

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



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



This was the Chatterbox entry in the Handicraft Section of the Southminster Flower Show with title The Ugly Bugs Ball

AUGUST 2023

**The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
Psalm 24 verse 1**

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the September magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 20th August** New contributors are welcome.*

To cover our costs we have to charge for this magazine. This is now **80p per issue** or £3 for Every 4 months paid in advance. There may be changes ahead, so we have removed the annual subscription.

Reflection

I had a peek at Chris Martin's thoughts on the weather before writing this Reflection. Chris mentioned this June's "little heatwave", just when Poland, much of Southern Europe, North Africa and part of China faced record, lethal temperatures. Chris was right in suggesting that we must make the best of unpleasant weather; but we must take climate change seriously.

We face subnormal July temperatures because a meander in the jet stream brought us north of the stream. The jet stream is a wind 5 to 7 miles above Earth's surface, blowing west to east at up to 140 miles an hour. It is fastest where the temperature difference between air masses is greatest. Places north of the jet stream have cooler Arctic air, lower air pressure and unsettled weather. High pressure areas south of the jet stream trap hot air and move slowly, causing summer heatwaves. The jet stream meanders as it slows. It has slowed because Polar regions are warming faster than the Equatorial regions. Why all this science in a church magazine?

For many years both as a teacher and as a priest, I have thought about, spoken about and prayed about how our climate is changing. Why, in God's world, is the climate (the average weather over a period of several decades) changing at unprecedented speed? In a word, humanity. Very soon the average global temperature will be more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above the average global temperature of the early 19th Century, before Britain began a Europe-wide industrial revolution powered by burning coal.

American physicist Eunice Foote, in 1856, and Irish professor John Tyndall in 1859, demonstrated the 'Greenhouse Effect' of increasing Carbon dioxide, CO₂, on global temperatures. In 1896 Sweden's Svante Arrhenius calculated the effect of increased CO₂ on global temperatures. Some "greenhouse gases" are needed to free the planet from a permanent ice age. Too much of them becomes a threat.

Despite this knowledge, for the next 130 years we have burned enormous quantities of coal, oil and natural gas, the energy-rich fossil fuels, producing Megatonnes of CO₂. Global temperatures have shot up with rapid industrialisation. The only cause amid all the various "natural" cycles including volcanoes that will account for the rise is the increase in industrially produced greenhouse gases produced by burning fossil fuels. CO₂ levels have nearly doubled since 1820. A 1.5°C rise in average global temperature may not seem much, but our world's recent weather, including drought and wildfires, torrential rain and floods are reliably attributed to climate change.

This is a church magazine. We followers of Christ accept that "the earth is the Lord's; and everything in it." (Psalm 24:1) Our world and its varying climates are God's, but entrusted to us. Genesis 2:15 tells us that people were to "tend and care for" the earth. What are we doing to God's earth?

We have developed new technologies, both for inventing and discovering new materials and for exploiting them. Each

new development brings opportunities that can improve our lives and our environment – or destroy either or both. Plastic, anyone? Each new technology requires new choices. Joshua challenged his people fresh from their conquest of Canaan, “if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve,” (Joshua 24:15)

So do we choose luxury, insist on our “right” to travel widely and by air, or own a car that emits many greenhouse gases, or use air conditioning that cools the house but heats the outside...? Or does God require us to examine our conduct. We have chosen to continue burning fossil fuels and sometimes governments have chosen not to develop other forms of energy fully. “Turbines on land spoil the view.” We have developed diets using methane-producing animals. Intensive farming causes deforestation, turning self-sustaining, Carbon absorbing forests into arable land and pasture that emit CO₂. Carbon emissions per person are greatest in countries where energy use is high and consumption is relatively inexpensive. So the poorest people in the poorest places who contribute least to climate change suffer most from it. St Luke’s Gospel quotes Jesus: “Blessed are you that are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God,” but “woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.” (Luke 6:20 and 24).

What next? First, get informed. Find the facts. Pray that your priorities and choices will serve God’s purposes for a better world for all life. Then, as Joshua said, choose whom you will serve.

Blessings,

Ken Dunstan

The Heart of the Village

What does the “Heart of the Village” mean for our village of Southminster and for all the villages on the Dengie Peninsula? There has always been a great spirit of togetherness in our local communities, people who work together to create what’s best and reflects our communal life. The heart of the village is what’s at the centre of all that happens.

I went along to a meeting in June to listen to future plans being put forward about new proposed housing for Southminster.

The floor was open for residents to voice their opinions or concerns. Almost everyone had the same concerns regarding lack of infrastructure in place, especially the school capacity, doctor’s capacity, sewerage capacity, as well as the roads being overwhelmed with more traffic coming and going from the Dengie. Other concerns were also raised. All very valid concerns which were duly noted and so it is a wait now for the outcome.



I have lived in Southminster for over 60 years and it was considered that people, to be accepted as “locals,” had to be here for many years! Hopefully that isn’t the case now as we have had so many “new” people move in who have, I hope, been warmly welcomed and for myself new friendships have been formed.

I have been privileged in being able to live in this part of our country. We have fresh air (with lovely country smells at muck spreading time!) we have lovely walks and a really friendly

atmosphere. There are clubs to join and various activities for each age group and I'm sure more things will evolve in time to help people settle in and be valued members of the Dengie communities.

Thinking of the amount of people who cared and turned up at the planning meeting, it reinforced the fact that our heart is for the Village, our earthly home, and yes problems will come as we expand and maybe our protests or concerns will come to naught but at least we try.

One thing I will always remember as a young girl was roller skating down an empty Station Road at top speed, no cars in sight. Good days but life goes on. I know that this has been a great place to live growing up and will be for years to come as we move on together keeping this Village as a special home with a big heart.



Brenda Sheppard

Our Preaching Series

“Heroes of Faith” started in July from 23rd onwards and we are looking at various characters who have helped to shape our lives of faith. Come along to find out how this happens.

The July heroes were Daniel, David and Deborah

The August timetable is:

6th	Elijah	Brenda Sheppard
13th	Joseph	Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt & Karen Flack
20th	Esther	Norman Pratt
27th	Noah	Rev'd Peter & Jenny (Holiday Club Final)

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO ENJOY

Chris Martin

Not so long ago we had a little heatwave. For a day or so everybody seemed thrilled that summer had arrived after a cool spring. Out came the shorts and t-shirts and summery dresses.

Within a few days we were greeting each other with something like “Phew! isn’t it hot?” or even “This is TOO hot isn’t it?”

Certainly with global warming we have to expect these strange weather patterns, but I don’t know if it’s a British trait that we are never QUITE pleased with the weather for more than 24 hours or so.

One thing is for sure: we can’t do much about it. So why don’t we just make the best of each day?... even if it’s rainy: “good for the garden”, or windy: “will blow away the cobwebs”, or sunny: “what a glorious day”!

At times in life we also have days or even longer periods of time when we would like things to be different – things more important than the weather. But perhaps we would feel more satisfied with how things are going if we just accept what we can’t change each day and make the best of it. However, often we can do something about feeling better about life on those days we might be feeling a bit “down”.

There's something to be said for taking the initiative to make life more like you want it to be. Call somebody for a chat, get in the car or on a bus and go off somewhere for an hour or two, or go for a walk while the weather allows. It is very easy to sit and feel sorry for ourselves but we are fortunate in this village that there are quite a few places we can go and cheer ourselves up.

You'll see ads in this magazine for Chatterbox on Thursday mornings, the Monday Lunch Club and other events happening in the Memorial Hall. And of course, there's also the fellowship of the church where everybody is always made very welcome.

Editorial Additions

Seek the 'good' even when things seem bad.

As believers in Christ we know that God is with us at all times.
(Matthew 28 v 20) We just have to look to Him for guidance.

One of the things He may suggest is that there are usually people who are "worse off than we are" so if we are aware of such we can offer some assistance to them. Hebrews 10:24-25 calls us to meet and encourage one another "to spur one another on towards love and good deeds". We will all benefit from this.

Some people seem to think that 'coming to church requires knowledge and willingness to participate in strange action.' Just remember that here we welcome everyone - including children, and we value the informal chat after the service has finished. Community events in the church remind us that our purpose is to be present for all and to remind people about God's Good News by our words and actions. (See our Mission Statement on page 24.)

Church Committees and Teams

Within our St Leonard's Church community, we have different teams and committees. Committees are formed and overseen through the P.C.C. (the Parochial Church Council who are responsible for the overall well-being, practical as well as spiritual, of their Church members and the building) Committees include P.C.C. members and any other Church members who would like to, and are able to join a team.

At present we have several teams:

Fabric Team They look after the fabric of the church, looking out for any work that needs doing and making sure the building is safe, watertight and hopefully in the near future to be re-decorated.

Social Team They organise any social events in church which are always open to all.

Church and Community Group They keep an eye on any events happening in the community and publicise and offer help if needed and also support where possible.

Worship Team They oversee and plan the regular services, and the occasional 'special' services too.

Children and Youth Team This is still in the planning stage to oversee future provision for our young people.

Pastoral Team This is in a planning stage too. This is a team to be aware of and care for church members and members of the community who may need help in any way.

Not forgetting that there are also other teams at work in the church, namely those who look after the flower arrangements,

those who serve refreshments, those who clean, those who gardenthe list goes on.

Every team is valuable for the smooth running of the church and for serving the community and there is always room for new members. Please speak to a P.C.C. member if you would like to help in any way.

Brenda Sheppard

PS from Kath

It is hoped that a **Communications Team** will be formed in the near future so that all information can be accurate and appropriately timed in the weekly Bulletin, on the Notice Boards, in the Church Magazine and on the Website.

ENCOUNTERS WITH JAMES Norman Pratt

Our two weekly Bible Study groups are just finishing nine sessions discussing the Letter of James. Wow - it's been challenging! It's not that the letter is difficult to understand. It's more that from start to finish he makes us question our behaviour as Christians. We expect to be challenged by Scripture, but not in every paragraph! The letter begins with, as it were, a bang. Having sent his greetings in the first verse of the letter, he follows it up with this: 2 'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.' Trials? Joy?

I think that more than any other of the epistles of the New Testament, this one has got us all thinking and discussing. How can we ensure we are 'doers' of the word? Do we really put our faith into practice? Are we too judgemental? Do we really allow God in, to guide us in our plans?

The best Bible Studies are, I think, the ones where we learn from each other. And I think we did.

Sunday 6th August

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Romans 9 : 1-5
Matthew 14 : 13-21
Sidesperson

9th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Jacqui/ Brenda Sheppard
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION

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

Rev'd Jacqui/ Brenda Sheppard
Pauline Siggers
Fiona Begley
Christine Lucas & Sarah Prendergast
Sylvia Adams
Kath Dunstan
Eira Hagger & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 13th August

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Romans 10 : 5-15
Matthew 14 : 22 -33
Sidesperson

10th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Family Celebration

Leaders
Readings & Prayers
Audio-visuals
Prayer Ministry
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack
Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny & Karen
Christine Morgan
Brenda Sheppard & Frances Hatfield
Leon Flack
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

HEROES OF FAITH THIS MONTH

August 6th ELIJAH

August 20th ESTHER

August 13th JOSEPH

August 27th NOAH

Sunday 20th August**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

President/Preacher
 Romans 11 : 1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15 : 10 -28
 Sidesperson

11th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Jacqui/Norman Pratt
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher
 Readings as above
 Intercessions
 Audio-visuals
 Prayer Ministry
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui/ Norman Pratt
 Christine Morgan
 Kath Dunstan
 Christine Lucas
 Fiona Begley & Yvonne Thurbon
 Nigel Winger
 t.b.a.

Sunday 27th August**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher
 Romans 12: 1-8
 Matthew 16 : 13 - 20
 Sidesperson

12th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter/Jenny Pratt
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Pete Adams

11.00 Morning Worship at end of HOLIDAY CLUB

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

Rev'd Peter & Jenny Pratt
 Linda Payne
 Brenda Sheppard
 Sylvia Adams & Keith Hatfield
 Christine Morgan
 Paul Lucas
 Christine Lucas & Sandra Billinghurst

A FAMILY BARBECUE in the Southern Grounds will follow this service.

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

“Steeple Historic Gathering”

will follow its established format but at a new location. This year we'll be using a meadow at Little Ash Tree Farm, Steeple Road, Mayland by kind permission of Duncan McLaren. Although this event will be further from the centre of Steeple, we hope village organisations and local traders will still regard this as their “Steeple Show”. Perhaps being closer to Mayland, with its larger population, may increase the number of visitors. For more information, contact Peter Marshall or Teresa Julien.

Steeple Church contacts in addition to the Benefice Team:

Rhona Leech, Churchwarden & PCC Secretary,

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

Steeple Gathering

**Sunday 20th August
11 am - 4 pm**

New Location!

**Little Ashtree Farm, Steeple Road,
Mayland, CM3 6EG**

Cars,

Tractors,

Motorcycles,

Commercials,

Military Vehicles,

Stationary Engines

Craft and Produce Stalls

Refreshments



Text 07711 472 132 for
Exhibitor or **Stall** Entry

CHATTERBOX: as described opposite....We are an open door to people who like to come along. We also have jigsaws on the go and a Craft table from which we have exhibited some of the amazing items made in the Flower Show. We are hoping in the future to have a computer to use to help people enhance their computer skills. We are a friendly group and would love more people to come and enjoy a warm space and good company. Recently made greeting cards are available on most Thursdays. It has been good to welcome occasionally groups of people from Squeaks Nursing Home.

On a practical level, if anyone has any Jigsaws they would like to donate or lend to the group we would be very grateful as we get through quite a few in a year!!

Any enquiries to: Norman on
or: Brenda on

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

I prayerfully decided to start the "Together Apart" facebook group at the beginning of the first lockdown and posted on the page at least 6 days of each week. 3 years on lockdowns now seem to be long behind us and the interaction with the group is now minimal so after a lot of thought and prayer it was decided that I would no longer post on this group daily.

The group will remain open and I will occasionally post things that I think may be of interest. Please feel free to post on there too.

Thanks to all those who have interacted over the past three years.

Karen Flack

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB meets on Mondays.
but **NOT DURING AUGUST**

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



CHATTERBOX

meets on Thursday mornings 10 am-12 noon. Everybody is welcome – come along for a chat, activities if you would like to join them and a cuppa and a biscuit for £1.00. No entry charge.

There are other groups too. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer to help us in running this valuable community organisation, please just attend and think about it.
It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

This will now meet every week on Tuesdays from 10 am - noon
at Christ Church, North Street.

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet for

GARDEN PARTY at 10 Kings Road

on 22nd August

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



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. We particularly remember Dickie

Dulude who had been suffering for some time but who is now in peace with our Lord. His funeral will be on August 8th in 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.

October 2023	1	8	15	22	29
November 2023	5	12	19	26	

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

Henry Club

Again, I want to say a big thank you to all the team who help at Henry Club which of course is named after one of our trusty vacuum cleaners!! We meet once a fortnight on a Friday from 9am – 11am and helpers do as much as they are able. We do our best, but do need extra helpers, and it would be great if someone could perhaps ‘Adopt the Chapel’ as it has been so lovingly looked after in the past and we also need someone to vacuum the carpets in the main church. If you feel you would like to help with the interior cleaning at any time, please contact me even if you can only come every now and then. It would be great to have you onboard and for you to be comfortable in the task or tasks you would prefer to do.



Brenda Sheppard

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that most restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and continue cautiously during 2023. Any changes 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.

**This year's Southminster Flower Show
was held on Saturday 15th July
From 1 pm.**

A full report is available on their local website.

Several members of our Church family achieved success in various sections, so it was good to be there to see their names on the winning cards (See page 1) The local School also did well, and it was great to hear the Primary School Choir singing in the main area, after the various animal-racing items.

The Vintage Cars proved a popular attraction.

As usual, we enjoyed our time there, meeting people we have not had a chance to chat with for a while.

Kath and Ken Dunstan

Free Holiday Club 2023

GO BANANAS

at St.Leonard's Church Southminster

Tuesday 22nd August to Thursday 24th August

Celebration Service on Sunday 27th August

followed by Family Barbecue

Open to Primary age children

residents of Southminster and Steeple

and the schools of Southminster & St. Mary's Burnham

Registration and booking forms from Tuesday 30th May -

Available from - school, church and online

Places limited - book early to save disappointment.

For more information contact Jenny

This year's series of evening Services
at **Bradwell St Peter's Chapel** at 6pm are listed in church.
The July 23rd one had a speaker, Rev'd John Saxon, who is the Diocesan Disabilities' Advisor. I took notes and have included some of his talk here.

We tend to see disabled people as different from us and we expect them to be calling out for help. However, we are beginning to see the tapestry of differences in humanity and Society tends to set values but we should remember that we are all made in God's image. In God's kingdom all should be included because all are welcome. How do we do this?

PITY involves compassion and understanding that all people are valued by God. Churches do make suitable arrangements to cater for physically disabled, deaf and blind people - even autistic people. Rather, our actual approach should be "How can we help you? What would be the best way for you?"

PEACE Do all disabled people want healing? We need to respond to their cries but not make assumptions. Their life path is difficult but many have found peace somehow, so we should celebrate them and not try to transform them into a likeness of us.

PROSPERITY This isn't about money but personal health. We can only flourish if our life path leads to a full acceptance and understanding of ourselves. No physical impairment should stop people reaching their personal goals. If we just label someone because we think the problem is intellectual disability we should not write people off, depriving them of God's growth. This will deprive us of our ministerial ability. We are all God's family and we can call out to Jesus together.

If you want to know more about the service, which also had some great hymns, speak to me.

Kath Dunstan

FOR YOUR DIARY

and for your preparation

Especially as we can support our neighbouring church family too.

Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30 pm

St. Nicholas Church, Tillingham

Eco- Floristry Demonstration by

HELEN SHEARD

(<https://helensheardfloraldesigns.co.uk>)

Helen specialises in environmentally friendly designs inspired by nature and looking after nature.

Helen's floral demonstrations show how attractive and natural floral designs can be made without using floral foam.

There will also be

Coffee, Tea, Prosecco, and Homemade Cake!

Tickets £10

For tickets ring Jan 07976028856 or Sally 07807473833

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	6 August	North-East
w/b	13 August	Central - North-West
w/b	20 August	Central - East
w/b	27 August	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

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 12-13 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 Prayers

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