

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



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

**VE DAY
Celebrations
St Leonard's
Church
11th May 2025**



**Blessed are the peacemakers; for
they will be called children of
God.**

Matthew 5: verse 9

JUNE 2025

- 3 June Reflection Ken Dunstan
- 5 Community Hub: Reminder of its plans
- 6 St Leonard's Got Talent Brenda Sheppard
- 7 Prayer Ministry available
- 8 Some upcoming Events
- 9 Annual Parochial Church Meeting information
- 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during June**
- 12 Steeple Church NewsPeter Marshall
- 13 **United Service Details (29 June)**
Brief news from Wycliffe Bible Translators.
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team updateBrenda Sheppard
Saturday Club Details and Little Lions too
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox,
and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas), Christian Aid Week brief report
- 17 How to keep in touch with the church regularly.
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Report about the VE Day Concert in May
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the July magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 22nd June
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 for June

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

I knew that I was to reflect for the June Magazine- but what would be appropriate? More on the Church's Year, such as Ascension and Pentecost? Ride my climate change hobby-horse? The secular calendar came to my rescue. I am writing on the eightieth anniversary of VE day.

I remember the occasion; I was four months from being five years old. We had a huge bonfire in the street, and a dummy hung from a lamp post. I asked a neighbour who it was. "Hitler," he replied. Later we had a party at which I received a bakelite cup with a big "V" and "Kenneth" on it. I didn't understand all that was going on, but if it meant an end to the rockets that had damaged our house, good. It also meant a big change in the lives of most of the children as our fathers returned as near-strangers. I'm told that the day after my Dad's return I walked into the main bedroom as usual and burst out, "Get out of there, that's my Mummy's bed!"

Alas, the end of the European war (the Japanese war continued) was not all joy, though my relationship with Dad improved. He presented me with a rival, my sister – but I also got a dog. However, we still had food rationing for another five years and the absence of fighting didn't last as the Iron Curtain signalled a "Cold" War and the Korean War involved British troops in a United Nations force.

Happily, we did avoid some of the mistakes made in 1918-19 when the triumphant allies decided that Germany must be punished and the Nazi party could use the Treaty of Versailles as an excuse for rearming. Marshall Aid enabled

peaceful German reconstruction and reconciliation. The United Nations, unlike the League of Nations, could take action rather than just talking, and did.

Nevertheless, violence continues. As I write, Indian and Pakistani troops have exchanged fire in Kashmir as a border dispute from 1947 remains unresolved. Personal rivalries have riven Sudan and ambition has cost Russia and Ukraine tens of thousands of lives. I will refrain from commenting on the continuing tragedy in Gaza other than to urge prayer. A Palestinian Christian wrote, “Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers, but hold them together in our hearts.”

And yes, I must still think about the Church’s Year. 8 June is the Feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. The men who had hidden while Jesus crucified to avoid arrest, and who found it hard to accept that Jesus did what he said he would in rising from death, now found that they could rejoice in new life and share it with others. They prayed in confidence and saw prayer answered. They defied efforts to stop them from speaking. And the Church grew. May the Spirit strengthen and inspire us, here in Southminster and Steeple, as well.

VE Day 80 saw a new Pope elected, Robert Prevost from Chicago. His first words to the world were to speak of Jesus and to pray for peace. His chosen name – Leo XIV – recalls a Pope who emphasised social justice. It sounds hopeful.

Blessings,

Ken

NEW COMMUNITY HUB COMING SOON!

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new community hub coming soon to Christ Church URC Southminster. The Hive will feature:

- LuLu's Café, run by young adults with special needs
- A community garden project
- Community and social events
- Workshops and courses
- Advice and support services

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. Look out for updates and join us at our grand opening event this summer!

communityworker.dengieurcs@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook @thehiveURC

The logo for 'The Hive' features the word 'The' in a dark blue, cursive script, followed by 'Hive' in a larger, bold, dark blue cursive script. The letter 'i' in 'Hive' is a bright orange color.

YOUR BUZZING COMMUNITY HUB

Things that might be of interest to you are:

LuLu's Cafe project that will be at the new hub in Southminster

The Community in a Cup events that are currently running out of the URC in Burnham but will also run out of Southminster once we are open.

The Social supermarket that runs out of both URCs

DON'T FORGET the local **FOOD PANTRY**

which has been running for several years and still meets at the URC building every Wednesday morning.

Contributions can be placed in advance in the bin at the back of our church. Details are available there.

St. Leonard's Got Talent!

Brenda Sheppard

In April Southminster Parish Council organised and held a Competitive Festival of Music in St. Leonard's Church. It was an all-day event featuring young people up to 18 years old. A very successful day with so much talent and potential growth.

This event triggered memories of a time, many years ago, when members of our church congregation had a "Talent" evening with various contributions. The acts I remember included singing, music, a fun reading and I'm sure many other contributions!



I don't know about you but I watch "Britain's Got Talent" for a bit of light entertainment! This show has proven to be a good vehicle for some people to go on to be really famous especially in the music business. It's all about having a go and believing in yourself, not hiding your talent but showing the world what you can do. Luke 8 v 16 says "No-one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar; instead they put it on a stand so that those who come in can see the light"

The Bible tells us a story in Matthew 25: 14-30 which speaks of a man of noble birth who, on going on a journey, entrusted his wealth, his 'talents' (a talent being a unit of currency in Jesus' time), to his servants who he expected to make his money work for him which he would collect from them on his return. The servants gave a good account when

he returned and had invested and gained more wealth for their master, all but one who hid the gold in the ground and so was severely chastised and thrown out.

A parable which I interpreted as telling us to use our initiative and talents to good use, not to hide them away or bury them so no-one can reap the reward of seeing or hearing them. We may feel that we're not good enough but surely it's worth a try even if we don't become world famous.

We do thank the Parish Council and all those who worked hard to put the Music Festival together. We especially thank all the young people who participated. They inspired us all, and reminded us that we, at whatever stage of life we are at, are stewards of the talent(s) God has entrusted to us and our reward is to see the joy and encouragement they bring to others.

let your
Light So Shine
before men, that
they may see your **GOOD WORKS,**
AND *Glorify* your **FATHER**
which is in **Heaven.**

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.

Some upcoming events

Look out for 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.

SOUTHMINSTER FLOWER SHOW

will celebrate its 140th anniversary
at the King George V Memorial Ground, Station Road
on Saturday 19th July.
Look out for posters and keep the date in your diary.

Another local event which Southminster folk usually enjoy

THE BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE

on 5th July from 10.30 am to 3.15 pm
with the title "People of Hope"
It is a time of faith, fellowship and reflection
and posters will show the details.

And don't forget (particularly for Steeple Church)

"Wheels, Hooves and Paws"

**at Elmwood Equestrian, Burnham-on-Crouch
on Saturday 12th July.**

Just five weeks later, on Sunday 17th August, we will again
be holding **Steeple Historic Gathering**
on the Grange Farm meadow.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This year's meeting was on Sunday 4th May after the 11am service.

Some specific results are:

Ex-officio PCC members:

Peter Begley, Norman Pratt, Jenny Pratt,
Christine Morgan, Pete Adams and Sylvia Adams.

Churchwardens: Pete Adams and Sylvia Adams

Deputy churchwardens:

Gordon Baker, Nigel Winger, Kathy Carnell

Elected PCC members: Frances Hatfield, Karen Flack,
Leon Flack, Gordon Baker, Christine Lucas,
Dawn Martin, Brenda Sheppard,
Sarah Prendergast, Kathy Carnell

Safeguarding Officer -- currently Gwyneth Iffland (but we are still looking for someone to take on this role)

The PCC members form the committee that runs the Church, so any suggestions/complaints can be submitted to any PCC member for discussion at a PCC meeting.

Obviously prayer plays a central part in all church activities so please pray for the members and for future decisions which will be vital for the Southminster community.

Sunday 1st June

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Acts 16 : 16 - 34
John 17 : 20 - end
Sidesperson

7th Sunday of Easter

Rev'd Peter
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 Family Holy Communion

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

Rev'd Peter
Kath Dunstan
Fiona Begley
Christine Lucas & Sarah Prendergast
Christine Morgan
Sylvia Adams
Paul Lucas & Kathy Carnell

Sunday 8th June

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Acts 2 : 1 - 21
John 14 : 8 - 27
Sidesperson

Pentecost Sunday

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Family Celebration

Leaders
Prayer Ministry
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn
Yvonne Thurbon + Frances Hatfield
Christine Lucas
Brenda Sheppard
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 15th June**Trinity Sunday****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher
Romans 5 : 1 - 5
John 16 : 12 - 15
Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as above
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-Visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt
Linda Payne
Brenda Sheppard
Sylvia Adams & Keith Hatfield
Christine Morgan
Gordon Baker
Dee Byford & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 22nd June**1st Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher
Galatians 3 : 23 - end
Luke 8 : 26 - 39
Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Keith Hatfield

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as above
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-Visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt
Christine Morgan
Frances Hatfield
Fiona Begley & another
Sylvia Adams
Brenda Sheppard
t.b.a.

More details (29th June) are on page 13.

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



Steeple held its “VE Day Celebrations” on the Sunday following the actual 80th Anniversary. Steeple Church was assigned the role of launching the afternoon’s activities at noon by tolling the bell eighty times, once for each mostly peaceful year since the Victory-in-Europe of 1945. Several people came into the church to help ‘keep the score’ and were surprised to learn that the bell is more than two centuries older than the present church.

A little tractor that had been imported from America in 1941 to help increase food production during the darkest years of the ’39 – ’45 war stood outside during the bell ringing but then moved to the Playing Field where our Vicar Canon Peter Begley and Assistant Lieutenant Charles Anderson dedicated a freshly planted commemorative fruit tree in front of many onlookers.

Everyone then repaired to the Village Hall for refreshments served by members of the Community Group, assisted by a Constable from Essex Police. A talented singer entertained us with songs from the period.

More Southminster details

Sunday 29th June

2nd Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Ken / Brenda Sheppard

I Peter 2 : 19 - end

Celebrant

Matthew 16 : 13 - 19

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Paul Lucas

11.00 United Service

Leaders

Jenny Pratt / Brenda Sheppard

Readings as above

Christine Lucas

Intercessions

Rupert Killick

Audio-visuals

Christine Morgan

Sidesperson

Kathy Carnell

Refreshments

Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

Steeple Church contacts:

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

Fiona Ashworth, Churchwarden,

Rhona Leech, Assistant Churchwarden

and PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Assistant Churchwarden,

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

**Wycliffe
Bible
Translators**

Latest news has arrived from Steve and Johanna Pillinger and it will be available to read at the back of church. Basically they are

thanking us for our ongoing support for their work and want to update us on the latest tasks in operation. On 4th May this year they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary—and 40 years together in Wycliffe. Let's keep praying for them.

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.

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: beshepp@btinternet.com. 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.



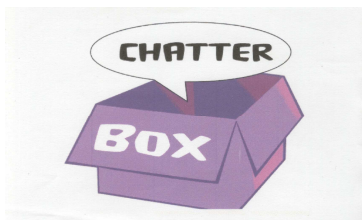
LITTLE LIONS' usually meet on Wednesday mornings

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.

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 24th June

Alison Woollard : Dickens in the City

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

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.

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.

July 2025	6	13	20	27	
August 2025	3	10	17	24	31

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



This year's **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** was Sunday 11th May until Saturday 17th May.

Results and final amounts raised will be available next month. This magazine is going to print during Christian Aid Week, so no information yet....

Keep praying for the work of Christian Aid worldwide.

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.

**St Leonard's Church
Hosted a great VE Day Celebration
on Sunday 11th May.**

**The REMEDY BAND provided
Music with Memories
and their concert was greatly appreciated.**

**The Church Social Committee served
“Tea and Cakes”
before the concert and during its interval.**

**Contributions for this were overwhelming
(See the picture on our magazine cover).**

**£400 was raised for the charities:
Help for Heroes
Knightswood Day Care Centre
Christian Aid.**

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	1 June	Central - West
w/b	8 June	North - East
w/b	15 June	Central - North-West
w/b	22 June	Central - East
w/b	29 June	Central - South





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.