PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF ST LEONARD



and also for Steeple Parish



The Church of St Lawrence & All Saints



Welcome Gathering at Maldon Quay

for our newly announced

Bishop of Bradwell

who is pictured here

with **Rt Rev'd Bishop Guli** (Bishop of Chelmsford) See page 8 for more details & his actual consecration

JULY 2023

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Articles for the August magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 16th July** New contributors are welcome. To cover our costs we have to charge for this magazine. This is now **80p per issue** or £3 for Every 4 months paid in advance. There may be changes ahead, so we have removed the annual subscription.

Vicar's Reflection

Well, beloved family of God's church in Steeple and Southminster: my sense is that God is definitely moving upon us and through us: How incredibly awe-filling, how awe-some and very, very wonderful! We are *so* very pleased, excited too, that in the Benefice we will be baptising **12** children and 7 adults during the coming months! Some of the services of baptism will be during the morning service, however there will be a few Sunday afternoon services, which will be announced. We so look forward to welcoming all these people into fellowship with us in the daily living-out of our Christian faith.

As well, we have just had a wonderful confirmation service in St. Mary's Burnham where four of our fellow parishioners confirmed their faith in God and continue their own journey as a disciple of Christ, as also are we. They become people in God's service, as are we too. These are such delightful services and mark a significant milestone in the lives of each candidates; one that will continue to sustain them through their earthly life and on into eternal life. As our four confirmation candidates make their declarations, they will be affirming their faith in the living God who will watch over, guide and protect them all their days.

As I thought about these services, I was reminded that at each service of baptism and confirmation, oil which has been blessed is used to anoint the candidates, marking them as belonging to God. A cross is marked on their foreheads by the priest or Bishop signifying setting them apart for God. As we belong to God through these sacramental services we place ourselves into His hands for Him to shape and mould us. Who knows where these baptism children will be in twenty years' time, but with the rich, beautiful and active blessing of God upon their lives, having been dedicated to God, they could achieve *any*thing.

When David was anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 16) he was a mere lad serving in the fields and looking after flocks of sheep. Then Samuel came and anointed him king and poured a horn of oil over his head. It says in 1 Samuel 16 that "the spirit of the Lord came <u>powerfully</u> upon David" anointing him to do the work that God had called him to do… and what a mighty King David turned out to be! (We will hear more about David in our coming <u>Heroes of Faith</u> preaching series). The anointing is an *out*ward sign of an *in*ward work that God is doing in our hearts, minds and bodies. There is anointing for healing, for work, and for initiation. All are active blessings from God and we continue to receive these throughout our lives.

What an enormous and exciting privilege it was that on a recent Sunday morning Rev'd. Jacqui and I were able to invite all those attending to come forward for anointing on the hands for the ministry that they are going to take on for God; it may not *yet* be known to us what God is leading us towards but... we *know* that by receiving His anointing and blessing that a work of service *will* unfold. We were so thrilled and bowled over by what God was doing, IS doing, when practically all the folks there came forward. So, I'm going to ask you now: "what has God been speaking to you about in these past weeks, where does He want you to be or what does He want you to offer to Him? ". As we start to ask God these questions, so will He reveal to us His intention. The baptism anointing sets the cross on our foreheads placing Christ before us at all times, and the anointing of our hands is for our work in the kingdom of God. God **will** bless us, with the all strength that is required, to do the work that He has in store for <u>every one of us</u> and, like David, we might often find that, when we serve Him as He has led us to, the Holy Spirit will move powerfully, awesomely, and yet oft with great gentleness, upon us. Allow Him in. Receive Him. Welcome Him. Trust Him. Wait upon His leading, for He WILL lead the way to go. By *His* Power and strength rather than our own. Let us all decide "Yes Lord".. I will... Amen... Come Lord Jesus ... Come and fill us afresh... we are Your people.

Blessings, **Peter**

Preaching Series: "Heroes of Faith" will be starting in July from 23rd onwards and we will be looking at various characters who have helped to shape our lives of faith. There will be characters like Paul, Noah, Elijah etc. so come along to hear how these people can help our faith to grow. A full list will be in the next magazine.

On Sunday 25th June we were thrilled to accompany four members of our Church Family for their Confirmation at St Mary's Church, Burnham-on-Crouch.

The service was led by Bishop Guli.

The four people are **Clare Louise Davis**

Matthew Robert Downs, Charley Sheppard Sonya Veronica Winger

Please pray for them in their new Christian life.

Also pray for all the families whose children have recently been baptised and others whose baptisms are due very soon.

The Bond Servant

In the Bible in Romans 1:1 Paul calls himself a bondservant or servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart so that he might preach the gospel. Many times, in the Old and New Testament people are referred to as servants of the Lord,



people who do God's will and in turn serve others. We know from Scripture that Jesus himself came to serve and not to be served and to give His life for us to release us from the bondage of sin and death (Mark 10:45)

We understand the term servant but what is a bond servant? I understand from early scriptures that it was a description of a slave who served his master faithfully for 6 years and in the 7th year the law of Moses required that the slave be set free. But if, when he was released, he came back and said to his master "I'm not serving you because I have to; I'm serving you because I want to", his master would then take him before a magistrate and pierce his ear signifying that he belonged and bonded to him forever (Exodus 21:6). It is said that later on in Roman times a bondservant was considered the owner's personal property with essentially no rights at all.

It's constantly good for us too to echo these words, in saying to God: "Lord, I'm not serving you because I have to; I'm serving you because I love you and I want to; mark me as yours, bond me with you so I can never belong to another." Many of us will be familiar with the expression "My word is my bond" indicating that I will always do what I have promised to do". Whether it be a promise to man or to God we need to remember all the time that our witness to others and all God's work is done in His strength and for His glory.

Romans 6 v 15-23 talks of believers being slaves of God. Slaves of righteousness. Serving Him in obedience. Not slaves that have no rights or freedom to serve but 'slaves' who want to please Jesus, to walk in his ways, obeying him and submitting to his discipline. We still hear today of modern-day slavery, of people who are forced to work for, obey, and be directly controlled by another and are considered their property. We thank God that work goes on to bring about justice in these situations.

Another form of slavery is being slaves to sin. In Romans 7 Paul himself says "I do not understand what I do, for what I want to do I do not do but what I hate I do". Paul recognises that he has a persistent sinful nature but he then thanks God who delivers him from it through Jesus. We all can be slaves to earthly ways at times, bound by earthly desires and addictions. So, what do we choose? To be slaves to the world and to be bound by and give way to our sinful nature? Or do we choose to be willing bond servants of our Lord Jesus? Paul reminds us of this promise in Romans

6:22: "Now that you have been set free from sin (by confessing your sins and accepting Jesus into your life) and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life".



Brenda Sheppard

Why did Canon Peter call our clergy and Lay Ministers to have our photo taken?

Ken Dunstan writes: We didn't know it at the time but we were about to meet the newly-announced Bishop-designate of Bradwell as Bishop Guli showed him round his new Episcopal

Area. The picture is on the cover. He is the Venerable Adam Atkinson, currently Archdeacon of Charing Cross in the Diocese of London. He has always served the Church in London Diocese.

Speaking about his appointment Adam said:

"What a joy to be invited to join in with what God is doing here in Chelmsford. I pay tribute to the



clergy and lay leaders and volunteers and servants of God in the parishes and ministries of the Bradwell Area. ... I come to serve alongside you who have also been called to work for the Kingdom of God to come in Bradwell as it is in heaven."

Welcoming Adam's appointment, Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, said:

"Adam brings great experience from his role as Archdeacon of Charing Cross, from his service in local parish ministry and from his work in mission development and church revitalisation. He is a priest with a great passion for mission and community service. ... Please join me in praying for him, and his wife Heather, as they prepare for the start of this new phase in their life and ministry." Adam was introduced to Chelmsford Diocese and the Bradwell Area with prayers at the Chapel of St Peter on the Wall, Bradwell, before visiting St Cedd's Church of England Primary School, Bradwell and people from parishes and worshipping communities during visits to Maldon Quay and Basildon.

Rev'd Ken Dunstan adds personal thoughts:

While the photographer was busy doing technical things, Adam lost no time; he went round the assembled group and introduced himself to as many people as he could. My immediate sense was that he is a warm, people-centred man, very much a man of prayer who recognises that we, like him, are called to serve God and our community and to help people to get to know Jesus.

Adam will be consecrated as Bishop of Bradwell in the Autumn and start his ministry in November.

Smile, anyone?

One of the perils of preaching is failure to read a congregation, and then to include an ill-judged joke. Sometimes this can be immortalised in famous literature. In "Cider With Rosie," Laurie Lee recalled the Vicar of his Gloucestershire village who always addressed the annual Sunday School Party with a joke intended to teach.

"What," he would ask, "is the smallest room in the world?"

Well-experienced, the children would chant,

"A mushroom."

"And the largest?"

"ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT!"

Oh, come on. That's at least worth a snigger!



Ken

Book Review of 'Visions beyond the Veil.' by Harold Armstrong Baker

Christine Lucas writes

This book has made a deep and lasting impression on me. It portrays spiritual realities extremely vividly, in a way I hadn't previously encountered. The author and his wife were missionaries working to rescue and educate Chinese orphans from the streets in Yunnan Province, during the first half of the last century. Most of all, they earnestly desired to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with these youngsters.

The book describes a truly astonishing revival with an overwhelming outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon their children's home. These children were totally uneducated, with no or little previous knowledge of the Christian faith until taught by the Bakers.

The miraculous thing is that the children were able to describe in detail the visions they were given of our Lord; to recount facts about friends who had died; and to display Biblical knowledge and references that it would have been impossible for them to have known. Swept up in the Holy Spirit, they recount rapturous experiences of Heaven; of worshipping before God's throne; of the work of angels; of the Resurrection, Rapture and the second coming of Christ; the Last Judgement; and even of Hell, demons and the antichrist.

Everything in the book is corroborated by both the Bible and mainstream evangelical Christian teaching; there is no dubious theology! I confess to having been slightly sceptical initially, but the minutiae of detail and 'coincidences' are such that no author could have invented. The narrative is infused with faith in God's enormous love for all mankind, and His desire that everyone should be rescued; that none should die without experiencing the salvation Christ has bought for us with His Blood and freely offers.

There are clear warnings about the foolishness and danger of rejecting Him, and especially of our personal responsibility to accept His gift. It is an extremely encouraging read but also disturbing to contemplate the absence of hope brought upon themselves by those who wilfully turn away from such a loving Heavenly Father and Gracious Saviour. Christians' privileged calling is to share this wonderful message. As Simon Peter said to Jesus in the Gospel, "To whom else can we turn? You have the words of eternal life!"; and we are later told by the same Peter (who became the Apostle), in the book of Acts, "There is no other name given under heaven through whom we can be saved." This slim volume is now in our church library and I have a copy which I'm happy to lend. It's also available to buy online. An extremely compelling read! Let me know what you think about it.

A little boy was sitting in a Sunday School class listening to his teacher describe how in the beginning of creation God made mankind from the dust of the earth and how after we die our bodies will decompose and we'll return to dust.

The little boy turned to his friend and he said: "You know, I think I have someone under my bed at home, but I'm not sure whether he's coming or going".

Sunday 2nd July	4th Sunday after Trinity
08.00 Holy Communion BCP	
Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter/Jenny Pratt
Genesis 22:1-14 Romans 6: 12	-end Celebrant
Matthew 10:40-end	Celebrant
Sidesperson	Gordon Baker

11.00 FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION

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

er Rev'd Peter/ Jenny Pratt Pauline Siggers Kath Dunstan Brenda Sheppard & Frances Hatfield Christine Lucas Gwyneth Iffland t.b.a.

Sunday 9th July 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

5th Sunday after Trinity

Leader/President/Preacher Rev'd Ken Dunstan Genesis 24:34- 48, 42-49 Romans 7:15-25a Celebrant Matthew 11 : 16 -19, 25 - ens Celebrant Sidesperson Paul Lucas

II.00 Family Celebration

Leaders	Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack
Readings & Prayers	Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny & Karen
Audio-visuals	Christine Morgan
Prayer Ministry	Christine Lucas & Yvonne Thurbon
Sidesperson	Leon Flack
Refreshments	Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunda 08.00	President/Preacher	n BCP Rev'd Jaco	day after Trinity qui/Norman Pratt
	Genesis 25: 19- end Matthew 13 : 1-9, 1		Celebrant Celebrant
	Sidesperson	0-25	Leon Flack
	Morning Worship		
11.00	Leader/preacher		Norman Pratt
	Readings as above	• •	ne Morgan
	Intercessions		Sheppard
	Audio-visuals	Sylvia A	••
	Prayer Ministry	,	Sarah Prendergast
	Sidesperson	• ,	ne Morgan
	Refreshments	Eira Hagger 8	Frances Hatfield
Sunda	Sunday 23rd July 7th Sunday after Trinity		
	Holy Communio	-	,
	Leader/Preacher		'ds Peter & Jacqui
	Genesis 28: 10-19a;		Celebrant
	Matthew 13 : 24 - 3	0, 36-43	Celebrant
	Sidesperson		Pete Adams
11.00	Morning Worship		
	Leader/Preacher		eter & Jacqui
	Readings as above	Linda Pa	•
	Intercessions	Normar	-
	Prayer Ministry	Sylvia Adam	ns & Keith Hatfield
	Audio-Visuals	Christin	e Morgan
	Sidesperson	Nigel W	inger
	Refreshments	Christine Lucas &	Sandra Billinghurst
See de	tails for 30th July on	page 15	

Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on the church door. We have Morning Prayer with activities for children on the first and third Sunday each month,



and Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays. An on-line service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on

www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Please mark your diary with Steeple PCC's summer fundraising events.

Fun for all the Family

On Saturday 29th July

"Wheels, Hooves and Paws"

at the Equestrian Centre, Burnham-on-Crouch. CM0 8NT This year there will be both horse competitions and dog shows supporting the historic vehicle displays.

Please contact Jean Ingram on 07748 666 066 for general information or John Ward on 01621 773 606 for historic vehicle entries. See the green poster on the notice board.

Further ahead, on **Sunday 20th August,**

"Steeple Historic Gathering"

will follow its established format but at a new location. This year we'll be using a meadow at Little Ash Tree Farm, Steeple Road, Mayland by kind permission of Duncan McLaren. Although this event will be further from the centre of Steeple, we hope village organisations and local traders will still regard this as their "Steeple Show". Perhaps being closer to Mayland, with its larger population, may increase the number of visitors.

Steeple Church contacts in addition to the Benefice Team:

Rhona Leech, Churchwarden & PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Churchwarden, Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

Sunday 30th July8th Sunday after Trinity08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher Rev'd Peter Readings Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1b-11 Celebrant Matthew 10:24 - 39 Celebrant Sidesperson Paul Lucas

II.00 UNITED Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher Readings as above Intercessions Prayer Ministry Audio-Visuals Sidesperson Refreshments Rev'ds Peter & Anne Sardeson Susan Gendreau Rev'ds Peter & Anne Brenda Sheppard & Frances Hatfield Christine Morgan Paul Lucas t.b.a. **CHATTERBOX**: as described opposite....We are an open door to people who like to come along. We also have jigsaws on the go and a Craft table from which we have exhibited some of the amazing items made in the Flower Show. We are hoping in the future to have a computer to use to help people enhance their computer skills. We are a friendly group and would love more people to come and enjoy a warm space and good company. Recently made greeting cards are available on most Thursdays. It has been good to welcome occasionally groups of people from Squeaks Nursing Home.

On a practical level, if anyone has any Jigsaws they would like to donate or lend to the group we would be very grateful as we get through quite a few in a year!!

Any enquiries to: Norman or: Brenda

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

I prayerfully decided to start the "Together Apart" facebook group at the beginning of the first lockdown and posted on the page at least 6 days of each week. 3 years on lockdowns now seem to be long behind us and the interaction with the group is now minimal so after a lot of thought and prayer it was decided that I would no longer post on this group daily.

The group will remain open and I will occasionally post things that I think may be of interest. Please feel free to post on there too.

Thanks to all those who have interacted over the past three years.

Karen Flack

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL Depending on how the Omicron Virus Regulations are, we hope that the following gatherings will take place.

LUNCH CLUB meets on Mondays.

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



CHATTERBOX

meets on Thursday mornings 10 am-12 noon. Everybody is welcome – come along for a chat, activities if you would like to join them and a cuppa and a biscuit for \pounds 1.00. No entry charge.

There are other groups too. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer to help us in running this valuable community organisation, please just attend and think about it. It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

This will now meet every week on Tuesdays from 10 am - noon at Christ Church, North Street.

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet in the hall on July 25th

Speaker: Steve Scruton with A Birthday Party

Competition – Magic with a Scarf

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



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.

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 2023	3	10	17	24	
October 2023	1	8	15	22	29

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

Henry Club

Again, I want to say a big thank you to all the team who help at Henry Club which of course is named after one of our trusty vacuum cleaners!! We meet once a fortnight on a Friday from 9am – 11am and helpers do as much as they are able. We do our



best, but do need extra helpers, and it would be great if someone could perhaps 'Adopt the Chapel' as it has been so lovingly looked after in the past and we also need someone to vacuum the carpets in the main church. If you feel you would like to help with the interior cleaning at any time, please contact me even if you can only come every now and then. It would be great to have you onboard and for you to be comfortable in the task or tasks you would prefer to do.

Brenda Sheppard

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that most restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and continue cautiously during 2023. Any changes 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.

This year's Bradwell Pilgrimage will be held on Saturday 1st July From 10.30 am until 4 pm.

As usual it will begin at St Thomas' Church, Bradwell and people will walk to St Peter's on the Wall. (There will be bus transport for those who cannot walk.)

There will be services in the chapel,

Speakers on the outside stage, include Patrick Regan OBE from Kitsugi Hope

In the marquee there will be a variety of stalls and some craft activities suitable for people of all ages.

Free Holiday Club 2023

GO BANANAS

at St.Leonard's Church Southminster

Tuesday 22nd August to Thursday 24th August

Celebration Service on Sunday 27th August followed by Family Barbecue

Open to Primary age children residents of Southminster and Steeple and the schools of Southminster & St. Mary's Burnham

Registration and booking forms **from Tuesday 30th May** -Available from - school, church and online Places limited - book early to save disappointment. For more information contact Jenny 01621 772510



We raised £329.68 this year. Some people gave money on line so that is not included in our total.

Of course, we can always donate to Christian Aid throughout the year and we are aware that some people do this. Here is a letter which was sent to Rupert Killick, our financial leader.

Thank you for helping dreams come true this May

As May comes to a close, we celebrate the blessing of our supporters and volunteers alongside everyone who has given, prayed and campaigned with us this Christian Aid Week.

Driven by your desire to stand with the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world, you have come together to help bring transformation to the lives of our global neighbours and we are so grateful for your support.

Thank you to our envelope deliverers and collectors, our Big Pea Challengers, our cake bakers and plant growers, our quiz masters and treasurers, our tech gurus and more. Thank you to every single one of you. Christian Aid week happens because of you. Your support has helped people like Esther plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for their crops, and build happier futures for their children.

Once again thank you so much for supporting Christian Aid Week this year. With every gift, every prayer, every action, you bring more people the chance to live full lives, free from poverty. With heartfelt thanks,

Your Christian Aid Week Team

Coming this month

SOUTHMINSTER FLOWER SHOW

at King George V Memorial Ground, Station Road on Saturday 15th July

Dengie Hundred Horticultural Society have produced a detailed list (as usual) of all the areas where people can submit their exhibition items which will be judged on the day. Their marquee will open for public viewing at 2pm The Floral Art Section is always popular.

There will be plenty of tents and stalls providing brilliant information and activities for people of all ages.

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.

PRAY	FOR SO	UTHMINSTER:
w/b	2 July	Central - North-West
w/b	9 July	Central - East
w/b	l 6 July	Central - South
w/b	23 July	South - West
w/b	30 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

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 12-13 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 Prayers

'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 new course details will be on the notice board and at the back of church.