

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

**StL**



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



**St Francis of Assisi**

whose Feast Day ends

September's Creation Season (See page 7)

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

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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!)

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**  
*Articles for the October magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, Sunday 15th September*  
*New contributors are welcome.*

## Curate's Reflection

For the past three years, I haven't known where God would call me to serve as a vicar at the end of my curacy. I'm thrilled that my new appointment is only a short drive away because I've become so fond of the Dengie and each of you. I know the following statement by heart as the reality of moving on and my time here ending begins to set in.

*We are delighted to announce that Rev Jacqui King, currently serving as Associate Curate in the Southminster and Steeple parishes, has been offered and accepted the invitation of the Bishop of Bradwell to be the next Vicar of Holy Trinity South Woodham Ferrers and Priest in Charge of St Andrew Bicknacre, St Mary Woodham Ferrers, and All Saints East Hanningfield - The Hill and Vale Churches.*

I moved to the Dengie from Great Notley in Braintree, a purpose-built new garden village with a supermarket, doctors, pubs, schools, and parks, all connected by cycle paths. So, moving to The Vicarage in South Woodham Ferrers feels like returning to a familiar environment, although the population is much bigger. Also, the Anglican Church I moved from was an ecumenical church that worked in partnership with other denominations – Baptists, Methodists, Roman Catholics and the United Reformed Church. As Holy Trinity Church in South Woodham Ferrers is an 'ecumenical church' sharing its building with two other congregations (the Methodists and Roman Catholics) so again, it feels like I'm moving to a context that's familiar.

It was the rich diversity of The Hill and Vale Churches that attracted me to apply. I was drawn by the different

aesthetics of the church buildings, from modern brick and external rendering to historic village churches. The varied music with traditional hymns to contemporary guitar-led worship. The different services, from BCP morning prayer to Holy Communion and praise services. I love that each of the four churches has its unique identity, and together, they form a rich and inclusive community. The diverse range and number of schools in the parishes is another aspect that made me apply.

The parishes I'm moving to are called 'The Hill and Vale Churches' because they recognise that God is the God of the hills and the God of the valleys. God is not only present when we are on the mountain top, when we are happy and secure, but also when we are in the depths of a valley, when we are less cheerful and less confident. The scripture from 1 Kings 20:23,28 validates their vision which is to accompany the joyful but equally the sorrowful in each community. Tauren Wells' worship song 'Hills and Valleys' puts it beautifully - if on the mountain top, we stand in God's love, sensing his presence, and if in the valley, we bow our lives and submit to God, who will lift our eyes because he sees us and we will know we are not alone.

We never journey alone through life. We are always under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us as communities who minister to each other when we are full of the joys of Spring or when life is weighing us down. I will forever be thankful for how members of the churches and the wider community in Southminster and Steeple Benefice have ministered to me at different times – when I've lost confidence and felt insecure or when I've been

bubbling over with excitement. I'm grateful for every service, conversation, and opportunity that has shaped me into the priest that I am today.

I would be thrilled if you can come to either my farewell service which is at 11am on Sunday, 29th September 2024 in St Leonard's Church or my Licencing Service, with Bishop Adam, which is at 7.30pm on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, at Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers. Both services will be significant in my ministry so sharing with those who have been part of my journey and know me well would be wonderful.

May our God of the hills and the valleys continue to care for us in all that we are coping with and provide us with people who love and care for us whatever our circumstances.

With the deepest love and affection,  
Revd Jacqui x

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“The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” Isaiah 11: 9b

**Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club** had this as our memory verse. We had over 30 children attend over three days in August. It was hosted by Flotsam and Jetsam and there was lots of fun had by all. We had games, crafts, stories and songs. We had visitors every day come to tell us about the Baptism of Jesus, a lame man who could walk and Jesus dying and coming to life again. The Squids Up Aerobics kept us fit as we dived deeper and deeper down through the Sunlight Zone, the Twilight Zone and The Trenches. We even had a large fish come every day with loads of fish jokes. The club ended with a Celebration Service on the Sunday followed by a wonderful barbecue. Thank you to all the children who came and a LARGE thank you to everyone who helped. God is good, all the time.

**Jenny Pratt**

# A Leap of Faith

I was chatting to Gordon Baker recently and we were comparing our tandem sky diving experiences undertaken quite a few years ago. We both jumped from 10-12,000 feet harnessed to an instructor; as we chatted, we re-lived each stage of our adventure.

It really was a leap of faith we took as we edged toward the open door of the plane, knowing that at any moment we would be hurtled into the big blue yonder, hoping the parachute would open after moments of freefall and that we would land safely.



Thankfully our trust in our instructor and the parachute leaves us here to tell the tale, but what did I personally learn from it? How can it be compared with our leaps of faith for our God?

The most important thing is that we believe our God is with us in everything He asks us to do, we need to trust as we step or leap into the unknown at times, that He has gone before and prepared the way. God has always got our backs if we stay united with Him, after all He is our perfect instructor and He holds us in His hands. It's good to look back and see how God has been training and preparing us for such a time as this to do more challenging tasks. God often challenges us to move out of our comfort zone so do we take that leap of faith or not?

Gordon and I, and I know many others have experienced a sky dive. I did it for a dare and it certainly wasn't on my "Bucket List" I raised a good amount of money for charity though which was a real bonus. Did I enjoy it? Yes and No, would I do it again? Almost certainly not. One thing I do know and continue to learn is that even in my later years, God has more than likely got more challenges for me and for you too, so buckle up and enjoy the ride and take that leap of faith when it comes.

**Brenda Sheppard**

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## **Eco Tip of the Month from A Rocha**

Step outside this **Season of Creation** (1 Sept.- 4 Oct.).

Connect with nature and dedicate this time to God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Choose an idea or two from our resources and encourage others to take part.

[Arocha.org.uk/step-outside-this-season-of-resources/](http://Arocha.org.uk/step-outside-this-season-of-resources/)

## **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.

**2024 dates:** 7th Sept, 12th Oct., 16th Nov., 7th Dec.

The day after every Saturday Club is our Family Celebration in the church at 11 am where there will be an opportunity for the children to share anything they have created at the club.

# FINDING FREEDOM

**By: Rebecca Johnson**

**Book Review**

You may remember Rebecca from when she came to St. Leonard's to talk about her charity which she founded called Replenish UK which is a charity supporting people struggling with their mental health.

Rebecca speaks from the heart in this powerful story of healing and restoration in her own life, reflecting on her childhood, its impact and her journey into healing through finding God.

Rebecca, through Replenish, is a great ambassador for helping people find the God who heals people broken through life's experiences and she has been brave enough to tell her own personal story. God uses her own difficult experiences to empathise and help many others. If you would like to borrow this book please ask me, it is a really powerful testimony.

*finding  
freedom*

**Brenda Sheppard**

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.

$$\pounds \frac{1}{10} = 100$$

This equation is, by itself, incorrect or has something missing. Except, that is, when you are talking about the Christian community, what Jesus once described as ‘good soil’.

“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some multiplying a hundred times.”

Jesus was of course talking about people hearing and receiving the word of God, but it can also be applied to our use of money. St Leonard’s Church has always supported charitable causes, for instance the Pillingers, Knightswood, the Royal British Legion and the Children’s Society. Many Christians ‘tithes’ their income, that is set aside one tenth of their income to support the Church and/or charities. We know from personal experience, and also from the experience of the Church, how such giving can bring about all kinds of unexpected good that God has used, and, in effect, ‘multiplied’. The term ‘tithes’ originated in Old Testament times, and it meant one tenth of a farmer’s animals and grain, to be used for the Temple sacrifices, and also to support the priests who had no land of their own.

Over the last year St Leonard’s PCC has discussed the idea of giving away one tenth of our Church income to good causes. This is based on a different Old Testament principle from the one mentioned above. When King David was moved to build a Temple to honour God he dedicated it in front of the people with a prayer that can be found in 1 Chronicles 29. In verse 14 he says: “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

As a Church, St Leonard’s has been very well blessed over the years, and that includes having been blessed with money when needed. So the PCC decided to take its cue from God’s generosity towards us - and has voted to give away one tenth of its income every year. We will be publishing the list of charities shortly. If you have comments, questions, or ideas, please talk to a member of the PCC.

**Norman**

**Sunday 1st September****14th Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Jacqui / Norman Pratt

James 1: 17-end &amp; Mark 7: 1-8,14-15, 21-23 Celebrant

Sidesperson

Paul Lucas

**11.00 Holy Communion**

President/Preacher

Rev'd Jacqui / Norman Pratt

Readings as above

Pauline Siggers

Intercessions

Brenda Sheppard

Prayer Ministry

Christine Lucas &amp; Yvonne Thurbon

Audio-visuals

Christine Morgan

Sidesperson

Paul Lucas

Refreshments

Kathy Carnell &amp; Frances Hatfield

**Sunday 8th September****15th Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

James 2 : 1-10, (11-13)14-17 &amp; Mark 7 : 24 - end Celebrant

Sidesperson

Gordon Baker

**11.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION**

Leaders

Team (Karen, Jenny, Dawn)

Audio-visuals

Christine Morgan

Prayer Ministry

Frances Hatfield &amp; Sarah Prendergast

Sidesperson

Kathy Carnell

Refreshments

Sally Culff &amp; Maureen Smith

**Sunday 15th September****16th Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

James 3 : 1 - 12 &amp; Mark 8 : 27 - end

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Leon Flack

## **Sunday 15th September (continued)**

### **11.00 Morning Worship**

Leader/Preacher	Jenny Pratt / Rev'd Peter
Readings as at 8 am	Kathy Carnell
Intercessions	Norman Pratt
Prayer Ministry	Sylvia Adams & Fiona Begley
Audio-Visuals	Christine Lucas
Sidesperson	Brenda Sheppard
Refreshments	Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

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## **Sunday 22nd September**

## **17th Sunday after Trinity**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter /Brenda Sheppard
James 3: 13 - 4: 3-7 & Mark 9 : 30-37	Celebrant
Sidesperson	Keith Hatfield

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### **11.00 Morning Worship**

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter /Brenda Sheppard
Readings as above	Kath Dunstan
Intercessions	Frances Hatfield
Prayer Ministry	Keith Hatfield & another
Audio-Visuals	Sylvia Adams
Sidesperson	Gordon Baker
Refreshments	Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

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## **Sunday 29th September**

## **18th Sunday after Trinity**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Jacqui
Revelation 12: 7 - 12: & John 1 : 47 - end	Celebrant
Sidesperson	Gordon Baker

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**11.00 United Holy Communion with Celebration & Farewell for Rev'd Jacqui**  
**Service details will be available later.**

# Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on the church door. 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](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

Steeple Church is hugely grateful to everyone who supported Wheels Hooves & Paws at Elmwood Equestrian on 27<sup>th</sup> July or Steeple Historic Vehicle Gathering on 18<sup>th</sup> August, either as an exhibitor, helper, stall-holder, landowner or someone who just came along to enjoy the day. Both events depended on The Eccentrics for field layout and management of the vehicle displays.

The PCC's at Althorne, Creeksea and Steeple churches worked together to organise Wheels Hooves & Paws. Field preparation for Steeple Gathering was a major concern until resolved using machinery brought in by our friends from St Lawrence.

Steeple Church is open throughout Saturdays and Sundays and on request at other times for private prayer or to view Steeple's War Memorial and architectural features, some of which pre-date the present building by several centuries.

## **Steeple Church contacts:**

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

Rev'd Jacqui King, Curate,

Rhona Leech, Churchwarden and PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Assistant Churchwarden,

Fiona Ashworth, Assistant Churchwarden,

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer and Verger,

**Loss**

.....

**My Loss Specifically**

It's night, it's day, it's black, it's white,  
it's up, it's down, it's ying, it's yang.

It's a bus ride I did not ask to go on. Even the bus driver doesn't know the destination. No-one on our bus knows the destination. It's a strange feeling. I (We) are moving forward but to where? Goodness only knows!!

We are all in the same boat (metaphorically) yet we are calm and at peace, because each and every one of us (the bus passengers) absolutely know that wherever we are being taken to, it will be "somewhere that we wish to be".

I say to you all, in this precise moment, that if you stumble upon someone even yourself, having to make that journey through grief, that there is a happy ending.

My "happy ending" or even "new beginning" is shortly about to start....

Have faith. Keep the faith.

**Lorraine Roach**

**22 April 2024**

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Don't forget the **Bereavement Group** which is still meeting weekly at Christ Church, North Street. It is open from 10 am on Tuesdays and welcomes anyone who might benefit from having time to chat with others who may be experiencing similar life problems. Chris Martin 01621 772751

## **Henry Church Cleaning Club 2024**

The cleaning continues on in the Church! We are blessed to be part of a really faithful team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits. We have also been blessed by the addition of two new members who are a great asset and do a great job as do the faithful members who have been cleaning for many years. 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 telephone. You will be made very welcome.



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### **An item for your September Diary**

### **Join Us for the Health and Wellness Event!**

Southminster Parish council are excited to invite the community to our upcoming Health and Wellness Event, taking place at the Memorial Hall and various other community spaces on Saturday, 14th September 2024, from 2pm to 5pm. This event is a fantastic opportunity for everyone to explore various health and wellness options available right here in our parish.

Local clubs and organisations will be opening their doors, offering a glimpse into the numerous activities and services they provide to promote a healthy lifestyle. Whether you're interested in fitness, mental well-being, or social activities, there's something for everyone.

Meet like-minded individuals and discover how our local community can support your health and wellness journey. Don't miss out on this chance to connect, learn, and enhance your well-being. We look forward to seeing you there!

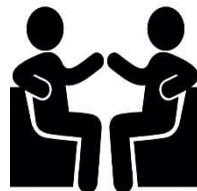
## SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

**LUNCH CLUB** meets on alternate Mondays.(but not August)  
If you would like any information please phone  
Dave Christie 07775 758118.

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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

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**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. News of the Craft Morning will come soon.

### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

**24th September**

**Speaker Rev'd Keith Lovell: Bits & Pieces**

**Competition : My Funny Teenage Recollections**

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

## **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.

October 2024	6	13	20	27
November 2024	3	10	17	24

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

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### **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.

Let us all continue to pray to our loving Father  
in these very difficult times.

For family members - near and far - and neighbours

For people suffering loneliness, illness and/or bereavement

For people making decisions about treatment

For hospital staff, carers, front-line workers including teachers

For people suffering financially because of unemployment....

And let us remember "Father, your will be done."

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

## 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.

Upcoming events for your diary

The annual **RIDE + STRIDE** event

Produced through the Friends of Essex Churches Trust  
will be held on

**Saturday 14th September.**

Details are on posters in church and on the notice board  
We hope that local people will be able to explore villages  
by bike or on foot, enjoying the exercise and raising  
much needed funds for our church.

For more details see the website  
[www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride)  
There is a sign-up form in church.

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Join us for the

**Farewell Service for  
Rev'd Jacqui King**

at 11am on Sunday, 29th September 2024  
in St Leonard's Church.

There will be refreshments afterwards  
(details available in advance in church)

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**PRAY FOR SOUTHMINTER:**

w/b	1 September	Central - East
w/b	8 September	Central - South
w/b	15 September	South - West
w/b	22 September	Central - West
w/b	29 September	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](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**Contact:** [vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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)**

We did not meet during August but details of a new course will be available soon..