

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



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



**LAY MINISTRY CELEBRATION SERVICE  
AT CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL**  
**Includes our own Jenny Pratt (See page 12)**

**AUGUST 2024**

Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience.  
*2 Timothy 4: verse 2*

- 3 Reflection ..... Rev'd Ken Dunstan
- 5 Announcement about Rev'd Jacqui's new appointment
- 6 Above Reproach? ..... Brenda Sheppard
- 7 **ECO** tip of the month for August (from A Rocha)
- 8 PCC Jottings
- 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during August**
- 12 -13 Steeple Church News & Gathering on 18th August . Peter Marshall
- 12 Jenny Pratt is Commissioned by the Bishop
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team update ..... Brenda Sheppard
- Invitation to September Health & Wellness event
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox  
Little Lions and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas) Prayers in church,  
Southminster Flower Show Report
- 17 Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted  
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Event in neighbouring parish, Althorne, this month  
Ride & Stride Event details : ready for September  
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

***NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:***

*Articles for the September  
magazine should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
**Sunday 18th August**  
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!)

## August Reflection by Ken Dunstan

Back in the 1970s, the then Vicar asked me to attempt a guide to the church. The first effort expanded to include some of the history of Southminster with a section called, “A Walk Round the Church”.

Many church guides are just that. They just describe the building, as one critic observed, “up to the last restoration.” Architecture and architectural heritage matter. When, in the early years of this century, we considered removing the pews in favour of chairs, we were told, “You’ll have to consult the Victorian Society.” My 1966 AA Book of the Road describes Southminster as, “pop. 1897, M.D. 1250. The restored Church has a good 15<sup>th</sup> Cent. north porch. Pieces of furniture from Nelson’s ‘Victory’ are preserved.” Holiday visitors beware!

The church is far more than a “restored” building, and the pieces of furniture never were on the Victory. A later Vicar, David Lumb and his wife Mary visited HMS Victory and asked. They were told that nothing was removed from the ship, and in any case, there was too little room for what I thought was a chart table. The legend still lives on in some guide books, no doubt, but we have to live with the truth. And the truth is far more helpful and wonderful.

I have served as a licensed priest in nine different parish churches, besides a further dozen as a visiting minister in the absence of an incumbent. Of those nine, six were on the edge of, or away from, the settlement they served. Settlements move. When my last parish, Mayland, moved, the church was marooned 2½ miles from the new population centre. Southminster is blessed with a church that is walking distance from most homes of the village. That gives us opportunities to serve the parish that many others aren’t able to enjoy.

Southminster's building demonstrates nine centuries of architectural change. Much of that change is due to three men – Tudor, Georgian and Victorian. Each had a particular vision of what a church is for. The Victorian, William Lowder, wanted a church suitable for Anglo-Catholic ceremony. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century has seen changes to make worship more accessible while enabling faith to grow.

Although architecture matters, a lot, what matters most is purpose. Southminster Parish Church sits right at the centre of the village to proclaim, as we hear in the Communion service, "The Lord is here! His Spirit is with us!" That's why the revised Guide tries to remind visitors and residents alike that the building is a place of worship, a place of learning and growth in discipleship, and a base for telling others the really good news of God's love and His purposes for the world.

The truth I mentioned earlier continues to be wonderful. Of Southminster's three churches in 1965, one, the Baptist Chapel, is now a private home. Southminster Congregational Church became part of the United Reformed Church in the 1970s with the title Christ Church. It had losses leading to the end of regular worship there a few years ago. Parish Church and URC relationships have varied, but for much of the time each has seen the other as a potential partner. That partnership has recently become closer. A formal agreement between the two to work together will use Christ Church's facilities as a Community Hub while Sunday worship is based mainly at the Parish Church. A packed Christ Church saw the signing of this agreement by Canon Peter and the Rev. Anne Sardeson, ready to be counter-signed by the Moderator of the URC East of England Synod and Archdeacon Jonathan.

Yes, buildings matter, though not just because of their design, or renovation or their content. All carry a message, like that of a palace trumpeting power and privilege, or a mansion advertising wealth. Our two buildings already house the Dengie Food Pantry and Citizens' Advice. There's more to develop. Pray for the Hub, for the two buildings, for the people who worship in them, the people they serve and for the message of God's love they carry.

**Rev'd Ken**

---

**This announcement from + Guli and + Adam was read in the Southminster Benefice on Sunday morning 14<sup>th</sup> July:**

*"We are delighted to be able to announce that Jacqui King has been offered, and has accepted, the invitation of the Bishop of Bradwell to be The Vicar of Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers, and Priest in Charge of St Mary Woodham Ferrers with St Andrew Bicknacre and All Saints East Hanningfield known as The Hill & Vale Churches.*

We are so delighted for Jacqui and Mac and pray that their move runs smoothly.

We will have opportunities over the next couple of months to give our congratulations and we will have a

**celebration in St. Leonard's Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September,**

with a service followed by food and drink.

Please make a note in your diary.

## Above Reproach?

The Bible talks to us in 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 about the Spiritual gifts our Lord gives us especially saying that love undergirds everything. We read that Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. Also, we must never think of ourselves more highly than we ought (Romans 12 v 3-8). We may go around thinking how good we would be in a testing situation until we are in one! Then our carnal self be it in thought or deed often takes over!

I had such a test recently. I took my husband to a Bowls Club in Danbury. As I dropped him off in the car park a car with an elderly man driving came in front of me and insisted by facial and hand gestures that I move out of his way. I had no room to manoeuvre and he eventually got round me. I went to drive off only for him to have circled the car park and come round in front of me again even more angry looking than before. From the safety of my car, I mouthed at him twice “Don’t be so grumpy” but to no avail and he stayed put! I then remembered a real word of wisdom my driving instructor told me many years ago, she said if a male driver gets aggressive just blow him a kiss and drive off, so this is what I did! The grumpy man’s face was a picture!!



I have to admit it crossed my mind (fleeting!) to retaliate and say or do something I would later regret but my instructor’s words saved the day! How much more will my heavenly Father’s instructions save the day. Jesus himself in very testing situations often said nothing and advised his

disciples to walk away at times from situations.

The Bible says: “Test me and see if there is any offensive way in me. (Psalm 139:23-24). Testing times are necessary in our Christian walk to see how we are maturing and how we react and cope in any given situation. It is, often in ongoing situations, that our patience wears thin and frustration and angry words are said. Jesus was so unjustly treated and wounded but we know that even from the cruelty of the cross he forgave.

Our main aim in our Christian walk is to become more like Jesus and bless people rather than curse them. I didn't immediately bless the grumpy man or forgive him but thankfully I didn't curse him. As I drove home, I saw the funny side of it all and I found out later that God had blessed the grumpy man anyway as his bowls team won their match which I really hope he enjoyed!!

*I Am  
Blessed...  
To Be A  
Blessing*

**Brenda Sheppard**

---

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

Assist local wildlife during very hot weather. Provide hedgehogs with hedgehog biscuits (available at many pet stores and online) or dog biscuits (small/crumbed) as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes, and ensure a safe exit for them and other small mammals if you have a garden pond. Help garden birds by maintaining a filled bird bath and supplying supplementary food including black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mealworms, waxworms, and a nutritious seed mixture, when natural supplies become scarce.

## PCC Jottings

At our PCC (Parochial Church Council) meeting in July it was mentioned that it might be helpful to let the church know some of the ongoing items on the agenda that are discussed at our bi-monthly



meetings. Our agendas are often similar each time as we receive updates on ongoing works on the fabric of the building and reports from the various teams which the PCC is divided into.

We are happy to report the start of the maintenance on the parts of the church ceiling which were damaged by water and the renewal of the crumbling plaster in places. When this work is complete the back of the church will be able to be used in a much more productive way.

The Vicar's vestry has been re-carpeted and many thanks to the generous person who donated the carpet and carried out the work for no fee.

We gave thanks to Rev. Jacqui, her husband and others, who had a Labyrinth cut into the church grounds behind the church which has been walked by many of the congregation and the school children too. It will be kept cut and hopefully used for personal meditation for all until at least the Autumn.

Some of the trees in the churchyard have been pollarded and one removed through disease. Our thanks were also again given to the Community Payback team and other volunteers for keeping the churchyard grounds tidy.

Ongoing updates on the Community Hub being set up in the URC church building in North Street are given at each meeting. St. Leonard's and the URC now have a joint management committee overseeing the work done and we look forward to the time when the hub is fully up and running with different organisations coming in to help people with various needs. The Citizen's Advice on a Tuesday and the Food Pantry on a Wednesday have been in situ in the URC church for a long time now which has been a great asset to this local area.

This year's Holiday club will be from 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August and preparations start very early in the year for the very willing volunteers. Other Children's activities occur during the year and Little Lions is an invaluable mother and toddler group held in the Memorial Hall during school term time on a Wednesday morning.

At each PCC meeting a treasurer's report is given and updates on training necessary for PCC members and all those working in a specific role in the church. Any reported concerns from Church members or from the village are discussed and acted on appropriately. The church needs a new Safeguarding Officer at present and a PCC secretary to take minutes and help with administration support. If anyone feels prompted to help, please speak to Rev. Peter or Rev. Jacqui.

Please remember that the PCC is here to serve the Church and the Parish and will always be available to listen and help if needed.

## **Sunday 4th August**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Ephesians 4 : 1 - 16  
John 6 : 24 - 35  
Sidesperson

## **10th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Gordon Baker

---

### **11.00 Holy Communion**

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

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt  
Fiona Begley  
Brenda Sheppard  
Christine Lucas & Yvonne Thurbon  
Christine Morgan  
Gordon Baker  
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

---

## **Sunday 11th August**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Ephesians 4 : 25 - 5 : 2  
John 6 : 35, 41 - 51  
Sidesperson

## **11th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Paul Lucas

---

### **11.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION**

Leaders  
Audio-visuals  
Prayer Ministry  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Team (Karen, Jenny, Dawn)  
Christine Lucas  
Frances Hatfield & Sarah Prendergast  
Kathy Carnell  
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

---

Be ready for the Steeple Gathering on Sunday.



## **Sunday 18th August**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
Ephesians 5 : 15 - 20  
John 6 : 51 - 58  
Sidesperson

## **12th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Jacqui  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Leon Flack

---

### **11.00 Morning Worship**

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

Norman Pratt / Rev'd Jacqui  
Sylvia Adams  
Frances Hatfield  
Keith Hatfield & Fiona Begley  
Christine Morgan  
Brenda Sheppard  
Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

---

## **Sunday 25th August**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
Ephesians 6 : 10 - 20  
John 6 : 56 - 69  
Sidesperson

## **13th Sunday after Trinity**

Rev'd Peter /Brenda Sheppard  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Keith Hatfield

---

### **11.00 MORNING WORSHIP for HOLIDAY CLUB**

Leader/Preacher  
Readings, prayers etc. will be arranged after Holiday Club  
which ended on Thursday  
Sidesperson  
Prayer Ministry  
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt  
Kath Dunstan  
Fiona Begley & Frances Hatfield  
Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham  
and Paul Lucas

---

# 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 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,

## **Jenny Commissioning**

Jenny Pratt has been a Licensed Lay Minister in our church benefice (Southminster & Steeple) for a while and has now been commissioned as pastoral assistant. The commissioning, by Bishop Guli, happened at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 13th July. We all appreciate what Jenny gives to our churches - with her special gifts in children's ministry particularly, but we know that she has more skills which will be practised in this latest role. We are grateful to her and to God for her willingness to expand her service.

*Please support*

# **STEEPLE GATHERING**

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 11am – 4pm**

**Grange Farm, CM0 7RW**

**Returning to our traditional field  
opposite Steeple Church**

**Historic Cars, Motorcycles,  
Tractors, Commercials,  
Stationary engines**

**Refreshments**

**Craft Stalls**

*Free Entry but we welcome donations  
towards repairs to Steeple Church*

## **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 on my phone number. You will be made very welcome.



---

### **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.

---



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



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

---



**LITTLE LIONS' usually** meet on Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall but this is **during term-time only**. It is for babies, toddlers & their carers. The families join the main services, especially the Family Celebrations. News of the Craft Morning will come soon.

**DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**  
**will meet on 27th August**  
**For a Garden Party**

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.**

---

**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.

---

**SOUTHMINSTER FLOWER SHOW**  
**On Saturday 20th July we rejoiced!**

The weather was beautiful (except for a couple of brief showers) and certainly was warm and inviting. Sadly the Dog Show had to be cancelled because the dogs should not be expected to suffer the heat. However, all the display tents were well supported and their contents appreciated, We are particularly pleased to be able to congratulate Susan Moore for her First Class awards in Handicraft & Textiles; and also Kim Smith for her success. The organising teams did a good job and children were catered for in many ways. Hopefully we shall meet again next year and if more helpers are needed they will offer in good time.

## 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 will be a sign-up form in church.

---

**The TLC Ensemble present  
A SUMMER MUSICAL BOUQUET  
On Saturday 10th August at 2.30 pm  
In Althorne Church Hall**

Popular Favourites of instrumental and vocal music  
for a Summer afternoon.

Tea and Cake too!

Donations to Althorne Church Repair Fund  
and TLC Ensemble

Tel. 01621 741131 or 740481

---

**PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:**

w/b	4 August	South - West
w/b	11 August	Central - West
w/b	18 August	North - East
w/b	25 August	Central - North-West





## 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 shall not be meeting during August but  
details of a new course will be available soon..