

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

and also for Steeple Parish

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

StL



St Francis
of Assisi

Photo by Dorothee
Queennesson from
Troisvilles, France.

See page 5 for reference to St Francis.

NOVEMBER 2025

*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night
will never cease.” Genesis 8:22*

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the December
magazine should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 16th November
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 November

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22

During the past month we have enjoyed two wonderful Harvest celebrations. Thank you to all who organised, shopped, cooked, provided, set up and cleared up at the Supper in the Barn and the lunch in church. They were great times to be together and to enjoy fellowship as we share lovely food together.

As we came into the churches, we saw an abundance of produce, colour and a variety of different things that have been donated and given to God. The sight and smell made a feeling of wellbeing and peace.

St. Francis of Assisi wrote some words that later became a song for us that contained the words “it is in giving that we receive” and that wellbeing and peace is what we receive from God, as we give to Him.

We have had, over these past two months, a mini series entitled Generous God – Generous Disciples where we have discovered the abundance of God that is given to us daily and for which we thank Him. Out of the abundance that God gives to us do we give to Him, and we have learnt through this series that as we are moulded into the likeness of God, so we become like Him in every aspect. The generosity of God has

held no bounds, for He has not withheld anything from us but pours out to us in His goodness.

On our Sunday mornings we saw how much God had provided for His people through the Old Testament and into the New. The provision of a Ram when Abraham took his son to the mountain to sacrifice to God. The provision of Manna in the desert for the Israelites, not just occasionally but everyday (except the Sabbath!). The amazing provision of Quail in the desert – again, six days a week; the incredible abundance of fish caught in the net when the fishermen had caught none.

This is the generosity of God who provides when there is nothing! As we worshipped together, we heard testimonies of how God had met needs in a miraculous way and the gratitude in the fact that He gives. I wonder how many times each of you has experienced a provision in your life that was unexpected – an answer to prayer in a desperate time, and how God came through and answered. Our God is a faithful God, as the saying goes ‘God doesn’t come when we expect Him to come; but He is always right on time!’

In the same trust, we give to God in our time, talent, goods and money. We give in the knowledge that He first gave to us and we give back to Him out of the abundance that He has poured out to us. Our giving is in joy as we realise how much God has given to us.

Harvest is an ideal example of God's abundant provision – we pray that God will continue to bless the work of our hands, and the hands of all those who provide and gather our food.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter,
day and night will never cease.”

May we be as faithful as our God is to us. Amen.

Blessings, Peter

Coming up. This month in St Leonard's church

Sunday Nov. 2nd at 4 pm

MEMORIAL SERVICE for all to spend time remembering lost loved ones.

16th Nov. Deanery Confirmation Service at All Saints Maldon. If you have not been confirmed yet and would like to, then speak to the Vicar or a member of the Leadership team for information.

Sunday 30th Nov. At 3.30 pm we will host a Christingle Service and afterwards we will move outside for the street lights to be switched on.

There will also be a TOY SERVICE (New, carefully checked toys and other items please to be taken to a Women's Refuge as usual)

Swimming Against the Tide

by Brenda Sheppard

How good a swimmer are you? I'm certainly not a swimmer. I find it a struggle to move a few feet in the water and, getting down into a swimming pool now is nigh on impossible!

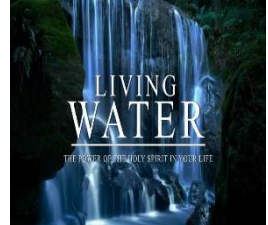
As opposed to a swimming pool it can often take much more effort to swim in the sea especially when having to swim against the tide. I always look in amazement at the example of salmon born in freshwater. The salmon then go to spend most of their lives in the ocean and then swim upstream and return to the place of fresh water they were born in to lay their eggs to reproduce. Often a very long, real uphill struggle with I'm sure many casualties along the way.



Do you ever feel you are swimming against the tide? Is life an uphill struggle and you don't seem to move very far. Is it hard for you to go with the flow? Is the tide often out for you with the feeling of plodding through mud each day.

As Christians we, especially in the tough times, constantly need to praise God from whom all blessings flow. Just as blood flows through our bodies to keep us healthy so we need to guard our heart for everything we do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23) We need to let go of worldly distractions and fill our hearts and minds with Godly things and to often push against the tide of popular belief.

Jesus often ‘swam against the tide’ as his teachings and lifestyle went against the cultural norms and religious expectations of his time. We, too, have to swim against the tide at times. The amazing thing is that we know that as believers the Holy Spirit within us is the living water which flows through us and refreshes us (John 7:39). Let’s remember when we may be feeling really low in spirit that Jesus says “Come to me you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” One thing we do know is that with our hearts safely in His hands our lives will always flow in the right direction.



Prayer Ministry on Sundays after the 11am 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.

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.

Quiz Night at St Leonard's Saturday 8th November.

Come along and enjoy an evening of fun and test your knowledge at our Quiz Night on Saturday 8th November.

Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

Food will be included within the £12 per person entry charge.

There will be a 'prize' for the winners
and booby prize for the bottom scorers.

This event has been a great success in past years, and we look forward to seeing you there.

For further information and to confirm your food choices, please contact Jenny Pratt or Kathy Carnell

Harvest Lunch

Following our Family Celebration service on Sunday 12th October, we gathered in fellowship for a lunch that was enjoyed by 48 attendees.

This annual event is held to show gratitude to our Lord God for providing these gifts on earth. It also includes gratitude for the crops that have been grown and harvested, and for the farmers who produce the food. It is also a time to remember those who don't have enough and to share with those in need, both locally and globally.

I would like to thank all volunteers for their help and support.

HOW?

When you are an ordinary person,
How do you get by?
When the problems of this world
Seem, by day to multiply.
How do you look forward
When things try to get you down?
How do you keep smiling
When you'd rather wear a frown?
How do you keep going
When the way ahead seems drear?
How do you keep hoping
When your heart is troubled by fear?
The solution to your problems
Is really very plain
Just turn your eyes to Jesus
And His promise to you claim
"I will never leave you
I will help you to stand
When you can't face your problems
My child, take my hand.
I will help you fight your battles,
I will make your pathway clear,
Just believe me and my promise
Because I am always here"

By
**Jenifer
Sims**
1976

Sunday 2nd November

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Ephesians 1 : 11—end
Luke 6 : 20 - 31
Sidesperson

4th Sunday before Advent

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 Family Holy Communion

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

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt
Gwyneth Iffland
Brenda Sheppard
Keith Hatfield & Kathy Carnell
Christine Morgan
Gwyneth Iffland
Sandra Bradford & Christine Lucas

16.00 Memorial Service

(See page 5)

Sunday 9th November

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
2 Thessalonians 2 : 1-5, 13-end
Luke 20 : 27 - 38
Sidesperson

REMEMBRANCE Sunday

Rev'd Peter
Celebrant
Celebrant
Leon Flack

10.00 Special Remembrance service

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

Rev'd Peter
Christine Morgan
Norman Pratt
Fiona Begley & Yvonne Thurbon
Sylvia Adams
Gordon Baker
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 16th November**2nd Sunday before Advent****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

2 Thessalonians 3 : 6 - 13

Luke 21 : 5 - 19

Sidesperson

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Celebrant

Celebrant

Paul Lucas

11.00 Family Celebration & SHOEBOX SERVICE

Leaders

Prayer Ministry

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn

Jenni Blomfield & Christine Lucas

Christine Morgan

Brenda Sheppard

Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 23rd November**Christ the King****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Colossians 1: 11 – 20

Luke 23 : 33 - 44

Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter/ Norman Pratt

Celebrant

Celebrant

Keith Hatfield

10.15 Morning Worship**CAFÉ CHURCH**

Leader/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt

Pauline Siggers

Fiona Begley

Frances Hatfield & Sarah Prendergast

Christine Lucas

Paul Lucas

Dee Byford, Jenni Blomfield
& Pam Morris

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 was beautifully decorated with fresh produce, provisions and flowers for our Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October. We gave thanks for the gardens, fields and orchards that have done well in 2025 in spite of the recent shortage of rain. The large congregation showed their appreciation by enthusiastically singing the well known harvest hymns.

After the service, we moved to the barn at West Newlands where we joined with our St Lawrence Church neighbours for an excellent Harvest Supper.

A few days later, a 'car boot full' of fruit and vegetables was delivered to a woman's refuge in Pitsea. We also

took six shopping bags filled with non-perishable provisions to the Dengie Food Bank.

As the seasons move on, we prepare for Remembrance Sunday in a year when we celebrated the eightieth anniversary of the end of World War 2.

Steeple Church contacts:

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

Fiona Ashworth, Churchwarden,

Rhona Leech, Assistant Churchwarden

& PCC Secretary

Teresa Julien, Assistant Warden,

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

And back to St Leonard's Southminster.....

Sunday 30th November

1st Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter/ Brenda Sheppard

Corinthians 1 : 3 - 9

Celebrant

Mark 13 : 24 - end

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Paul Lucas

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter/ Brenda Sheppard

Readings as above

Linda Payne

Intercessions

Frances Hatfield

Prayer Ministry

Christine Lucas & Sylvia Adams

Audio-visuals

Christine Morgan

Sidesperson

Kath Dunstan

Refreshments

Sarah Prendergast & Ray Kempen

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.

November dates are: 7th and 21st

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.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Please remember to collect your shoebox from the church so that you can return it ... filled ... by November 16th for I am service.



As explained in the brochure,
WHEN YOU PACK THE BOX — PRAY

You never know how God is going to use the box. They go in many ways to children in some of the most isolated areas of the world.

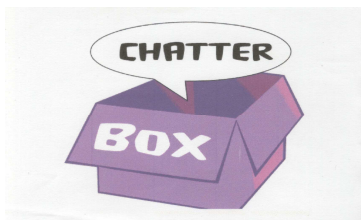
IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS.

As usual, our contributions will be greatly appreciated.

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 November 25th

Speaker: Mike Shuker "Merchant Navy"

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.

December 2025	7	14	21	28
January 2026	4	11	18	25

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.

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 November events

Annual **QUIZ** in church (See page 8)

SHOEBOX SERVICE (See page 14)

will be on 16th November at 11 am

For people to bring their offerings if they have not already given them to someone at church.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE (See page 5)

On Sunday 30th November at 3.30 pm

And a TOY SERVICE will happen too.

New toys etc. for children and toiletries etc. for women will be taken to the local Refuge.

ALTHORNE CHURCH

Invite us to their **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

at Church Hall on Sat. 22nd Nov 11am-3pm

Proceeds go to church repair funds.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	2 November	Central - South
w/b	9 November	South - West
w/b	16 November	Central - West
w/b	23 November	North - East
w/b	30 November	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

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 (9.30 am) and Thursdays (7.30 pm)



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