

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



and also for Steeple Parish

**The Church of  
St Lawrence & All Saints**



**Foxearth Meadows Lake**  
*(See page 13)*

**Inwardly we are being renewed day by day.**

**2 Corinthians 4:16**

**JULY 2025**

- 3 Vicar's Reflection .....Peter Begley
- 5 Community Hub: Details of its Launch
- 6 Soft Refreshing Rain .....Brenda Sheppard
- 7 Prayer Ministry available
- 8 Training Events .....Brenda Sheppard & Jenny Pratt
- 9 The Invitation "Maranatha" .... Some thoughts from Christine Lucas
- 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during July**
- 12 Steeple Church News .....Peter Marshall
- 13 **Glory, Glee, Gift, Gratitude and God** .....Ken Dunstan
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team update .....Brenda Sheppard
- Saturday Club Details and availability of books in church
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox,  
Little Lions and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas), Holiday Club Notice Prayer Reminder
- 17 How to keep in touch with the church regularly.  
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Some Upcoming Events this month  
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**

*Articles for the August magazine  
should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
**Sunday 20th July**  
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!)

## Vicar's Reflection for July

2 Corinthians 4:16 Inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

There is a morning routine in the Vicarage as we wake up; the first person awake goes to make the tea, feed the dogs, get the biscuits (to be dipped, of course) and return to the bedroom to sit together and read the verse for the day, listen to and say our own prayers or hear the thought for the day or a take a longer reading. I know Fiona always looks to see the verse for the day as soon as she awakens. If for whatever reason we miss the routine, the whole day is absolutely not the same (and the dogs soon remind us that we have forgotten to feed them or we have missed giving them a little taster of our biscuit!) It is then up for showers and to dress, and so we can engage with the first appointment/go out to work.

This routine has not really changed in the majority of our marriage – except when we first got married we had breakfast in bed every single day for 2 years, as God wasn't really figuring much in our lives back then in the way He does now: centre and first! It changed geographically as we moved into new locations but the essence has been the same. I wonder what your routine is and whether it is a positive start to the day or not? Does it involve God, or worship or prayer or not. It makes a difference to us the way that we start out our day and the way that we approach the tasks we have for the day. It also makes a difference if we think about God and His kingdom first rather than last; too often we have folk ask us for prayer when every other avenue of possibility has been exhausted and we hear the plea "I'm desperate, I have tried everything else and so I thought I would pray!" Our heavenly Father wants us to be in close communication with Him all the time. He is our Father who cares deeply for us and He does want to help us in every circumstance of life, big or small. We are adopted into His family and are inheritors of the kingdom of God, the promises of God that have been given through God's word. What an inheritance that is, we can have Godly guidance for everything. John 16: 13 says "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth". The promptings of God's Holy Spirit can only come when we learn to listen to Him and discern His leading or hear His word.

It is difficult to change routines or to start new and good habits. It is said that it takes three weeks for something new to become a routine, and it takes three days to break a routine, which is why New Year resolutions do not tend to continue past week two!

We need some kind of renewal, a chance to change our thought-life towards something better and more fruitful. Isaiah 40:31 says “but those who hope in the Lord will RENEW their strength”. God has provided all that we need for renewal in our lives and in our minds – He will enable us to “cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit” and “be transformed by the renewing of our minds” : we only need to seek Him first for the renewal to begin. The New Living Translation of the bible gives us a beautiful rendition of Titus 3: 5, it says

“He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.”

A new routine began in each of us, every single one of us, when we accepted Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives. As we put God first, we can trust Him for today and we can trust Him for tomorrow.

Blessings,

**Peter**

PS There are some really good and helpful online helps for reading the bible, praying, enjoying a verse for the day, listening to a short teaching to focus our minds – feel free to ask either of us, we’d be delighted to assist in this way.

---

*Editor’s comment*

We regularly hear about how reading the Bible has blessed people all over the world and this is obviously made possible by the Wycliffe Teams. Do keep praying for Steve and Johanna particularly, in all that they do.

**Wycliffe  
Bible  
Translators**

# Join Us at The Hive for Its Exciting Launch Event!

The Hive, our brand-new community hub at the United Reformed Church in Southminster, is buzzing with excitement as it prepares to host its official launch event on Saturday, 9th August. We warmly invite you to come along, celebrate, and explore all that this vibrant space has to offer.

The festivities will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about upcoming activities, register your interest for volunteer roles, and simply have some fun with friends and neighbours. Whether you are looking to join regular classes, engage in meaningful projects, or lend a helping hand to initiatives like the Dengie Food Bank, The Hive is the ideal place to connect and contribute.

Before the big day, we will hold a Joint Service with St Leonards at the United Reformed Church on Sunday, 29th June at 11am. This service will bring together members of the community in reflection and celebration, setting the tone for the eventful months ahead.

With The Hive already buzzing to life through its regular classes and groups, we can't wait to share all that's in store. So, mark your calendars and join us on 9th August for an unforgettable celebration!

[communityworker.dengieurcs@gmail.com](mailto:communityworker.dengieurcs@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook @thehiveURC

# The Hive

YOUR BUZZING COMMUNITY HUB

# SOFT REFRESHING RAIN

By: Brenda Sheppard

I am writing this during the late May Bank Holiday and it's raining! Normally I would groan as it upsets some plans made, but this time I rejoiced that at last the crops in the parched earth, the gardens, the allotments and the reservoirs can benefit from this welcome sound of rain falling and also not forgetting the living creatures that rely on water to live. We can almost hear and see the poetic image in Isaiah 55 v 12 of rejoicing and joy relating to the return of the Israelites from their exile in Babylon it says "Even the mountains and hills will burst into song before you and all The trees of the field shall clap their hands" A poetic way of describing the rejoicing of nature and the earth in response to God's blessing and restoration of His people and I'm sure a lovely image even today as God's precious rain falls to refresh and restore all.

Psalm 150 v 16 tells us "Let everything that has breath praise the lord" and we do thank Him for where we live and all He provides, but let us also remember constantly in our prayers, people and animals and all that comes forth from the earth which needs water to survive. I read recently that elephants in Africa were digging with their trunks in the riverbeds hoping to get to water and I'm sure other animals and living creatures suffer so much too.

What a privilege it is to live in the countryside. Unlike some people, I have done so all my life, and I know no different. Whilst pondering on this I recalled a story my late aunt told me of two little boys who were evacuated from London and



came to stay with her in Stansgate in Steeple during the 2nd World War. They were pretty traumatised and were so confused by the open fields around them and terrified of the cows and so wouldn't go outside at all. After a few days of standing at the window and watching aunt's 3 boys playing outside their curiosity got the better of them and they ventured out, even on the rainy days, and never looked back. What a lovely story - and I expect they remembered that time with joy. Aunt said they were very reluctant to leave and she also was so sad to let them go home but rejoiced that they had experienced that precious safe time in the countryside.

There is a saying by Mark Twain which says: "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it is about learning to dance in the rain" and so as we thank God for the rain let's be mindful and help others in their stormy situations where the rain can be a mixed blessing.



Brenda Sheppard.

---

### **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. Pre-service prayer occurs too, so feel free to join them with your supporting prayers or your urgent requests.

## Training Events

I was speaking to someone recently and commented on the fact that we are so fortunate in the Church of England to have so many training opportunities and for so many of us they are free!!

As part of our Pastoral Assistant role in St. Leonard's, Jenny and I went along to South Woodham for a short course on Pastoral Ministry and Mental Health. Having both been trained over the years in many aspects of the ministry, I for one, wondered what new “nuggets” of information we would glean from the course.

The speaker spoke a lot about his own personal experiences and his ongoing struggles with depression, alongside helping his children who have autism and ADHD. He has first-hand experience in coping with these mental health struggles and uses his experiences to share widely how his faith is a key factor in helping him cope as well as helping others to understand different aspects of mental health.

Mental Health and well-being is such a vast and varied part of our make-up and coming alongside someone who is struggling requires sensitivity, wisdom, time and most of all the ability to listen and to be a friend for however long it takes in helping them in their life journey.



Brenda Sheppard, and Jenny Pratt



# **The Invitation; Maranatha**

Lord Jesus,

You stand at our door and knock-  
But the handle is on our side!

You invite us to believe-  
So help us to trust!

You invite us to be forgiven-  
First of all, we need to repent.

You invite us to experience love, joy and peace-  
Are our hearts receptive to Your gift?

You invite us to hear parables-  
Therefore we must listen for their truth

You invite us to belong to Your family-  
So we need to get to know our siblings!

You invite us to share a meal-  
but how eagerly do we hunger for Your Bread?

You invite us to drink from Your everlasting springs of life  
So we can be filled with Your love!

You invite us to be Your messengers-  
Enable us to move outside our comfort zone

You invite us to live for ever-  
Therefore we must die to ourselves!

You invite us - and so we invite You, dear Lord, to help us.

**Maranatha!**  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Amen*

*Submitted by  
Christine Lucas*

## **Sunday 6th July**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Acts 16 : 16 - 34  
John 17 : 20 - end  
Sidesperson

## **3rd Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Leon Flack

---

### **11.00 Family Holy Communion**

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

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Kath Dunstan  
Brenda Sheppard  
Frances Hatfield & Kathy Carnell  
Christine Morgan  
Gwyneth Iffland  
Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

---

## **Sunday 13th July**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Acts 2 : 1 - 21  
John 14 : 8 - 27  
Sidesperson

## **4th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Paul Lucas

---

### **11.00 Family Celebration**

Leaders  
Prayer Ministry  
Audio-visuals  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn  
Yvonne Thurbon + Sarah Prendergast  
Christine Lucas  
Brenda Sheppard  
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

---

**Sunday 20th July****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
Romans 5 : 1 - 5  
John 16 : 12 - 15  
Sidesperson

**5th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Peter  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Gordon Baker

---

**11.00 Morning Worship**

Leader/Preacher  
Readings as above  
Intercessions  
Prayer Ministry  
Audio-Visuals  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter  
Christine Lucas  
Fiona Begley  
Christine Lucas & Keith Hatfield  
Christine Morgan  
Paul Lucas  
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

---

**Sunday 27th July****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
Galatians 3 : 23 - end  
Luke 8 : 26 - 39  
Sidesperson

**6th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Peter  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Keith Hatfield

---

**10.15 Morning Worship CAFÉ CHURCH**

Leader/Preacher  
Readings as above  
Intercessions  
Prayer Ministry  
Audio-Visuals  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Norman Pratt / Jenny Pratt  
Christine Morgan  
Frances Hatfield  
Fiona Begley & another  
Paul Lucas  
Kathy Carnell  
Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

---

## **Steeple Church News**

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised

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](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)



### **Wheels Hooves & Paws** **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> July 11am – 4pm** **Elmwood Equestrian, CM0 8NT** **Historic Vehicles** **Horse Show** **Dog Show** **Stalls**

Supporting Althorne, Creeksea and Steeple churches

Steeple Church contacts:

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

Fiona Ashworth, Churchwarden,

Rhona Leech, Assistant Warden

Teresa Julien, Assistant Warden,

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

# Glory, Gift, Glee, Gratitude – and God

In 1983 Miranda and Peter Harris founded a Field Studies Centre in Portugal. They called it, “A Rocha”, Portuguese for “The Rock.” It now works in 20 countries. A Rocha UK works to equip Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people. A Rocha’s Eco Church, enables local churches to protect nature and address climate change practically. Several Local Churches have Eco Church Bronze and Silver awards.

A Rocha runs Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve near Sudbury. On 22 June their annual outdoor service was addressed by Dr Andrew Crowson, a “mothologist” from a Baptist Church in Kent. He referred to Psalm 104, which blesses God for creating our world and everything we need. He spoke of the wonder of water. Water has unique properties. Without them, there could be no life. **GLORY** was our first keyword.

God’s universe, we know, holds everything we need. Earth provides plants, animals that eat them and animals that eat animals. Balanced, diverse ecosystems are sustainable. We live on a planet full of God’s **GIFT** of life and all it needs.

Andrew spoke of God’s pleasure in our world, in fact, his **GLEE**. The evolutionary biologist J.B.S.Haldane said “The Creator... has an inordinate fondness for beetles.” The 400,000 Species of beetles are a quarter of all the world’s animals. When we work to conserve this richness we can share God’s glee in creating variety

Wonder at creation inspires artists, musicians and writers, But losing a single species loses part of God’s glory. Let’s conserve out of **GRATITUDE**. We Christians must be a light to others, not for “nature’s” sake only, but because this is a world of **Glory, Gift, Glee and Gratitude**. It’s **God’s** world.

***Ken Dunstan***

# Henry Church Cleaning Club 2025



The cleaning continues on in the Church and we are blessed to be part of a really faithful team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits as some of us are slowing down a bit!! We meet fortnightly on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am. If you could spare just a little time during those 2 hours or even if you could come monthly it would be a great help.

**July dates are: 4th and 18th.**

If you would like to give it a try and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me by phone or email. You will be made very welcome.

## **SATURDAY CLUB**

for Primary School children

Saturday morning (monthly) in church

9.30 am - 11.30 am

£1 per child

Children can join in craft, music, games etc.  
or just spend time chatting with their friends.

As usual, the day after Saturday Club is our Family  
Celebration in the church at 11 am.

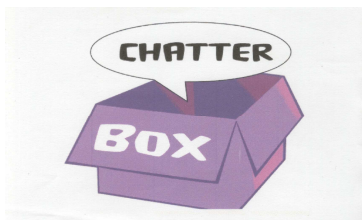
Lots of books are available on the shelves at the back of church for you to borrow and enjoy, and then - of course - return. If you have books that you don't need any more, speak with Christine Lucas about donating them to church.

## **SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL**

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

---

### **Fancy a chat?**



At the Memorial Hall  
10.00 - 12.00 Thursday mornings

As well as chatting there's tea, coffee, biscuits (and sometimes cake) jigsaws, crafts, newspapers, board games - and chatting isn't compulsory!

---

### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

**Tuesday 22nd July**

**There will be no speaker; it is a party!**

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



**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 every second Sunday.

**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 2025	3	10	17	24	31
September 2025	7	14	21	28	

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

---

See all the posters with details of this year's 3-day

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB**

It will be **“DIARY OF A DISCIPLE”** held in  
St Leonard's Church in August  
Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st  
followed by a celebration service on  
Sunday 24th August.

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.



**Who are we?**

**We are part of God's Family --- the Church.**

**Everyone is invited to be part of this family.**

To keep aware of what is happening, and to participate on line with services, log into the website

<https://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk/>

Also, we have a WhatsApp group entitled

"Together Apart Our Church". Lots of people are involved in this.

These links have been greatly appreciated by regular Church family members and also by people who have not, to date, attended our church services. It is good 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.

## Some upcoming events in July

### **EVERY VOICE SINGS ... CHOIR** **Concert in St Leonard's Church** **On 12th July at 7 pm**

---

### **SOUTHMINSTER FLOWER SHOW**

will celebrate its 140th anniversary  
at the King George V Memorial Ground, Station Road  
on **Saturday 19th July**.

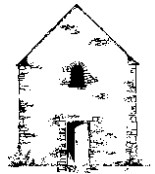
Our presence there (in various ways) will be obvious,  
so join and support us.

---

Another local event which Southminster folk usually enjoy

### **THE BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE** on **5th July from 10.30 am to 3.15 pm** with the title "People of Hope"

It is a time of faith, fellowship and reflection  
and posters will show the details.



---

And don't forget (particularly for **STEEPLE CHURCH**)

**"Wheels, Hooves and Paws"**

at Elmwood Equestrian, Burnham-on-Crouch  
on **Saturday 12th July 11am - 4pm**

---

### **PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:**

w/b	6 July	South - West
w/b	13 July	Central - West
w/b	20 July	North East
w/b	27 July	Central - North- 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)

**Telephone** 01621 772300

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)**

Details of the actual programme are available in church and  
on the notice boards.