

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

and also for Steeple Parish

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

StL



WHO ARE WE?

We are called to be:

“A people offering
praise and worship
to God

and serving Him by
being the Good News
by our words and
actions”.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I hope you will receive this issue before 28th June. Our deliverers always make an effort to do this.

Articles for the August magazine should be with

*Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 19th 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!)

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

Reflection from Rev'd Peter Begley

I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

We are now six months into the year, so just another five months and it will be Christmas again so maybe it is the time to start thinking about cards and presents and decorations? There is nothing wrong with being prepared for events and occasions – I envy those who are able to plan and prepare in advance, it is a gift; not one that I have but one that I pray for.

As we think about time; time of year, the seasons, the passage of time, it made me think about the present time and if we are thanking God for the time that we occupy and the moments we have with God.

I have been reading a book about how God blesses us in life and healing, in creation and beauty, in the very fact of us being loved at this moment; He blesses us with the things we may not even consider. The pastor who wrote the book issued a challenge to his congregation and the challenge was to thank God for the things we take for granted. One doctor in the congregation took this seriously and started thanking God for how the body operates – thanking God from the top of her body to the toes. She prayed all the way home, into the afternoon and evening and by the time she was going to bed she had not yet reached her feet. The miracle of our bodies keeps going each and every day and we are to thank God for all those good days and good times.

The good times are now and in this moment. We are allowed to take a moment to say thank you to God for all that he has done and is doing! God is still in charge! He is still Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He is still creating new life, still expanding light in the universe, still blessing Abraham with children! God's blessing to creation was to "multiply" and that continues in many unseen ways. The Book of Common Prayer says that we should "Give thanks at all times and in all places" and I must admit that this thought has passed me by at times, and then I realised that scripture tells us that Jesus thinks of us all the time! The presence of God with us is constant and everlasting.....

At our Sunday service recently, we sang "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord, the Holy One is Here" There is no particular time that we have with God, He is with us all the time; that is what the peace of God is about – knowing that God is with us here and now, present in every situation and conversation. When we meet on a Sunday morning it is to gather together to give thanks that He has been with us all week and will be with us in the week to come, and we celebrate His presence.

So, when we think about time let us not think about "time for God" or "time to pray" or "time to worship" – we are inhabitants of the Kingdom of God which is everlasting, He is always with us – we have plenty of time!

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9.8

Blessings,
Peter

Time for a Change Personal words from Paula Neall

Having served as WI President, and then Chairlady of the Dengie 100 Ladies Group since 2015, I think it's time for me to have a break and hope someone else will take over. At the AGM in 2025 I announced that after 10 years, I wished to stand down as chair, but as no one else volunteered, I agreed to do one more year. Co-incidentally, Ken and I will not be holding a Garden Party this year, the reason being that our large gazebo is falling apart, so instead we will be serving Cream Teas, and having stalls in the Memorial Hall on August 25th. There will also be music from Every Voice Choir. We have been lucky in the past with good weather, but in future bad weather won't be a problem.

I joined the WI in 1980 and it was an amazing organisation which I enjoyed being part of, but along with many other members, I became disillusioned when changes were made at National level to make it more of a business. The final straw was when it was announced that Denman college was to be sold, without any consultation or consideration of the members views. Many of our members had thoroughly enjoyed attending courses at Denman, either funded by bursaries or at their own expense, plus we had made several donations to the fund to help with maintenance costs. In April 2021 members all agreed to leave the WI and set up the Dengie 100 Ladies Group. We still have speakers or demonstrators, parties, outings plus Tea and Cakes. Being independent we are now able to make donations to local charities, which as a WI, we were not permitted to do.

I've loved working with Secretary Sylvia Paine, and I'm confident that after a long illness, she will soon be well enough to come again to our meetings. We have a good committee who will support the new chairlady, and I will help as much as is needed, and hopefully our Ladies Group can continue to hold monthly meetings to provide friendship, education and entertainment as well as provide refreshments at the Flower Show and other community events under new leadership.

All Year-round Spring-Cleaning!!

Brenda Sheppard

I don't know about you but as soon as the sun shines and the warm weather comes it awakens an urge to clean!! Be it in the house or in the garden. So often we call it "Spring Cleaning." I have read that the saying originates from it being the first opportunity in days gone by, after a long cold Winter, to open the windows and air out stuffy homes and also deep clean the soot built up in the home from open fires. We don't all have that problem today but the sunshine and the warm weather do show up the dust and the musty smells don't they!!



As Christians we need a continuous Spring Clean, don't we, and we often need a "Deep Clean." We try to be good and clean but we fall short so often. Romans 3:23 says: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and only God can create a pure heart in us when we come to Him in repentance.

In the Old Testament we read of people using hyssop as a cleansing ritual – hyssop being a small plant used in ancient purification and cleansing rituals (Psalm 51:7). We read of flagellation – the whipping and inflicting pain on oneself to atone for sin. We also hear of people wearing sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penance for their sins; sackcloth and ashes were used as an outward sign of one's inward condition of desolation and ruin – an act of humility. Psalm 30:11 is a Psalm of David where he cries out for God's mercy in response for

his genuine repentance, it says: “You turned my wailing into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy”

We do thank the Lord that through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on the cross atoning for our sins we don't need to go through these rituals all we need to do is to come to Him in repentance and ask for our sins to be forgiven and for His deep cleansing. He looks for us to open the door to our hearts to let Him in and then the cleansing begins!



Blessings,

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

HOLIDAY CLUB 2026

This will be held on two full days this year instead of one complete week. Application forms will be with the local school and posters will be available during July so that everyone will know exactly what will happen and when.

The subject is **KINGDOM BUILDERS** and it will be on Thursdays 20th August and 27th August with a special service of celebration on Sunday 30th August

The Hive

The Southminster Community Hub known as The Hive is located in the URC Church building in North Street It is jointly managed by the United Reformed Church and St Leonard's Church.

At present some of the ongoing projects happening are:

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

Community in a Cup Thursdays 10 am-12 noon
Specific upcoming dates are: 6th August and 1st October. Chat with local agencies and groups who have the ability to assist with loneliness, financial issues, child support and provide opportunities to offer as a volunteer.

Lulu's Café – Fridays 11am—2pm
A popular time for you to drop in for a cuppa and a chat. Food will be available too. Your choice!

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

Battlefield of the Mind, by Joyce Meyer (review for church magazine)

Have you heard of this book?

I was aware of its good reputation but have only recently read it. In March it came 5th in Christianity Magazine's list of 100 favourite Christian books. I would highly recommend it to anyone!

A great many people suffer with troubling negative thoughts such as worry, confusion or self-condemnation, which attack our mental health and steal our peace of mind.

Joyce Meyer, the popular Bible teacher and speaker, teaches us how to deal with these thoughts from a Biblical perspective and how to focus our minds on God.

Written in a straightforward and engaging style, this book is given integrity and punch by the many honest examples of Joyce's own trials, tragedies and victories.

As Christians, we need to become aware of the reality of spiritual warfare and to have faith that Christ's death and resurrection has ultimately defeated all evil.

In Part 2, Joyce explains the importance of our thoughts. She shows how we can arm ourselves with the Word of God, alongside prayer and praise, to claim God's promises for ourselves and others, and apply His truth to our everyday lives. Jesus desires to bless us with peace and mental freedom so we can hear His voice.

Some of the topics she addresses in Part 2 are resilience, keeping positive, wandering thoughts, doubt, passivity, anxiety, judgementalism, and the Mind of Christ.

In Part 3, entitled 'Wilderness Mentalities', Joyce hits home with teaching and practical advice about how to defeat ingrained habits like grumbling, self-pity, impatience or avoiding responsibility.

I think this is an excellent, extremely encouraging and challenging book which deserves to be read and re-read. There will be a copy in our church library. Alternatively, some church members have a copy!

Christine Lucas

Sunday 5th July

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Romans 7 : 15 - 25a

Matthew 11 : 16 - 19, 25- end

Sidesperson

5th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard

Celebrant

Celebrant

Gordon Baker

11.00 Family Holy Communion

President/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard

Pauline Siggers

Frances Hatfield

Jenni Blomfield & Sylvia Adams

Christine Morgan

Gwyneth Iffland

Christine Lucas & Sandra Bradford

Sunday 12th July

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Romans 8: 1 - 11

Matthew 13 : 1 - 9 : 18 -23

Sidesperson

6th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Celebrant

Celebrant

Leon Flack

11.00 Family Celebration

Leaders

Prayer Ministry

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn

Fiona Begley & Kathy Carnell

Christine Lucas

Brenda Sheppard

Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Don't forget: BRADWELL PILGIMAGE

On Saturday 4th July. Details are on page 7

And Steeple Event on the same day. Details on page 15.

Sunday 19 th July

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher
Romans 8 : 12 - 25
Matthew 13 : 24 - 30, 36 - 43
Sidesperson

7th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Morning Worship

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

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt
Linda Payne
Fiona Begley
Christine Morgan
Christine Lucas & Frances Hatfield
Gordon Baker
Sarah Prendergast & Ray Kempen

Sunday 26th July

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher
Romans 8 : 26 - end
Matthew 13 : 31 - 33, 44 - 52
Sidesperson

8th 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
Christine Morgan
Brenda Sheppard
Yvonne Thurbon & Sarah Prendergast
Sylvia Adams
Kathy Carnell
Jenni Blomfield & Dee Byford

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 July Services in brief

(Service titles and leaders only)

5th 09.15 Family Service Rev'd Peter / Brenda Sheppard

12th 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Ken Dunstan

19th 09.15 Family Service Rev'd Peter

26th 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Peter

Wheels Hooves & Paws

Sat 4th July 11am – 4pm

**Elmwood Equestrian,
CM0 8NT**

Historic Vehicles

Horse Show

Dog Show

Stalls

**Supporting Althorne, Creeksea and
Steeple churches**

Also:

**In August we shall enjoy the
STEEPLE GATHERING**

At Grange farm, Steeple

Events are supported by THE ECCENTRICS group. We hope to have many volunteers to help on the day. They are both family gatherings so everyone is welcome.

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.

August 2026	2	9	16	23	30
September 2026	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.

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.

July dates are: Fri. 3rd , 17th & 31st

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.

**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."

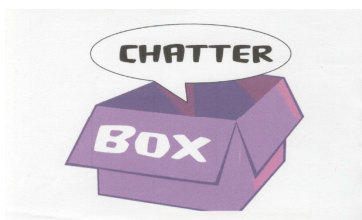
We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

PRAY FOR THE SCHOOL LEAVERS and particularly for the
special service in church on Monday 13th July

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 28th July

Cheese & Wine 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.

ANOTHER LOCAL EVENT

St Lawrence Singers present
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE
Summer Concert

Supporting
Dengie D.Caf & St Lawrence Church Centre
With Raffle, Pimms and Free Buffet

On Friday 17th July
At St Lawrence Newland Church CM0 7LN
At 7 pm
£10

Book via a choir member or phone 07717 072784

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.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	5 July	Central - East
w/b	12 July	Central - South
w/b	19 July	South-West
w/b	26 July	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

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.