

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

StL



and also for Steeple Parish

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



APRIL 2024

Jesus died on the cross.
Jesus rose again; Hallelujah!
We have been saved through His death
and now we have life in all its fullness.

- 3 Vicar's Reflection Rev'd Peter Begley
- 5 The PCC - Is it for me?
- 6 Why have a Mentor Brenda Sheppard
- 7 **ECO** tip of the month (from A Rocha)
- 8 Let's enjoy travelling well together
- 9 You never know Chris Martin
- 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during April**
- 12 Steeple Church News Peter Marshall
- 13 Laws of aerodynamics ?? !!
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team update Brenda Sheppard
Food Pantry details ----- Bereavement group
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox
Little Lions and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas)
Community Hub update
Christian Aid Week is coming
- 17 Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Southminster church Concerts this month
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the May magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 14th April
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

Recently my car broke down. I was in Burnham and a warning light came on to say “Charging system failure—Service urgent”. This was a note not to be ignored. So, I drove home! When I opened the car bonnet I saw that the alternator belt had completely snapped so was not turning the alternator which charges the battery. A simple fix, just renew the fan belt. Ha! Easier said than done. To get to the fan belt you need a hoist to get underneath the car to reach the bolts that adjust the belt. All too complicated; so, I took it to the garage for them to repair.

In the meantime, I thought I would hire a car for a couple of days as I needed transport to meet with colleagues etc. I got in contact with a hire company who asked for a photo of my driving licence for insurance purposes. Duly photographed and sent but then the hire company phoned back and said “We cannot help you this time as your licence has expired!” Well ... I mean, who checks their card-version driving licence? It is like many other things today, we need to renew licences, insurances, subscriptions and the like; so many things that now have an annual payment. Usually there is a reminder a few weeks before to say that the subscription has gone up (what doesn't these days?) and the renewal will be due on such and such date. There had been no reminder from DVLA to let me know that the card-version of my driving licence would expire. We did manage to get a licence renewal and the car has been repaired and all is well.

This train of events made me think though..... about ‘renewal’. The Christian faith offers renewal of life to those

who would come to God, however, there is not any mention in scripture that it is an annual event, nor is there any cost, nor any caveat or clause that would stop our purpose of being 'in' God. There are just two mentions of renewal in the New Testament – one is the renewal of all things when Christ shall come again (Matthew 19:28), and the other is when we decide to follow Christ, we are renewed by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) once, and for all time! We will however, need to 'renew' our thinking to bring our thoughts in line with God's thoughts. The Titus reading says "..... He (Jesus) saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

We may have a super insurance policy which covers many things, or a car that is ultra-reliable but both will be subject to annual renewals of some sort, fan belts break and licences expire but this is not the case with God – our salvation is bought at the cost of Jesus' death on the cross. He died and rose again that we might have life in its fulness – now, and into eternity.

Hallelujah, He is risen!

Rev'd Peter

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.

THE PCC - IS IT FOR ME?

Before our Annual Church Meeting, this year at St. Leonard's on the 21st April, our existing PCC (Parochial Church Council) members have to decide whether they want to stand again for election and serve the church in this way for another year.



It's always great to see new church members come onto the PCC after they have been nominated to join. Being a member gives us the opportunity to be informed of the many aspects of Church life and how to implement the working of them and serving God and the church in the best way.

The PCC meet bi-monthly and reports and updates are given by the sub teams formed within the PCC and appropriate decisions made. There is always a full agenda and we always start with a time of worship in the form of a reading from Scripture and prayer to dedicate the meeting to God.

Serving on the PCC is a responsibility and also a real privilege, and although we often have a lot of agenda items to get through, we do have some light hearted moments and do I dare say "fun" at times. If anyone feels called or prompted to serve in this way please speak to Rev'ds Peter or Jacqui. You will be made so welcome. (*Brenda Sheppard*)

PLEASE NOTE

The Launch event for the **Community Hub** had been planned for 19th April but that has been changed. A new date will be publicised as soon as it is available. Rev'd Jacqui will have the information.

Why have a Mentor??

Most of us throughout our lives have need of a mentor. A mentor being someone who provides guidance and encourages and empowers personal development. A mentor identifies and can correct gaps in our knowledge be it in schools, the workplace or in our church life. A mentor is someone who believes in us and grows with us and by working together we can always learn from each other. Proverbs 27:17 sums it up well: “As iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another.” It’s always good to tap into the knowledge and experience of someone further along in a role than ourselves. Godly mentorship plays a huge part in standing firm spiritually.



I have been very fortunate in the three years in my role as Authorised Local Preacher that I have had really good mentoring from those in authority which I have truly valued and have learned and am still learning valuable lessons from.

In the Bible we see many examples of good mentoring. The one I love reading about is the relationship between Elijah and Elisha. Elijah in 1 Kings 19 was told by God to anoint Elisha to succeed him as a prophet. Elisha, after encountering Elijah, let go of his work, possessions and family and set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

By serving Elijah for some years Elisha learned through watching and helping his master and great was his commitment to his mentor, and on Elijah’s death Elisha picked up his ministry.

I Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to encourage one another and build each other up. In St. Leonard's Southminster and Steeple church we are always being encouraged by our leadership to take up new challenges and from them new ministries are being formed.



It is encouraged in our Christian walk, especially if taking up training for a new role, to have a spiritual advisor or mentor. We all need human input and especially the input and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

What an example Jesus was when He mentored his 12 disciples for 3 years. Not an easy task for Him at times with all their different personalities and differing stages of faith but he had called them and believed in them. Let us believe in each other and work with each other as we travel along in our life journeys and our own personal developments.

Brenda Sheppard

Eco tip of the month from A Rocha: April

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. Reevaluate your journeys: explore walking or cycling options, or modify your route to include some form of active travel, i.e. disembark a stop early and complete the remaining part of your journey on foot, indulge in a leisurely stroll, or opt for a bike ride along a cyclist-friendly route. Consider connecting with your local Ramblers or cycling group for shared experiences. Use the extra steps or the changed travel arrangements as a prompt to pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuels.

Let's enjoy **travelling well together!**

This magazine regularly reports how our Church members carry out their local roles in the Southminster and Steeple community. Such roles are appreciated because being church members is not just being committed to attending Sunday services. It is also sharing God's love among our families and neighbours. If you find this a bit daunting don't worry. Joining in with activities can be uplifting for ourselves too.

The actual running of the church as an organisation still needs people from within. Every year the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) provides a summary of the year's work and the requirements for the future plans. If you would like to be involved please contact Gwyneth Iffland who will enrol you on the Parish Electoral Roll.

This year the APCM will be on Sunday 21st April after the 11am service. As usual, Churchwardens and PCC members will be elected. A particular need this year is for a new treasurer so that Sylvia Adams, our secretary, will not have to continue covering both roles. There are obviously other particular roles which need to be filled, such as volunteers needed including sidespeople at services, others to help with serving refreshments, joining the flower-arranging team, being part of the "Henry Club" church cleaning team and helping with the outdoor work to keep the church grounds healthy and attractive. Even if you are unable to attend services regularly because of other Sunday commitments, your willingness to be part of the team in some way will be welcomed and appreciated.

YOU NEVER KNOW

Famously, our British weather means that you never really know what you are going to get as the day goes on at this time of year. A sunny sky in the morning can soon cloud over and by afternoon you could be wishing you hadn't bothered to water the garden when a shower does the job for you. Equally you can put on your raincoat and take your umbrella only to find that within an hour the clouds have dispersed and the sun is shining brightly.

Life is a bit like that too...you might wake up thinking of all the problems you have to deal with that day, and as the morning progresses somehow or other everything gets dealt with and things aren't as bad as you thought. Another day you might be full of the joys of spring but something happens during the day and your plans have to be changed following a phone call or a knock at the door.

It would be boring if every day were the same, and as long as we can take the bad with the good, and have the positivity to deal with problems and just get on with it, we can cope.

It's easy to get dragged down with negative thoughts when things don't go as smoothly as we'd like, but all we can do is take one day at a time.

Often things happen that are out of our control, but our attitude to them is up to us. We can only make the best of everything that comes our way.

Chris Martin

EDITOR'S COMMENT

At our Lent Bible Study we discussed how as Christians we can Press On Heavenward. Whatever our circumstances, and our paths can vary, we can rest assured that The Easter Story will help us. Jesus faced evil at its worst and felt abandoned but yet overcame that, and He promises to be with us always.

Sunday 7th April

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Acts 4 : 32 - 35

John 20 : 19 - end

Sidesperson

2nd Sunday of Easter

Rev'd Peter & Brenda Sheppard

Celebrant

Celebrant

Gordon Baker

11.00 Holy Communion

President/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter & Brenda Sheppard

Pauline Siggers

Fiona Begley

Keith Hatfield & Yvonne Thurbon

Christine Morgan

Gwyneth Iffland

Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 14th April

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Acts 3 : 12 - 19

Luke 24 : 36b - 48

Sidesperson

3rd Sunday of Easter

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Celebrant

Celebrant

Paul Lucas

11.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION & Holy Baptism

Leaders

Audio-visuals

Prayer Ministry

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui & team

Christine Lucas

Sarah Prendergast & Sylvia Adams

Brenda Sheppard

Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Don't forget the concerts

which will happen in church (Sat 13th and Sun. 28th) this month.

Details are on page 18.

Sunday 21st April**4th Sunday of Easter****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

President/Preacher

Acts 4 : 5 - 12

John 10 : 11 - 18

Sidesperson

Rev'd Jacqui / Jenny Pratt

Celebrant

Celebrant

Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship followed by APCM

Leader/preacher

Readings

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter

Kathy Carnell

Brenda Sheppard

Christine Lucas & another

Christine Morgan

Kathy Carnell

Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

Sunday 28th April**5th Sunday of Easter****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Acts 8 : 26 - end

John 15 : 1 - 8

Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter

Celebrant

Celebrant

Keith Hatfield

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/ Archdeacon Jonathan

Linda Payne

Gwyneth Iffland

Fiona Begley & Frances Hatfield

Sylvia Adams

Kath Dunstan

Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

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



The most recent special service (as we will go to print before Easter) was that on Mothering Sunday. It was great to see the children making suitable Mothering Sunday cards for their parents and grandparents. They were able to deliver them at the end of the service and to receive potted plants to give to the adults with them.

Before work started on the belfry timber renovation project in 2022 we removed the wrought iron gates at the church entrance to avoid them getting damaged during the building works. These gates have historical significance because they were installed just after the end of WW2 as a thanksgiving for the return of peace. After exposure to 75 years of rain and road spray they were overdue for refurbishment. That work is now underway and we hope to have the gates back in position in time for Easter.

Steeple Church contacts

Rev'd Canon Peter Begley, Vicar 01621 772 300
Rhona Leech, Churchwarden & PCC Secretary,

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

*According to the laws of aerodynamics,
the Bumble Bee cannot fly;
Its body is too heavy for its wings –
That's the simple reason why.*

But.....

The Bumble Bee doesn't know this fact!

And so it flies anyway

For all to see!

So, remember this,

When you are losing faith and hope:

God's proof –

That the impossible can be!

Henry Church Cleaning Club 2024

The cleaning continues on in the Church! We are blessed to be part of a great team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits. We meet fortnightly on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am. If you could spare just a little time during those 2 hours and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me by phone. You will be made very welcome.



The Southminster Food Pantry

continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at Christ Church, but it now has an extra collection point: on Thursday afternoons at Burnham URC

If you are willing to donate food for the Pantry there is a list of basic requirements at the back of church.

In these difficult times more and more people are in need of what some of us take for granted.

The Bereavement Group has started to meet again On Tuesdays at 10.00 am at ChristChurch, North Street. Everyone is welcome. If you need more information contact Chris Martin. 01621 772751

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.

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB meets on alternate Mondays.

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



Chatterbox continues to grow in numbers. Each week we look forward to being together with our faithful friends, and also to welcoming new people who would like to come and join us on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the Memorial Hall. It is a great place to meet and make new friends. Chatterbox lives up to its name as there is always a lovely buzz of chatter and also lots of tea and coffee and biscuits. We also have jigsaws always on the go and different craft activities. We have also recently acquired a laptop computer for people to learn new skills.



You will be made very welcome and If you would like more information, please ring Norman



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. They enjoyed Christmas events, and families joined the main services. News of the Craft Morning will come soon.

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on 23rd April

Linda Scoles : Name that tune

Competition: Musical themed poem

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.

June 2024	2	9	16	23	30
July 2024	7	14	21	28	

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

Christian Aid Week will be 12th to 18th May. If you have any ideas or offers about activities we may hold to raise funds please let me know. There will not be a house-to-house collection but there will be collection points round Southminster and Steeple. I hope that we can encourage the community to be generous at such difficult times.



Kath Dunstan

Community Hub

There was a lunch gathering on 11th March 2024 to update people on the progress that has been made.

1. Partnership Agreement written and approved by both denominations.
2. Food Pantry – progress made with governance and storage cupboard and client drop in is now located at the back of the building

A Launch Event is being planned for the partnership agreement to be officially signed (date to be confirmed). This will be a community event that everyone is invited to attend. For more details contact Rev'd Jacqui.

CORONAVIRUS 2024

We are pleased that most restrictions were lifted but we do need to be aware of possible new viruses, so we must continue cautiously. New information 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.

Special notices for your diaries

Saturday 13th April

The Sid Bolan Big Band

will bring music from Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra and many others to modern music as well.

The concert in church will begin at 7.30 pm

Tickets (£10) are available in church,
at local stores (Chapman's & Southminster Butchers)
Light refreshments will be available.

Funding will support Knightswood Day Care Centre.

If you want to check more about the Band
look at their website. (sidbolanbigband.co.uk)

Another popular 'returner' to our church will be

The Remedy

on Sunday 28th April at 3 pm

Supporting the

Brompton Fountain Children's Charity

Brompton Heart & Lungs Hospital for Children

£5 + generous donations please on the day

PRAY FOR SOUTHMISTER:

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

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.



Everyone is
welcome to join.
Details on board.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS usually meet in the
church on **Mondays (10am) and Thursdays (8pm)**

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