

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

StL

and also for Steeple Parish

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



**Elixir Band
May 9th
supporting
Christian
Aid**

JUNE 2026

"No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,
who is close to the Father's heart,
who has made him known."

John 1:18

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I hope you will receive this issue before 31st May. Our deliverers always make an effort to do this.

Articles for the July magazine should be with

*Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 14th 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!)

If you receive this printed version please tell your deliverer whether you want to continue from January 2026.

Reflection from Ken Dunstan

Well before Kath and I met, she was a student. One of her friends was Joy Page. Forward a decade, Kath and I attended a talk from Joy and her Swiss husband Fredi Tobler. Joy and Fredi were working with an Amazonian tribe, the Karipuna. Their language had never been written down, and they couldn't speak Spanish well. Joy and Fredi worked for an organisation we'd never heard of, named after John Wycliffe. Wycliffe believed that scriptures should be translated into local languages and made available to everyone. He had a hand in translating part of the New Testament from Latin into 14th Century English.

In 1916 Cameron Townsend, aged 20, went to Guatemala to distribute Bibles in Spanish. Most of the people he met didn't understand the Bible in Spanish. He met a man from the Cakchiquel tribe who had brought the gospel to his own language group without a Bible in his own language, Townsend felt God's call to get such a Bible produced, and by 1942, Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) was born.

Joy and Fredi had trained with WBT and were sent to the Karipuna "Amerindian" people – a small group of mixed

heritage in Brazil They had to learn the language, find a suitable alphabet and translate a Gospel from English. We spoke about this in Southminster and the Church met the WBT Director. Southminster Church has supported WBT ever since. Our WBT translators are Steve and Johanna Pillinger, who were working with the Rendille people in Northern Kenya, whose area is part of Chelmsford Diocese's Kenyan partners. They now live in South Africa, where Steve takes information from translators and turns this into usable books and Bible texts in the various languages the teams have learned. Steve's newsletter is regularly available at the back of church.

This all came back to me in a recent Morning Prayer when we'd received a Wycliffe newsletter asking for prayer for the Bhogongo Gospel of Luke and for the completion of editions of Genesis (Abraham) and Mark's Gospel.

There are things we *can't* do – I certainly would find it hard to translate a Gospel even into French, which I can speak. What we *can* do, however, is to get informed, and to pray. And by the way, Morning Prayer, half an hour at 8am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday is open to everyone, not just clergy and lay ministers

Blessings,

Ken

As we are ready to print this magazine, since we're still in the Easter period I'm sharing this from Joy Tobler who I mentioned on page 3.

EASTER

No Easter bunny
 but the Lamb of God
No spring flowers
 but trampled palm fronds
No church bells
 but 3 cockerel crows
No chocolate eggs
 but thorns and nails
No bank holiday
 but a blood-stained holy day
No supermarket sortie
 but a quiet tomb
No lazy lie-in
 but the resurrection rising –
Our living, loving Saviour.

This Easter, and beyond, may
 the sacrificial love of the Father
 the forgiving spirit of Jesus
 the courage of Joseph of Arimathea
 the devotion of the Marys
 the peace of the angels
 and
 the glory of the risen Christ
be yours in abundance.

Blessings,
Joy Tobler

Apprentices

Brenda Sheppard

Have you ever thought of yourself as an apprentice? We all know that an apprentice is a person who learns a skilled trade or profession through on-the-job training whilst working for an experienced mentor. An apprenticeship is a combination of practical experience and study and can take between 1-5 years, hopefully leading to paid employment.



As Christians we are in a continuous apprenticeship for all of our walk with our Lord Jesus. Jesus himself was an apprentice to his father Joseph as he learned his trade as a carpenter before starting his time of ministry. We see from the Scriptures of other apprentices namely: Elisha serving Elijah (1 Kings 19:19), Joshua serving Moses and then leading the Israelites after the death of Moses (Joshua 1:1): Samuel learning to minister from Eli, (1 Samuel 2 v 11): Timothy working with and learning from Paul (1 Timothy 1:1). The list goes on! The 12 disciples too were Jesus' apprentices learning to emulate His work.



As we too follow Jesus we seek to learn from Him, we seek to be changed by the Holy Spirit to have a spiritual transformation in character and to act as Jesus would and work toward being more like Him in all we are and do.

When God calls us to take on a particular task within His church or in the Community we need to learn new skills. That's when we need a good mentor, someone who is patient

and encouraging. We also need to be able to take advice and not see it as criticism as long as it enhances our learning.

Jesus said in John 14 v 12 that the disciples would do even greater things than He had done as they receive the Holy Spirit and then go into all the world to take the good news of the Gospel. We as Christians never stop learning, our apprenticeship is constant, we have the same commission today as the disciples did then and our reward may not be financial but will be a greater reward in Heaven!!!



Brenda Sheppard

A SPECIAL OCCASION COMING UP

Bradwell Pilgrimage
Saturday 4th July 10.30 am - 3.30 pm
LIVING STONES

**A day of inspiring talks and reflections, workshops,
Live music & worship (including Messy Church) & stalls**

Start from St Thomas' Church Bradwell
Then walk to St Peter's Chapel
Light refreshments available; Bring a picnic
Toilets are available on the field.
For more details, please head to our website:
bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

THE HIVE AGM Report for 2026

The Hive has continued to grow in activities offered to the residents of the Dengie. The Hive is based in the URC Church in North Street and is managed by the United Reformed Church and St. Leonard's Church.

Some upcoming and completed projects were discussed especially regarding the outside of the Church building. New car parking and landscaping is forthcoming and already some volunteers have offered their help. The Community Payback team will continue with interior and exterior clearing up. Other outside features were also discussed.

The funding for the Hive project is from the URC and from various grants. St. Leonard's has no financial input but partners, oversees and supports the Hive both physically and spiritually. It was discussed that mid-week worship meetings may be possible in the future. It was also highlighted that any activities held in the Church would be carefully considered to not be outside Christian parameters.

Details of any courses and how to book are on the notice board outside the URC Church and at the back of the Church in St. Leonard's or email Karis on:
community.worker.dengieurcs@gmail.com

At present some of the ongoing projects that are happening are:

Dengie Food Bank – Wednesdays 10 am-12 noon
Donations to be received from 9am

Lulu's Café – Fridays 11am—2pm

The Difference

I got up one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help us?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty
But the day just toiled on, grey and black.
I wondered why God didn't show me,
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence
I used all my keys at the lock;
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child you didn't knock".

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering my day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

*This is another poem which has been shared by
Hazel Mann*

Sunday 7th June

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Romans 4 : 13 - end
Matthew 9 : 9 - 13, 18 -26
Sidesperson

1st Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 Family Holy Communion

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

Rev'd Peter
Gwyneth Iffland
Brenda Sheppard
Jenni Blomfield & Christine Lucas
Christine Morgan
Gwyneth Iffland
Sarah Prendergast & Ray Kempen

Sunday 14th June

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Romans 5: 1 - 8
Matthew 9 : 35 - 10 : 8
Sidesperson

2nd 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
Fiona Begley & Frances Hatfield
Christine Lucas
Brenda Sheppard
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 21st June

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher
Romans 6 : 1b-11
Matthew 10 : 24 - 39
Sidesperson

3rd Sunday after Trinity

Norman Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings
Intercessions
Audio-visuals
Prayer ministry
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Jenny Pratt / Norman Pratt
Pauline Siggers
Frances Hatfield
Christine Morgan
Kathy Carnell & Sylvia Adams
Kath Dunstan
Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

Sunday 28th June

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher
Romans 6 : 12 - end
Matthew 10 : 40 - end
Sidesperson

4th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter
Celebrant
Celebrant
Keith Hatfield

10.15 Café Church Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as at 8 am
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter
Linda Payne
Fiona Begley
Yvonne Thurbon & Sarah Prendergast
Sylvia Adams
Gordon Baker
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

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



Steeple Church contacts:

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

Fiona Ashworth, Churchwarden,

Rhona Leech, Assistant Churchwarden
& PCC Secretary

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

Steeple's June Services in brief

(Service titles and leaders only)

7th 09.15 Family Service Rev'd Peter

14th 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Ken Dunstan

21st 09.15 Family Service Jenny Pratt & Norman Pratt

28th 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Peter

Steeple's Parochial Church Council is thankful that recent Quinquennial reports haven't identified major structural issues but a few weeks ago we did suffer a significant fall of plaster from the ceiling above the font. Repairs were expected to be costly because we knew that tower scaffolding would be required to reach the affected area.

But then, our prayers were answered when a benefactor, with access to people having the necessary skills and equipment, offered to make good the damage, free of charge.

Better still, it was possible to do the work almost immediately, leaving just enough time for cleaning and preparing the church for a scheduled funeral, our first for a couple of years.

Meanwhile, plans are progressing for Steeple's involvement in the Wheels, Hooves & Paws show at Elmwood Equestrian Centre, Burnham-on-Crouch on 4th July, followed just seven weeks later, by the Steeple Gathering at Grange Farm, Steeple. In both cases, we depend on The Eccentrics group for deploying much of the advertising as well as erecting the refreshments marquee and lots of fencing. On the day, we'll need volunteers to run the marquee and steward the fields.

Look out for posters for these two major local events, and please come along to join us. We can enjoy them as usual as family gatherings. Let's pray for good weather too!

POSSIBLE ROTA DETAILS: YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS

We can worship regularly in church as usual, 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.

July 2026	5	12	19	26	
August 2026	2	9	16	23	30

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

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.

There are books for all ages and with varied contents, so even if you don't see yourself as a reader, you can enjoy 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.

Henry Church Cleaning Club 2026



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.

June dates are: Fri. 5th & 19th

If you would like to give it a try and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard.

Let us all continue to pray to our loving Father in these very difficult times.

For the National Church - particularly following the
Appointment of Archbishop of Canterbury,
The Most Rev'd & Rt Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally DBE

For family members - near and far - and neighbours

For people suffering loneliness, illness and/or bereavement

For people making decisions about treatment

For hospital staff, carers, front-line workers including teachers

For local farmers and all their workers in winter months

For people suffering financially because of unemployment....

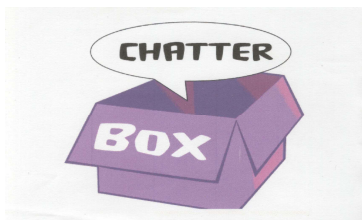
And let us remember "Father, your will be done."

We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

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 23rd June

Ian Bull "Gardening" & Hyde Hall Borders

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.

SOME MORE NEWS FOR CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

On **Saturday 9th May** we enjoyed the music of **ELIXIR**. Money raised by their concert went to **CHRISTIAN AID**, especially as Christian Aid week was to begin on 10th May. Results from this and other contributions will be publicised in a future issue of this magazine.



Prayer Ministry on Sundays after the I I 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.

Obviously church members will be available to pray with you at other times too, so do ask if necessary.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	7 June	South - West
w/b	14 June	Central - West
w/b	21 June	North-East
w/b	28 June	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

Contact: 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

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

10.15 am (approx.) Café Church begins on 4th Sundays

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 meet in the church on **Mondays (10 am) and Thursdays (8 pm)**

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