge potential to be nurtured and to grow, just like the mustard seed!

She has absolutely loved being an RE teacher in rough schools, which included her bringing real babies in as visual aids for lessons in baptism and watching a police drugs raid involving the Dad of a pupil from her classroom window! Whatever your opinion of her style, Kate's passion to share the good news of God's love with those who have no knowledge about Christian faith is surely inspirational.

Quickly discovering that she was not cut out to be a churchwarden, being not particularly interested in church buildings but longing to distribute Communion, Kate emphasizes that she didn't choose or desire to become a priest but she heard God's call to ordination through her local church family. Kate became a college chaplain and then a parish priest responsible for three churches.

Notoriety came through a YouTube video of her dancing in the aisle with a couple whom she'd just married and their congregation. Soon after this she was verbally abused in a Tesco car park by someone shouting, "You whore of Babylon!" Nowadays Kate doesn't have a physical parish. Her fame escalated through social media so she has become a type of 'national vicar', with an invaluable ministry amongst media personalities and celebrities, a domain where few priests can easily tread. (Unless you are Rev Richard Coles, with whom she's occasionally been confused!!) Kate's oft repeated mantra is "You don't need to be professionally religious, or to believe everything every day, all of the time." She doesn't! Even a tiny scrap of faith is valid, and precious to God. She encourages us all to nurture mustard seeds of faith wherever, and in whoever we encounter it. Faith is not measurable by its quantity, but its quality. We all meet people who protest that "I'm not religious, but...." who unwittingly reveal their mustard seeds! We shouldn't expect anyone who attends a church service to have any prior knowledge or to be familiar with our weird and sometimes off-putting religious language and rituals. E.g. What is Holy Communion, or a Bishop? (Just as a teacher of French wouldn't expect a student to speak fluent French as an entry requirement for their class.) Therefore Christians like ourselves need to adopt more accessible language and to fling open our closed church doors to warmly welcome anybody who wishes to come in, to embrace each person and to join community organizations and events. Of course, many members of St Leonard's Church family already do this, and there are continuing opportunities for development.

Regarding denominations, Kate studied at a Roman Catholic college in Leeds but declared that she isn't bothered which 'branch of the club' she goes to; "If God's in it, I'm happy!" She's experienced every variety of church from strict Evangelical to Roman Catholic, and always enjoys worshipping God in His family. Her book covers many topics, including the important choices we need to make about death and dying; not just funerals, but how we want to be cared for as the end of our life approaches. Sandra bought a signed copy of it and will be happy to tell anyone who's interested more about it. It's easy to order a copy on line.

We agreed we'd had a very interesting time, including hearing the exquisitely beautiful Evensong and joining in worship with a large congregation of visitors from across the world. We were in awe of the stunning architecture and hope to return for a tour in the near future. It's free to attend a worship service but if you want to explore the building you must pay an entrance charge. If you haven't been, we highly recommend it It was well worth the high step count and aching legs for a thoroughly enjoyable day! Let's keep watering our own mustard seeds and encouraging other people to grow theirs too! **(Sandra & Christine)** 

NB If you'd like to watch a video of Kate's talk, which includes her 40 minute lecture, followed by her answers to questions from the audience, the link is on the cathedral website, under Adult Learning. <u>https://www.stpauls.co.uk/resources/have-little-faith</u>

Sunday 7th July 08.00 Holy Communion BC	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b> P			
Leader/President/Preache				
2 Corinthians 12 : 2 - 10	Celebrant			
Mark 6 : I - 13	Celebrant			
Sidesperson	Gordon Baker			
II.00 Holy Communion				
President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter			
Readings as above	Linda Payne			
Intercessions	Gwyneth Iffland			
Prayer Ministry	Keith Hatfield & Yvonne Thurbon			
Audio-visuals	Christine Morgan			
Sidesperson	Gwyneth Iffland			
Refreshments	Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield			
Sunday 14th July	7th Sunday after Trinity			
08.00 Holy Communion BCP				
Leader/President/Preache	er Rev'd Ken Dunstan			
Ephesians I : 3 - 14	Celebrant			
Mark 6 : 14 - 29	Celebrant			
Sidesperson	Paul Lucas			
II.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION Theme: Alpha 3				
Leaders	Team (Karen, Jenny, Dawn)			
Audio-visuals	Christine Lucas			
Prayer Ministry	Sylvia Adams & Sarah Prendergast			

Sidesperson **Refreshments** 

Kathy Carnell Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

#### 18.30 Deanery Confirmation Service

at Bradwell St Peter's Chapel Please pray for our candidates Mark Carrigher, Raymond Kempen and Dean Robinson.

Sunday 21st July 08.00 Holy Communion BCP		8th Sunday after Trinity	
	Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter /Rev'd Jacqui	
	Ephesians 2 : 11 -end	Celebrant	
	Mark 6 : 30 - 34, 53 - end	Celebrant	
	Sidesperson	Leon Flack	
	Sidesperson		
I I.00 Morning Worship			
	Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter /Rev'd Jacqui	
	Readings as above	Pauline Siggers	
	Intercessions	Fiona Begley	
	Prayer Ministry	Christine Lucas + another	
	Audio-Visuals	Christine Morgan	
	Sidesperson	Brenda Sheppard	
	Refreshments	Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield	
Sunday 28th July 9th Sunday after Trinity			
Sunday	y 28th July	9th Sunday after Trinity	
-	y 28th July Holy Communion BCP		
08.00			
08.00	Holy Communion BCP		
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end John 6 : 1- 21	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant Celebrant Keith Hatfield	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end John 6 : 1- 21 Sidesperson	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant Celebrant Keith Hatfield	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end John 6 : 1- 21 Sidesperson MORNING WORSHIP Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant Celebrant Keith Hatfield	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end John 6 : 1- 21 Sidesperson MORNING WORSHIP	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant Celebrant Keith Hatfield Rev'd Jacqui / Norman Pratt Christine Morgan	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end John 6 : 1- 21 Sidesperson MORNING WORSHIP Leader/Preacher Readings	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant Celebrant Keith Hatfield Rev'd Jacqui / Norman Pratt	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end John 6 : 1- 21 Sidesperson MORNING WORSHIP Leader/Preacher Readings Intercessions Audio-Visuals	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant Celebrant Keith Hatfield Rev'd Jacqui / Norman Pratt Christine Morgan Brenda Sheppard	
08.00	Holy Communion BCP Leader/Preacher Ephesians 3 : 14 - end John 6 : 1- 21 Sidesperson MORNING WORSHIP Leader/Preacher Readings Intercessions Audio-Visuals Sidesperson	Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt Celebrant Celebrant Keith Hatfield Rev'd Jacqui / Norman Pratt Christine Morgan Brenda Sheppard Sylvia Adams	

### **Steeple Church News**

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on the church door. We have Morning Prayer on the first Sunday each month, a Family Service on third Sunday



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

#### 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, Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer and Verger,

### Magic Breakfast Details:

Children should be hungry to learn, not just hungry.

Magic Breakfast empowers every child to reach for their dreams and thrive, one breakfast at a time.

Magic Breakfast's goal is to ensure that no child is too hungry to learn. The charity provides free breakfasts and support to over 200,000 schoolchildren in disadvantaged communities who face hunger every day.

With just 28p per breakfast, it's a simple intervention that sets children up for success and has a far-reaching impact on every child's life. *(See details of our link via Leon Flack; p5)* 

Please support

# Wheels Hooves & Paws Sat 27<sup>th</sup> July 11am – 4pm

## Elmwood Equestrian, BoC, CM0 8NT

Historic Cars, Motorcycles, Tractors & Commercials Horse Show Dog Show Refreshments Craft Stalls

Raising money for repairs to Althorne.

Creeksea and Steeple Churches

"I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair." ... Psalm 40:1

#### My name is Dean, and this is my testimony.

For most of my life I was an atheist, believing in nothing after death and that the universe, with its intricate patterns and laws, just came into existence out of nothingness.

To feel the power of my testimony, I have to be incredibly open. Last year, I no longer wanted to participate in this world, I had no hope and was full of despair. Thanks to a loving and caring family I got through this time, but I still felt hopeless.

A year prior, my brother-in-law David tragically passed away at a young age. After his passing, I experienced many signs that proved to me there was more to this world. Witnessing firsthand spiritual events after David's death made the evidence of life after death far outweigh the evidence for nothingness once we pass. However, this didn't change my reality, my hardships, or how I felt about the world. I was still searching, and although I hadn't realised it yet, I was searching for God.

Leading up to the day of my salvation, God started to subtly appear in my life, but I wasn't paying attention. (Oh the joys of having an ADHD brain!)

On Monday 28th of October, on my way to work, road works took me on a detour. I saw a poster outside a Baptist church that read Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I had to stop the car and I broke down in tears. I knew immediately this message was meant for me.

It wasn't just the words but the image on the poster - a little grey stripy tabby kitten, which seemed random to have next to a Bible verse. Except, after my dark episode last year my wife had surprised me with a beautiful grey stripy tabby kitten to bring life and joy back into our home. Immediately, through this wonderful Bible verse and this beautiful image, I felt for the first time in my life God's presence.

I cried out to God, repenting of my sins, tears of contrition gently rolling down my cheek. On the 2-hour drive home, I had an intimate conversation with God (I did all the chatting. He just listened.) and it felt like I was a long-lost child estranged from his father, through neither's fault, who had finally reunited decades later for the first time.



When I got home that night and saw my wife, I started crying. She asked what was wrong, and I said, "These are not tears of sadness. I felt God's presence today. I don't just believe there is a God; I know there is a God, and today He showed me He exists."

Since that fateful day, I have grown in my relationship with God. I have witnessed firsthand many times the power of prayer, and He has shown me many things in the Scriptures that prove to me that the Bible is of divine origin and the inspired word of God, where He has intricately and precisely



placed every word, just as He has intricately and precisely placed every star in the cosmos.

#### **Dean Robinson**

### 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 in any other way. You will be made very welcome.

### 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.

### SOUTHMINSTER FLOWER SHOW

### will be on Saturday 20th July at the King George V Memorial Field as usual.

Details will be available in posters and other places ahead of the big day. If you want to participate as a competitor you will need to get your entry form filled in early.

### We hope to see you there.

### SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB meets on alternate Mondays. If you would like any information please phone Dave Christie 07775 758118.



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 contact Norman



**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. The families join the main services, especially the Family Celebrations. News of the Craft Morning will come soon.

#### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

will meet on 23rd July

Party : Courtney Pride

**Competition: Prettiest beaded necklace** 

#### 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.

September 2024	1	8	15	22	29
October 2024	6	13	20	27	

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

#### 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.

Please keep praying for all involved in this year's HOLIDAY CLUB: entitled Deep Sea Diving. It will be held in church on August 20th, 21st & 22nd. Obviously pray that all the children will be safe and enjoying the experience, but pray for all the leaders & helpers too.

**THANK YOU LETTER - to Rev'd Peter & the Church:** On behalf of us all at Knightswood Day Care Centre I would like to thank you for your kind donation of £400 raised from the recent concert in church with the Sid Bolan Band . I heard that it was brilliant evening! Thank you so much for your continued support.. The generous support of individuals and groups makes it possible for our organisation to exist and continue to ensure that our local community is empowered to live in security and wellbeing.

### **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.



### DON'T FORGET THE BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE SATURDAY 6th JULY. 10.30 am - 3.15 pm

More details will be available in church so you can sort out your plans -

for the actual walk from Bradwell Church to the Chapel and for

whether you will bring your own food for the day or take advantage of what will be offered there. Some prayers for the weather to be warm and dry will be useful too.

Also, you are welcome to The SUMMER CONCERT 2024 by St Lawrence Singers on FRIDAY 19th JULY at 7 pm At St Lawrence Newlands Church on the Hill CM0 7LL For tickets (£10) contact Zoe: 07717 072784 or Ann: 01621 779630

And don't forget the **Steeple event** on 27th July (**Wheels, Hooves & Paws**). See page 15 for details

#### **PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:**

w/b	7 July	North - East
w/b	I 4 July	Central- North-West
w/b	21 July	Central - East
w/b	28 July	Central -South





#### 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 Contact: 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

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.