

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

StL

and also for Steeple Parish

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



Man made God made

Details about this beading wonder are on page 4.

AUGUST 2026

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I hope you will receive this issue before 26th July. Our deliverers always make an effort to do this.

*Articles for the September magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 16th 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!)

If you receive this printed version please tell your deliverer whether you want to continue from January 2026.

Reflection from *Jenny Pratt* Sparkle and Shine

As I write this reflection there are 215 days to Christmas. (Sooner when you get to read this!) Time to start watching Christmas films. The film 'Nativity' has the song Sparkle and Shine' in it. I then found the following on the internet:

"Imagine someone spills a container of glitter all over your home. At first, it's everywhere on the floor, in your clothes, in your hair, and in places you didn't know even existed. You clean and clean, but you can't get rid of it all.

Grief is like glitter.

After a death, reminders of the person seem to be everywhere. A song, a favourite food, a birthday, a familiar scent, or an ordinary moment can suddenly bring a wave of sadness. Over time, you clean up most of the glitter. Daily life becomes more manageable, and the reminders are not constant. But the glitter never completely disappears.

Years later, you might open a drawer, hear a laugh that sounds like theirs, or visit a place you shared, and it's like finding another tiny speck of glitter. It catches the light, and for a moment, you're reminded of them. The grief isn't necessarily as overwhelming as it once was, but it is still part of your life.

Sharing this as a reminder to myself and others that grief doesn't disappear, it simply changes over time. It's okay to still find pieces of grief along the way." Yasmin Gibson

We all at some time must deal with grief. My brother died a year ago now. Like glitter we often come across little reminders of the one we have lost. At the Flower Show a knitted West Ham hat immediately reminded me of my brother singing 'I'm forever blowing bubbles'. But it felt like glitter that sparkled a memory. Try to see these great wonderful moments you shared are the pieces of glitter. And Jesus is the Light of the World. As we walk the path of grief help us to remember the sparkle we had with our loved ones. And give us the shine of Jesus to help us to walk the path of grief.

Blessings,
Jenny

Man made God made Jenny Pratt

This was a Group Entry (by my friend Lynne and myself) in the Handicraft Section of Southminster's Flower Show on July 18th. It is made from beads sewn together and it took about 9 months to make. It won the Chair-Lady's Choice at the Flower Show. It depicts what man makes of the world and what God wants the world to be. But sadly man encroaches on God's world with traffic cones and old cans. Happily God still encroaches on man's world with weeds growing through!

Editor's comment: All our Church Family have been thrilled with Jenny's contributions every year to the Flower Show, and even though she was a bit worried about sharing her news (because she didn't want to be 'showing off') I persuaded her to do it. Let's rejoice about her work and about God's messages.



Something to remember for your August diaries

Every Sunday evening at 6 pm there is a service at St Peter's Chapel, Bradwell.

There is plenty of room to park your car on the field by the chapel, so walking isn't a problem.

- 2nd Archdeacon of West Ham, the Venerable Mike Power speaks.
He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the
Mission to Seafarers.
- 9th An Othona Service to celebrate the Othona Community's
80th Anniversary. Colin Hidgetts will lead the service.
- 16th Rev'd Matt Simkins leads a Sung Compline and Reflection "You
rule the raging of the seas" and meeting uncertainty in the hope
of Christ. Fr Matt is Vicar of West Clacton & Jaywick, chaplain
and crew member of RNLI Clacton-on-Sea
- 23rd Wolderthorn, with their improvised 'Immerse' electronic
meditations. Wilderthorn are sonic siblings Jon and Dan
Bilbrough, and they will bring us something beautiful and fresh.
- 30th The final service of this season will be a Eucharist with
Confirmation led by the Right Rev'd Adam Atkinson,
Bishop of Bradwell.

Fear knocked at the door.
Faith answered, and there was no-one there.



(This was quoted in S.U. notes as an old Irish proverb.)

Tell it to God or the Dog

Brenda Sheppard

Who do we first turn to when a crisis arrives?

Do we immediately pray or panic!

The Bible tells us in Philippians 4: 6-7:

“Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”.

What great advice, but do we always act on it?

I found this poem which I found really amusing but it made me think of where or who we first go to with a problem. I wonder if it resonates with you?

Tell it to the Dog

If you have had an awful day
And no-one wants to come and play
And all your woes won't go away
Just tell it to the dog.

If everybody picks on you
And all your plans have fallen through;
If you feel lonely, sad and blue,
Just tell it to the dog.

Dogs do not judge, they understand.
They rub your leg. They lick your hand.
If you feel lost in no-man's land
Just tell it to the dog.

Dogs keep your secrets safe within.
They don't care if you lose or win.
So, turn that frown into a grin
And tell it to the dog!
(or failing that, make do with the cat....)

*Copyright for poem used with permission from Joshua Seigal.
To view some of his other poems go to www.joshuaseigal.co.uk*

It's interesting isn't it that Dog is God spelt backwards and it reminds me to go forward to God first and then perhaps to go back and tell the dog who I firstly shared with!!



Blessings,

Brenda Sheppard

A RECENT SPECIAL OCCASION

Bradwell Pilgrimage

Saturday 4th July 10.30 am - 3.30 pm

LIVING STONES

Several members of our Church family were able to attend, and everyone seemed to enjoy the worship and the listening to people's testimonies together. Various stalls provided interest and food. The weather was very good: very hot in between windy spells but no rain.

There should be one copy of the service at the back of St Leonard's Church.

HOLIDAY CLUB 2026

This will be held on two full days this year instead of one complete week. Application forms will have been with the local school and elsewhere, including on line via the church website. (See page 15). Posters have been available since early July so everyone should know exactly what will happen.

The subject is **KINGDOM BUILDERS** and it will be on Thursdays 20th August and 27th August from 9am to 3pm. Join us for fun activities, crafts, singing, games & Bible stories. Entry is free (via registration forms of course) and children should bring their own packed lunch. with a special service of celebration on Sunday 30th August (see below).

Sunday 30th August

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Romans 12 : 9 - end

Matthew 16 : 21 - end

Sidesperson

13th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter/Jenny Pratt

Celebrant

Celebrant

Gordon Baker

11.00 Holiday Club Presentation & Barbecue

President/Preacher

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/Jenny Pratt

Christine Morgan

Gordon Baker

Kathy Carnell & Team of Volunteers

Hazel Mann has shared some relevant words which she found when checking other people's thoughts. She is not alone when carrying a cross today.....

I Carry a Cross

A simple reminder to me
of the fact I am a Christian.
No matter where I may be
this little cross is not magic,
nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
from every physical harm.
It's just an identification
for all the world to see
that there is an understanding
between my Saviour and me.
It tells me how much I need Him;
how it's not "I" now but "He"
And the cross is there to remind me
of the price He paid for me.

Sunday 2nd August

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Romans 9 : 1 - 5

Matthew 14 : 13 - 21

Sidesperson

9th Sunday after Trinity

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 & Yvonne Thurbon

Christine Morgan

Gordon Baker

Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 9th 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

Leon Flack

11.00 Family Celebration

Leaders

Prayer Ministry

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn

Frances Hatfield & Sylvia Adams

Christine Lucas

Kathy Carnell

Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Don't forget: Steeple Gathering at Grange Farm on 23rd
Details on page 13.

Sunday 16 th August
08.00 Ante-Communion BCP

President/Preacher
Romans 11 : 1-2a 29– 32
Matthew 15 : 21 - 28,
Sidesperson

11 th Sunday after Trinity

Jenny Pratt/Brenda Sheppard
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as above
Intercessions
Audio-visuals
Prayer ministry
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Jenny Pratt/Brenda Sheppard
Linda Payne
Frances Hatfield
Christine Morgan
Fioona Begley & Sarah Prendergast
Kath Dunstan
Sandra Bradford & Christine Lucas

Sunday 23rd 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
Keith Hatfield

10.15 Café Church Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as at 8 am
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/Jenny Pratt
Gwyneth Iffland
Brenda Sheppard
Kathy Carnell & Jenni Blomfield
Sylvia Adams
Gwyneth Iffland
Sarah Prendergast & Ray Kempen

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.

There is no longer an on-line service regularly but it had been gratefully accepted during COVID and for a while afterwards.



Steeple Church contacts:

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

Fiona Ashworth, Churchwarden,

Rhona Leech, Assistant Churchwarden

& PCC Secretary

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger

Steeple's August Services in brief

(Service titles and leaders only)

2nd 09.15 Family Service Rev'd Peter / Brenda Sheppard

9th 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Ken Dunstan

16th 09.15 Family Service Jenny Pratt / Brenda Sheppard

23rd 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Peter/Jenny Pratt

30th United Service at Southminster for Holiday Club

We thank everyone who supported Wheels Hooves & Paws at Elmwood Equestrian on 4th July. The weather was ideal, hot and dry but with a refreshing breeze from the River Crouch. The Horse Show competitions and Dog Show were particularly well supported this year.

Now we move forward to making final arrangements for

**The Steeple Gathering
in Grange Farm meadow
on Sunday 23rd August,
from 11am until 4 pm.**

This is the only local event where you can see a display of old stationary engines driving bits of weird and wonderful historic agricultural machinery, from the era before electricity reached rural farms.

The refreshments offering will again include a burger bar provided by our hosts, using 'zero food miles' meat grown on Grange Farm.

Craft and produce stalls provide a demonstration of a variety of local skills

Most years our display includes an aircraft engine that produces plenty of noise and smoke each time it's started. This year we go one better with a celebrity appearance by Albert, a 25 pounds field gun. When Albert is fired, his voice will be heard throughout Steeple and well beyond!

If you would like stall space for your local business or group, please contact Peter Marshall at least a week before the event. He will provide an entry form for you. A copy of the form is at the back of St Leonard's church.

POSSIBLE ROTA DETAILS: YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS

We can worship regularly in church as usual, 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.

September 2026 6 13 20 27

October 2026 4 11 18 25

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

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.

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.

There are books for all ages and with varied contents, so even if you don't see yourself as a reader, you can enjoy 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.

Henry Church Cleaning Club 2026



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.

August dates are: Fri. 14th & 28th

If you would like to give it a try and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me in some way.

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

For the National Church - particularly because of
International political problems and on-going wars
Also devastation following wild fires
and other results of climate change to be dealt with

For family members - near and far - and neighbours

For people suffering loneliness, illness and/or bereavement

For people making decisions about treatment

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

For everyone affected by the School holidays

For local farmers and all their workers in the Summer months

For people suffering financially because of unemployment....

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

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

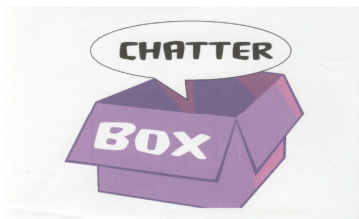
SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB may be able to start again on 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 25th August

Cream Tea Party in the Memorial Hall

With entertainment from the

EVERY VOICE CHOIR

Everyone is welcome (men included)



'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.

ANOTHER LOCAL EVENT

Althorne **TABLE TOP SALE**

Sat. 22nd August: 11 am—3 pm

Church Hall, CM3 6BY

Items for sale!

Jams, cards, 3D printing. Soaps, RNLI, household,
books, gifts, jigsaws and a Raffle.

Refreshments: tea, coffee. Cake, filled rolls

All in aid of St Andrew's Church Repair Fund

Prayer Ministry on Sundays after the I I 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.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	2 August	North - East
w/b	9 August	Central - North-West
w/b	16 August	Central – East
w/b	23 August	Central - South
w/b	30 August	South - 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

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

10.15 am (approx.) Café Church begins on 4th Sundays

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 (10 am) and Thursdays (8 pm)

Details of a new programme, starting again in September
will be available in church and on the notice boards.