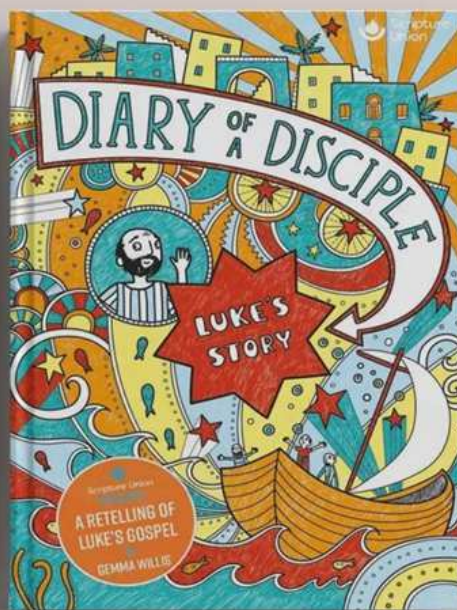


**PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER
MAGAZINE OF THE
CHURCH OF ST LEONARD**

StL



and also for Steeple Parish
**The Church of
St Lawrence & All Saints**



Holiday Club August: 19th -21st

**Worshipping with children is possible
and valuable. We answer together
Jesus' question: "Who do you say I am?"
(Luke 9:20)**

- 3 Reflection Norman Pratt
- 5 Community Hub: Details of its Grand Opening
- 6 How qualified are you? Brenda Sheppard
- 7 Prayer Ministry available
- 8 The Jewel in the heartChristine Lucas
- 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during August**
- 12 Steeple Church NewsPeter Marshall
- 13 **More Southminster services**
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team updateBrenda 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?

*We hope to have full reports
about SOUTHMINSTER
FLOWER SHOW in our
next magazine.*

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
*Articles for the September
 magazine should be with
 Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
 Sunday 24th August
 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!)

Reflection

by Norman Pratt

What do we mean by this word 'Reflection' we have as a heading in every church magazine? I always think of August as supremely the month for reflection. Well, I would do, wouldn't I, having been a schoolteacher for most of my working life. What else would I be doing for those 6 weeks of holiday?! But other suitable occasions spring to mind. Some people become suddenly reflective at the end of December, and ask themselves whether it was a good or bad year. Some of us do more disciplined reflecting during Lent.

Perhaps it's more important to do some reflection every day as part of our daily pattern of prayer, when we have a quiet time of prayer or read a passage from the Bible. At one time I read from the daily readings in 'Daily Light'. Every day this book presents verses from all over the Bible on a common theme. Daily Bible notes are also very helpful, as most of us need guidance about what to reflect on. But perhaps it is even better to read passages from the Bible 'neat' as it were, especially from Psalms or from the Gospels and just trust the Holy Spirit to help us understand.

Some draw their inspiration from Radio or Television programmes. Radio is especially useful as you can catch programmes whilst on the move. I generally catch 'Pause for Thought' on Radio 1 every morning. Other reflections are available on other channels! Personal prayer should I think always be accompanied with a degree of reflection. Even when we are using a set prayer like The Lord's Prayer we need to be thinking about what the words and phrases mean, not just saying the words.

There is, of course, nothing quite like talking directly to God, an amazing privilege we have through our Saviour Jesus Christ, and

the very fact of having to say something to Him or perhaps more often asking Him to do something forces us to think or reflect on what we are saying.

Coming to God in collective worship offers perhaps a different range of things to reflect upon. Services of Holy Communion are a particular occasion for reflection. To an outsider it might appear it is regimented with worshippers all doing the same thing. In fact it's almost the opposite, isn't it? We all come as ourselves, just as we are, and eat bread and drink wine while reflecting on what we are doing.

Morning Worship on Sunday on the other hand is a service that offers an opportunity for a different kind of reflection. One thing that can sometimes be missed from our personal reflections and prayer is worship. Morning Worship always starts with words of worship. We reflect, using words from the Bible, often directly from the Psalms, and acknowledging the God who made and redeemed us.

Throughout the history of the Christian Church, Christians have felt themselves wanting to reflect more deeply in order to draw closer to God. The first step was often to reflect on their sins and foul-ups of the day, ask God's forgiveness and move on. The next was often to own up to the 'hidden sins', the ones they had not been aware of. In the early Church some became hermits in order to live in isolation in order to concentrate on God. Later Christians sought to get closer to God by living as monks in monasteries or nunneries. Personally I'm thankful that we can reflect and concentrate on God in our (extraordinary) everyday lives.

Norman

The Hive Grand Opening

Saturday 9th August 2pm - 5 pm
at Christ Church URC, North Street, Southminster

Join us for an afternoon packed with fun.

Lulu's Café will be serving delicious refreshments
and sharing all the buzz about this incredible project.

Meet the amazing team from the Dengie Foodbank
and learn about the incredible support they provide to our community

Satisfy your sweet tooth with a treat from JB Ices,
because every celebration needs ice cream!

Explore craft skills, discover local treasures,
and dive into all the exciting activities coming soon to the Hive.

Stop by our Volunteer Station to see how you can get involved.
Whether you're ready to lend a hand or just curious,
leave your details and let's make a difference together!

Do you have something amazing to showcase?
We'd love for you to have a stall on the day
to represent all the things happening in our village.

Mark your calendars and bring your friends and family
It won't be the same without you!

For further information please contact
communityworker.dengieurcs@gmail.com

*All the information above can be viewed on the colourful poster
which is displayed in church.*

How qualified are you?

Do you have many qualifications? Did you leave school or further education with lots of certificates? Have you gained more since? So often we need these qualifications to get a job or take on some voluntary work. You might say that you don't really have any qualifications of any use but it's never too late to acquire another skill and we all have life skills that can be used to help another.



We often see in job advertisements that experience isn't necessary as training will be given. When we look at Jesus calling his first disciples, ordinary men, called in to a whole new world, away from the familiar. He used their work backgrounds and their skills to further his Kingdom, each one complimenting the other to work and use their skills as a team just as we do today.

The disciples spent 3 years with Jesus being trained to be able to go out into the world with the Good News of the Kingdom of God and he used their life skills gained to His and their advantage. We, too, have the ultimate trainer through the Holy Spirit who Jesus promised would come and be with us as our trainer and guide.

Some of us have to work hard at achieving a specific goal in life. I felt at the age of 39 that the Lord wanted me to learn to drive! I had tried at age 17 and then 22 but wasn't confident and gave up! I battled with the idea of trying again and really didn't want to put myself through it and fail again, but I did!! It took me a year and 4 tests to get my licence. Driving for me

opened up a whole new world and so many new work opportunities, new friends made and qualifications gained.

Let's look at our backgrounds, what have we achieved? What have we learned that can be used today to help others? What jobs or positions can we apply for with the experience we've gained? Even if we feel unqualified in an area, if God calls us, he will equip us with all we need. I know I learned so much from my driving test failures and continue to learn in all areas. I feel it is right to explore new challenges and even if it is tough going at times, with the occasional tears, the rewards are immense.

Deuteronomy 31:8 says:
"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you He will never leave you nor forsake you, do not be afraid do not be discouraged." After all our God does not always call the qualified but He loves to qualify the called!



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.

Christine Lucas writes..... “The Jewel in the heart”

Recently I was struck afresh by a verse from Ecclesiastes which tells us that “God has set eternity in the human heart.” Ecclesiastes 3:11. This reminded me of the well-known saying that, “There is a God-shaped hole in the heart of every person,” which I found to originate with the renowned 17th century French Catholic mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal. So what does this mean?

One Bible commentator suggests that we each have an inborn sense that life will continue beyond this present existence, although God prevents us from being able to fathom the mysteries of creation. Our heart or spirit is what marks us as being created in God's image, and is the essence of a person. By placing eternity within our hearts, God has given us the desire to know Him and communicate with Him. This potential makes humans uniquely precious to God. He has created a longing within us that can only be satisfied by Himself. As St Augustine of Hippo famously commented, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." Although our bodies are mortal, we are created as eternal beings intended to live for ever in God's Presence. Jesus teaches that there will be a Last Judgement when God will decide our eternal destiny, depending upon our response to His offer of salvation. If we reject Him then we shall still live forever, because we are eternal beings, but tragically apart from Him. Eternal death is an unthinkable dreadful prospect! However, for Christians, God's perfect love casts out all fear! The Good News is that, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life!” John 3:16.

Humans try all kinds of well-documented ways to satisfy our inner longing for meaning and purpose in our lives which can denote an unacknowledged desire for the eternal. The pursuit of money, fame or power; various over-indulgences; and many excellent things such as caring, charitable work, careers, art, crafts, science, music and sports, etcetera. Obviously all these things can be very fulfilling, up to a point! We do not necessarily recognise what we desire, but Christians believe and experience that Jesus Christ is the only One who can save us from death and fulfil our deepest need for ultimate meaning and peace with God.

By setting eternity within the human heart, like a jeweller placing a precious stone within an attractive setting, our Creator and Heavenly Father has given each person an exquisite gift: the potential to have an eternal, loving relationship with Himself, in fellowship with other believers. Our relationship with Him is for the present as well as the future; it's not just cerebral, or a feeling. The wonderful truth is that if we repent of our wrongdoing and invite Christ into our hearts we can be born again into His family! He calls us, not for our selfish satisfaction, but because He loves us and wants to teach us how to serve Him. We can listen to Him, and walk and talk with our Lord and Saviour every day, receiving His ongoing forgiveness, guidance, strength and consolation.

The writer of Ecclesiastes believed that life is ultimately meaningless; he saw death as the end of life, with no definite hope or promise of any life after this one, so he tells us to make the most of our short lifespans. Basically, he concludes that we should fear God, work hard and enjoy life. Nothing is wrong with that! Yet the statement that God has set eternity in the human heart seems to belie this teaching, hinting at something deeper, something wonderful to be realised in the future as part of God's plan of salvation.

This writer, thought by some scholars to be Solomon, believed in God, and might have believed in a promised Messiah, but he had no knowledge of Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Saviour. We, on the contrary, living after New Testament times, are privileged to know about Him and to be able to experience Him through the Holy Spirit who comes to live in our hearts. So our inner emptiness can be filled with the 'jewel' of His Presence! This is a miracle that can happen for each of us and for our family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances who do not yet believe. Our hearts are the setting crafted by God to hold His priceless gift. The Gospel challenge to each of us is whether we are willing to repent of our wrongdoing and turn to Christ in faith. As 2025 continues apace, we can all hold fast to the Christmas message: Emmanuel - God is with us; and rejoice in our Easter proclamation that Christ has risen! As the old chorus says, "He lives, ... Christ Jesus lives today...salvation to impart; ...He lives within our hearts" If we have not already done so, He is waiting for us to invite Him in. Nowhere in Scripture does God promise us an easy life, but He does promise that He will always be alongside us to sustain us with His Love. As we learn to follow Him.

Sunday 3rd August**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher
 Colossians 3 : 1 - 11
 Luke 12 : 13 - 21
 Sidesperson

7th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Paul Lucas

11.00 Family Holy Communion

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

Rev'd Peter
 Kath Dunstan
 Brenda Sheppard
 Frances Hatfield & Yvonne Thurbon
 Christine Morgan
 Gwyneth Iffland
 Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

Sunday 10th August**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher
 Hebrews 11: 1 - 3, 8 - 16
 Luke 12 : 32 - 40
 Sidesperson

8th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Gordon Baker

11.00 Family Celebration

Leaders
 Prayer Ministry
 Audio-visuals
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn
 Christine Lucas & Kathy Carnell
 Sylvia Adams
 Brenda Sheppard
 Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 17th August**9th Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter /Brenda Sheppard

Hebrews 11 : 29 - 12 : 2

Celebrant

Luke 12 : 49 - 56

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter /Brenda Sheppard

Readings as above

Pauline Siggers

Intercessions

Fiona Begley

Prayer Ministry

Sarah Prendergast & Sylvia Adams

Audio-Visuals

Christine Morgan

Sidesperson

Kath Dunstan

Refreshments

Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 24th August**10th Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Hebrews 12 : 18 - end

Celebrant

Luke 13 : 10 - 17

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Keith Hatfield

10.15 Morning Worship**HOLIDAY CLUB SERVICE
CAFÉ CHURCH**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter/ Jenny Pratt

Readings as above

Rev'd Peter/ Jenny Pratt

Intercessions

Rev'd Peter/ Jenny Pratt

Audio-Visuals

Paul Lucas

Sidesperson

Gordon Baker

Refreshments

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

Wheels Hooves & Paws at Elmwood Equestrian on 12th July enjoyed ideal weather, hot and dry but with a refreshing breeze from the River Crouch.

People could browse many stalls offering a wide selection of products or could simply spend time with their friends at our refreshment marquee.

Some came to see the varied cars, motorcycles, tractors and military vehicles on display, others were taking part in the Horse Show competitions or the various Dog Show activities. There really was 'something for everyone'.

Now we move forward to making the final arrangements for Steeple Gathering in Grange Farm meadow on Sunday 17th August.



More Southminster details

Sunday 31st August

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Hebrews 13 : 1 - 8 , 15 - 16

Luke 14 : 1 , 7 - 14

Sidesperson

11th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter /Norman / Jenny

Celebrant

Celebrant

Paul Lucas

11.00 Morning Worship

Leaders

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Jenny Pratt / Norman Pratt

Linda Payne

Frances Hatfield

Keith Hatfield & Fiona Begley

Christine Lucas

Brenda Sheppard

Volunteers

There will again be plenty of interesting vehicles and excellent refreshments. No animal competitions - but there will be several old stationary engines driving bits of historic machinery from the era before electricity reached rural farms.

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,

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.

August dates are: 1st, 15th and 29th

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

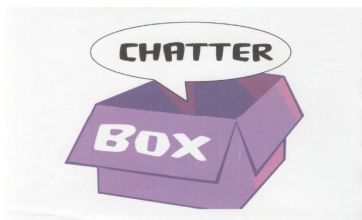
As usual, the day after Saturday Club is our Family
Celebration in the church at 11 am.

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 26th August

There will be no speaker; it is a garden 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.

September 2025	7	14	21	28
October 2025	5	12	19	26

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 August

2nd August from 2 pm - 5 pm

SOUTHMINSTER RESIDENTIAL HOME FETE

Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB

at St Leonard's Church

Followed by Celebration Service on Sunday 24th

Saturday 9th August at Christ Church URC

Grand Opening of THE HIVE (See page 5)

Sunday 17th August

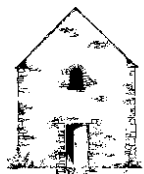
STEEPLE HISTORIC GATHERING (See p. 12)

on the Grange Farm Meadow

Every Sunday evening at 6pm

at Bradwell St Peter's Chapel

Expressing Christian worship in different forms



3rd Confirmation Service with Bishop Adam

10th Orthodox Christian Youth UK

17th The Methodist Church in Britain

24th Mid Essex Quakers Meeting

31st United Songs of Praise

with Archdeacon Jonathan

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	3 August	Central - East
w/b	10 August	Central - South
w/b	17 August	South - West
w/b	24 August	Central - West
w/b	31 August	North - East





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 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, but none during August..