

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

**StL**

and also for Steeple Parish

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



**OCTOBER 2025**

**God saw all that He had made, and it was  
very good. (Gen. 1:31).**

*GAIA, a touring art work by Luke Jerram  
Chelmsford Cathedral October 2022*

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***NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:***

*Articles for the November  
magazine should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
**Sunday 19th October**  
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 from Rev'd Ken

So here we are in Autumn. Spring 2025 was Britain's warmest since records began in 1884, and the driest in over fifty years. Globally, summer was the warmest ever. The ambition of the legally binding Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 was "to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels." From 1 June to 31 August the average UK temperature was 1.61°C above preindustrial levels. Globally, the average temperature has continued to rise. For the first time ever, the hottest years have all been in a single decade, from 2015 to 2024.

As we move towards winter, I'm tempted to write more about climate change – it's happening, it's bad, and it's our fault. We have created record levels of Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, the most for 800,000 years. Earth's climate is changing faster than the scientists predicted. The worst changes have affected the poorest people as drought destroys crops in our Diocesan Partner in Kenya and much of East Africa.

Is it really our fault? Sorry, but yes. Whatever one's motives for a long-haul flight, the aircraft's emissions remain the same and do the same damage. How we travel, how we heat our homes and manufacture our goods all have the possibility of adding more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere if we don't avoid the use of fossil fuels; coal, oil and gas. I wonder about the motives of those who dismiss efforts to use renewable energy

to reach “net zero” emissions as ‘raising the cost of energy’. Rises in the cost of imported gas and oil are to blame.

I am being preachy, because I’m aware that most of my readers are followers of Jesus, the Word of God made human. Through Him, as the Nicene Creed says, all things were made. He is entitled to say to us, “God the Holy Trinity made this world and made humans to serve it and care for it (Genesis 2:15). Don’t mess it up.”

The Church has seasons, too, and a change of season comes on 5 October. The Season of Creation runs from 1 September to 4 October, which is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. In 1925 Pope Pius XI created the Feast of Christ the King to be the last Sunday in November. The following Sunday, Advent Sunday, is the Church’s New Year’s Day. Some parts of the Church count the weeks from the end of the Creation Season to Christ the King as the Kingdom Season.

September to October celebrates Creation. We should remember that the Word of God who became human in Jesus took part in that. St John’s Gospel tells us that “All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.” The Creation is his world, and we, his servants and followers, are responsible to him for its health.

Kingdom Season isn’t well defined, but October ends with Hallowe’en. ‘Hallowe’en’ means, the Eve, the day before, ‘All Hallows’, All Saints’ Day. The original Celtic festival of Samhain signalled the start of the dark half of the year.

Cattle and sheep were brought from pasture. Many were slaughtered because they could not be fed during the winter. The spirits of dead ancestors were expected to visit, and gifts of food were left out to placate both them and the ancient gods. Some people would find ways of “punishing” those who didn’t comply. That may have been the origin of “trick or treat”. Modern ‘horror masks’ descend from disguises making mortals look as if they were the invading fairies.

Christian All Hallows – All Saints – on 1 November brought light and hope into the fearful Celtic Samhain. All Saints is a time for remembering in our prayers not only our own deceased loved ones, but especially those who have faithfully followed Jesus, and praying for grace to do the same.

A final note: On 5 October, Harvest Thanksgiving at Steeple and on 12 October, Harvest Thanksgiving at Southminster enable us to thank our Creator and our farmers whose efforts feed us. Do join in the worship.

Every blessing, Ken

**The Church is called:**

to perpetrate acts of kindness on an unsuspecting public;

to proclaim Jesus as the unique way to God and to lead men and women into a vibrant relationship with God.

Joel Edwards, former Director of the Evangelical Alliance

## **Do we have time to stand and stare?**

Do you, like me, need to slow down at times? Is your life too busy? I expect many of you have read the lovely poem by William Henry Davies called “Leisure” and the first lines are “What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare.”

Ecclesiastes 3 v 1 also says ‘there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.’ Our God gives us our precious time and we need to use it wisely.

I have enjoyed this past Summer watching my resident squirrels eating nuts from my neighbour’s hazelnut tree and then burying some in my lawn and my pots for their Winter food. I have marvelled at the way our resident pigeons built a nest of twigs on the arm of my neighbour’s sky dish, thinking that’s impossible, but after so many attempts a nest was made and sat on! I get so much enjoyment from watching God’s creatures at work although was grateful for the lack of slugs and blackfly on the allotment this hot, dry Summer! It’s good to make time to slow down and enjoy God’s creation.



My sister, Angela Parker, wrote a poem which gives thanks to God for His love to us and all he gives us for our pleasure. which I hope you’ll enjoy.

### **God’s Love**

I see Your love in April showers, in the little bird that flies  
I see it in the thunderclouds, I see it in blue skies  
The loveliness of sunshine so warm upon my face  
The coldness of the Winter with frost like patterned lace.

The beauty of the world we know is a gift from You above  
And the heart that beats and the eyes that see say  
“Thank you” for Your love.

I see Your love in the garden, in the orchard full and sweet  
I see it in the spider’s web and in the food I eat  
The sunrise and the sunset, Lord, are gifts from You alone  
The clouds, the wind, the barren plain,  
the fields where crops are grown  
The beauty of the world we know is a gift from You above  
And the heart that beats and the eyes that see say  
“Thank you” for Your love.

The tiny hand of a new born child, the flowers and the trees  
The colours in a rainbow, the mighty crashing seas  
On mountain top and grassy slope, in snow and desert sand  
In the tiniest of insects and the rain that feeds the land  
The beauty of the world we know is a gift from You above  
And the heart that beats and the eyes that see say  
“Thank you” for Your love.

.....

The opening words of the hymn by B Ramsell Ramsey say  
“Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord.” I know I  
need to ask God each day to open my eyes to see Him in all  
His glory and thank Him for all the good gifts around us and  
there are so many.

Brenda Sheppard

# **Do you know who ‘the 95’ are?**

## **Christine Lucas**

The organisation ‘Scripture Union’ uses that name to refer to the 95% of children and young people in our country who are not connected to a church family. Sadly, many of them have yet to hear the Gospel. In obedience to Jesus’ Great Commission to His followers to preach the Good News to everybody, SU make it their mission to reach these youngsters. Amongst the many popular resources produced by SU are the Holiday Club books we use at St Leonard’s; they are also involved in Bible reading notes, school outreach, clubs, and adventure holidays.

Recently there have been several well-documented reports and many anecdotes about a surprising increase in church attendance by younger people. It seems as though the Holy Spirit is on the move amongst our children, youth and younger adults! There are incidences of people turning up at church out of the blue, and experiencing dreams about Christ. This is exciting and encouraging news, which we in St Leonard’s can thank God for. In recent years, anyone under 50 in our church was considered young!! It is wonderful to see families with children in some of our services again, and that Little Lions and Saturday Club are thriving. The children in our school learn about Jesus in school assemblies led by Jenny or Peter, and Holiday Club was successful again.

Scripture Union is appealing to its supporters to join them in earnest prayer and fasting for the 95.

The most important and precious gift that anyone can offer a child is the opportunity to hear the good news that Jesus loves them unconditionally, died for them, and is calling them to follow Him.

This challenge was shared with our PCC, but obviously we are all encouraged to take this to heart and to commit to praying regularly and earnestly for the young people in our community who need to hear the Gospel. Fasting is a way of showing God that we mean business with Him, but if we are unable to fast we can definitely pray! Perhaps we could each consider missing lunch once a week or fortnight to devote the time to prayer? Surely our Heavenly Father will honour our prayers according to His Promise, and in His time we shall see answers!

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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.

Obviously church members will be available to pray with you at other times too, so do ask if necessary.

Lots of books are available on the shelves at the back of church for you to borrow and enjoy, and then - of course - return. If you have books that you don't need any more, speak with Christine Lucas about donating them to church.

## **Sunday 5th October**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
2 Timothy 1 : 1-14  
Luke 17 : 5 - 10  
Sidesperson

## **16th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Peter  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Gordon Baker

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### **11.00 Family Holy Communion**

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

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

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## **Sunday 12th October**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
2 Timothy 2 : 8 - 15  
Luke 17 : 11 - 19  
Sidesperson

## **17th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Paul Lucas

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### **11.00 Family Celebration for HARVEST**

Leaders  
Prayer Ministry  
Audio-visuals  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn  
Fiona Begley & Kathy Carnell  
Christine Morgan  
Brenda Sheppard  
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Lunch after the service - but please sign in, in advance.

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## **Sunday 19th October**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
2 Timothy 3 : 14 - 4 : 5  
Luke 18 : 1 - 8  
Sidesperson

## **18th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Leon Flack

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### **11.00 Morning Worship**

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

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt  
Pauline Siggers  
Frances Hatfield  
Sylvia Adams & Christine Lucas  
Christine Morgan  
Kath Dunstan  
Graham & Sandra Bradford

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## **Sunday 26th October**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
2 Timothy 4 : 6 - 8, 16 - 18  
Luke 18 : 9 - 14  
Sidesperson

## **19th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Peter  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Keith Hatfield

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### **10.15 Morning Worship**

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

### **CAFÉ CHURCH**

Rev'd Peter  
Linda Payne  
Fiona Begley  
Jenni Blomfield & Sarah Prendergast  
Sylvia Adams  
Gordon Baker  
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

# 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](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)



Steeple Historic Vehicle Gathering in Grange Farm meadow on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August was a great success, with plenty of interesting exhibits, excellent refreshments and lots of visitors. Enough money was raised to pay for the church's annual insurance and the heating bills for most of the coming winter.

Steeple is surrounded by farmland and many people enjoy growing fruit and vegetables in their garden so it's not surprising that the **Harvest Festival** service is one of our best attended each year. This year it will be at **4pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October** and we hope to be joined by lots of friends from our neighbouring parishes.

The church will have been decorated with fresh produce and provisions on the Saturday and more will be brought forward during the service. Donated goods will be shared between the Dengie Food Bank and a woman's refuge.

After the service, we'll move to the barn at West Newlands where Steeple and St Lawrence churches will hold a joint **Harvest Supper at 5.30pm**. Tickets will be £7.50 single or £20 for a family, paid on the day.

**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,

**CHELMSFORD DIOCESE'S 'THE VIEW' shares a message from the Rev'd Sandra Eldridge, Diocesan Environmental Officer**

**Peace, Justice, and Hope for Creation event**

**Chelmsford Cathedral, 6 October, 5.15pm to 8pm**

Join us on 6 October at Chelmsford Cathedral, as the end of the Season of Creation 2025 draws to a close, to explore this year's theme: "Peace with Creation". Come and hear Gideon Commey, Eco Theologian and Founder of Ghana Youth Environmental Movement, Rev. Vanessa Elston, Vicar of St. Barnabas, Southfields, Chaplain to the Bishop of Kingston, and pioneer for climate spirituality and action, and Paul Powlesland, Founder of Lawyers for Nature, barrister and river guardian, campaigner for the rights of nature talking about what this theme means to them and how they see peace with Creation being related to justice. Listen to Bishop Roger's (our Environmental Lead) reflection on the Season, and find out what students at Becket Keys Church of England School are thinking and doing about caring for Creation.

# 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.

## **October dates are: 10th and 24th**

If you would like to give it a try and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me by telephone. You will be made very welcome.

A special “thankyou” at this time to Maureen Smith who has faithfully cleaned the brass eagle, brass plaques and other brass items for many years. Maureen has now decided to step down from serving in this role and she will be sorely missed.

If there is anyone who would like to take over Maureen’s role you will be made very welcome. Please contact myself or speak to Maureen in church who can show you the ropes!!!!

## **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.

## **SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL**

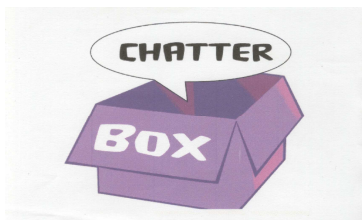
**LUNCH CLUB** meets on most Mondays.

If you would like any information please phone

Dave Christie 07775 758118.

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### **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!

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### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

**Tuesday October 28th**

**Speaker Kay Beighton: "Australian highlights"**

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.

November 2025	2	9	16	23	30
December 2025	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.**

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A quotation to think about

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else.”

C.S. Lewis

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 St Leonard's events in October

A continuing series of Home Group Meetings in church will be the film "**THE CHOSEN**" which began in September

October Mondays: 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th at 9.30 am

and Thursdays 2nd 9th, 16th, 24th, & 30th at 7.30 pm

Full details will be in church., or speak to Jenny Pratt

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*Wider afield..... As usual.....*

### **ALTHORNE HARVEST FESTIVAL**

will be at Althorne Church Hall

on Sunday 12th October at 4 pm

Hymns to sing; Tea and Cake to enjoy; Craftwork to do

Food donations will be for our local Food Pantry

**And a valuable quotation to consider:**

**Nelson Mandela:**

"One of the things I learnt when I was negotiating  
was that until I changed in myself  
I could not change others."

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### **PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:**

w/b	5 October	Central - West
w/b	12 October	North - East
w/b	19 October	Central - North-West
w/b	26 October	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](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

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



**BIBLE STUDY GROUPS** meet in the church on  
**Mondays (9.30 am) and Thursdays (7.30 pm)**

Details of the actual programme are available in church and  
on the notice boards. (See page 18)