

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

StL



A Spring-time picture early?

No. Helpful example from nature --- described on page 21.

FEBRUARY 2021

**“Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God”. (*Matthew 4: 4*)**

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the
March magazine by
Sunday Feb 14th
please, to Kath Dunstan.*

New contributors will be welcome.

*If you pay an **annual fee** for distributed
copies that was due in January.*

*If you haven't yet paid your **£6** your
distributor will be pleased to receive it.*

Additional donations are very welcome.

The Church cleaning group
"Henry Club" are not
meeting regularly at
present, although the
church building is being
kept in order of course.

Similarly, the wonderful
flower arrangers are not
being as active as usual.

BUT we all keep praying
for our families, friends
and neighbours.

Reflection

*“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **every** word that comes from the mouth of God”. (Matthew 4: 4)*

As we look forward into February we see that Ash Wednesday is almost in the middle of the month; and we would normally have a service in church recognising the start of 40 days before Easter. Most likely is that we will not be in church by that time, so we look for other, different ways to begin our journey through Lent. Maybe by thinking of what temptation is for us, and how we are to deny ourselves? It may be easier this year as we have more time at home. Or, maybe, we might take something *up* that will challenge us in some way: a specific Bible study? A project or a course of some sort? Even reading a book that is away from our normal genre may be our new Lenten discipline.

This past year of lockdowns and restrictions has meant that we have given things up, or done things differently – we have all needed to adapt to new regulation and lifestyles. Giving things up has been a theme of 2020 and the thought of denying ourselves through Lent in this year seems to me to be a step too far. So, perhaps we might take something up that will be a spiritual exercise, as opposed to a physical giving up of something, to help shape our Christian life and give us strength to meet the days to come. One thing I know from my own experience is that giving something up or taking something on: both take effort.

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent and as I think on the temptations of Jesus during the 40 days in the wilderness, I notice the ways that He defeated the enemy; how He addressed the temptations that He faced, and *every* time, He fought the temptation with the Word of God. Matthew chapter 4 tells us that Jesus is led into the wilderness where He fasted for forty

days, set Himself apart from every one else and dedicated Himself to listen to God and to learn of God. It was at the end of the forty days that the devil tempted Jesus with bread to satisfy His hunger (Matthew 4:2-3) but because Jesus had set Himself apart for a time, He was ready to deal with whatever the devil would test Him with.

Remember that Jesus is fully human as well as fully God; He needed to have time apart with God – to be fed by God in order to deal with any temptation that we might be subject to, or be tested. We know, by His example, how *we* are to deal with *our* weaknesses and the temptations which come into *our* lives. It is in the same way that our Saviour dealt with them – by the Word of God. James chapter 5 says “resist the devil and he will flee from you”. We can only fight against an enemy when we know his strategy, and Jesus has shown it to us, and shown us the way to fight.

As Jesus resists the temptation of food in the first instance, His reply to the enemy is that “man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God”. My reflection on that is that we *need, as an essential*, to spend time feeding on the Word in order to have life in its fullness, as Jesus describes.

So perhaps, during the 2021 Lent period, we *will* feed on the Word of God and be strengthened by Him to resist the devil, by His word and by our testimony. There will be some good resources to use during Lent, on the Facebook pages and via our website. Let us dedicate some time to draw nearer to God, take His word into our hearts and be fed by Him and strengthen our spiritual lives for our daily living, and serving Him.

Peter

Lamentations

Brenda Sheppard

Lamentations! Why did I decide to read this Old Testament book of which the author is anonymous but which ancient Jewish and Christian tradition ascribe to the prophet Jeremiah? It certainly isn't light reading and maybe not the best to read in these different times, but I am always overwhelmed by the dedication and heartfelt care the prophets showed.

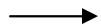


The book talks of an overwhelming sense of loss that accompanied the destruction of Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom of Judah, as well as the exile of Judah's inhabitants to Babylon. Exiled because of her many sins of idolatry, and rebellion against God's covenant with his people.

The book begins with words of lament, which is a passionate expression of grief or sorrow, and then ends in repentance. The middle of the book wonderfully focuses on God's love, faithfulness and compassion.

So, what led me to read this book? It came about when I read this following lament in a magazine I was given and which I'd like to share with you. I found it spoke very clearly to me and I hope to you too. It is simply entitled:

A LAMENT



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Mighty God, maker of heaven and earth,
our refuge and strength and present help in trouble.
We humbly come before you and dare to whisper “Father”.

As COVID-19 rages - bringing loss, sorrow and uncertainty,
as dreams are shattered,
as hearts are broken,
as hope turns to despair,
We humbly come before you and dare to whisper “Father”.
We are sorry.
Our iniquities separate us from you, and our sins hide your
face from us.
Our leaders look to science.
Our friends and neighbours say: “There is no God”,
and all too often we say nothing.

In Your mercy, forgive us.
Deliver us from Evil.
Jesus, you alone are the way forward.
You alone speak truth.
You alone give life.
And you are reaching out with arms of love to a world that
so often dismisses you.
Please help us. To whom else can we go?
Nations are in turmoil – but you are the unchanging God,
for your throne is established of old. You are from
everlasting to everlasting.
Mighty God of heaven and earth,
we humbly come before You and dare to whisper “Father”.
Have mercy on our land, we pray.
In Jesus’ name.
Amen.

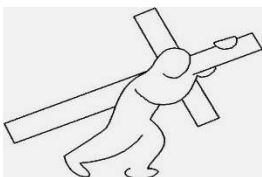
After reading this it made me consider anew how often do I come to God with the prayer from 2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land”?

How often do I just whisper God’s name instead of boldly speaking out the truth of His love and salvation, risking ridicule or rejection in these very difficult and testing times for so many?



We often ask “What would Jesus do in these troubling times, would He just sit back, watch the news and lament? Would He be afraid to speak out? Would He come before the Father and whisper? No, He went to the cross 2000 years ago after fulfilling his ministry here on earth and boldly speaking out the truth which He passed on to His disciples and to us.



So, am I prepared to count the cost and follow in the footsteps of our Lord and the prophets and speak out in these times? Remembering that I and we were born for such a time as this. Please God, knowing in our weakness is your strength and knowing with the help of the Holy Spirit we can but try!!!

Brenda Sheppard

The Pillingers' Newsletter

(December 2020)

**Wycliffe
Bible
Translators**

Dear friends,

Winter has descended on Europe, and we wish we could invite all of you on that side of the world to come and join us for coffee in the garden behind our Johannesburg house! The weather is hot and sunny, with the occasional sudden tropical thunderstorm...



COVID 19 We are relieved that the Covid virus, still at its height when we last wrote in August, is not spreading as fast as predicted. It seems that the people considered the most vulnerable—those living in the workers' townships—have more robust immune systems. And generally, where possible, people have been adhering to the health directives.

Steve I am currently working on two typesetting projects ('remotely', by internet and email) for our Tanzanian branch. One is the **Nyiha New Testament**, and the other is the **Gospel of Luke in Bende** ("Bendeh", not "Bendy"!). I hope to get the first draft of the Nyiha NT done by the end of this week. The initial drafts will be sent back to the teams in Tanzania for checking by the translators, after which come the second drafts. These will include maps, glossary, introduction, table of contents, etc. Back to the translators, after which I'll do the third drafts which, after a final check, will be the finished product. This is the Word of God, so no shortcuts!

Johanna As I mentioned in our previous newsletter, my next assignment is to do **five portraits** reflecting something of the cultural diversity among the various people groups where Wycliffe South Africa is involved. It's coming on much more slowly than I had hoped, but there's a lot to learn! I have benefitted greatly from

an excellent teacher who does a lot of black and white portraits, and have made a start on all five of them. Nearing completion is this one of a **Himba** woman from Namibia. In Wycliffe I have now been assigned the title “**ethno-artist**”. I’d always wanted to do art for Wycliffe, so this is really a dream come true!



Rendille glimpses

Just recently we’ve enjoyed a couple of fascinating glimpses into the continuing work among the Rendille people. A Rendille friend of mine (Steve speaking) sent me a photo of a **desert Sunday School class**, where to my delight the children were being taught from the recently published Rendille New Testament, which I had the privilege of typesetting.



Then in their latest newsletter our colleagues **Nick and Lynne Swanepoel** shared an interesting translation nugget. (Nick is working

remotely from the UK on the Rendille Old Testament, assisting the translators in Kenya.) He writes,

“**Why is your face dirty?** This question is often posed to little boys, but in the Rendille translation of Nehemiah, the King of Persia addresses his cupbearer in this way. *How could we get it so wrong?!* The context of Nehemiah 1 is that the king has noticed his steward is very sad. That sadness is expressed idiomatically in Rendille as having a dirty face. Different words from the English, but the meaning that comes across is the same.”

Family Our daughter **Jen** continues with her studies to become a **life coach**, and is widening the circle of people she can do practice coaching with as a student—including some as far flung as Scotland and Nigeria, thanks to the worldwide explosion in online meetings! Meanwhile **Stephen** continues to work for the Direct Line insurance company in Scotland, also from home—a flat in Glasgow where he lives with his wife Rosie.

Thank you all for your continuing support and prayer.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

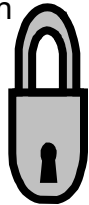
Friday 5th March 2021

Welcome from the Christian ladies of Vanuatu who have prepared the World Day of Prayer Service for this year. The theme is “Build on a strong foundation”.

Because of Covid 19 we will not be able to run this event in the usual way of meeting together. So we will have to either Zoom it or Live Stream it. If you cannot do either of these you could still have a booklet and follow the service from that on the day. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us and I can get the relevant information to you.

Jenny Pratt

We are still learning to cope with all the regulations because of the coronavirus pandemic - involving limited gatherings in our church buildings - even no gatherings at all because of the Tier 4 regulations. Just remember: God is with us!



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

POSSIBLE ROTA DETAILS: YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS

We don't know when we shall be able to start worshipping in church again, but, in order to be well-prepared, please let Paul Lucas know if you cannot be available on any of the following dates.

May	2021	2	9	16	23	30
June	2021	6	13	20	27	

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



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	7 February	Central - South
w/b	14 February	South - West
w/b	21 February	Central - West
w/b	28 February	North - East

A notice about our offerings to God.

Many of us use the facility of the offering plate to give our gifts to God. As the church is closed for the moment it may be 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:

St. Leonard's church: Barclays Bank Sort code: **20.54.30**
A/c No. **80825107** Made payable to: Southminster
Parochial Church Council.

St. Lawrence & All Saints church: Barclays Bank
Sort code: **20.54.30** A/c No. **60842494**
Made payable to Steeple Parochial Church Council.

May God bless our gifts to Him.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

Details of the February services, which will happen on-line and sadly not in our Southminster and Steeple church buildings, are listed here - on pages 12 - 13 so please use them so that we can all be involved in worship together, in church or at home, at this continuing difficult time. The 'normal' services together with the readings of the day and the special prayer (the collect) are shown. Any changes will be on the outside church notice-board.

Sunday 7th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion: 8am BCP & 10.45am CW

2 Kings 5 : 1 - 14

Steeple 9.15 Morning Worship

Mark 1 : 40 - 45

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 14th February

Sunday next before Lent

Holy Communion 8am BCP & 10.45 Morning Worship

2 Kings 2 : 1 - 12

Steeple 9.15 Holy Communion

Mark 9 : 2 - 9

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday 17th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be some on-line ways to mark the beginning of LENT. Further details will be available from the Vicar (See the Vicar's Reflection on pages 3-4) and on our web site. —————→

Wednesday 17th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

8.00 pm service for Southminster and Steeple

Isaiah 58 : 1 - 12

John 8 : 1 - 11

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 21st February

1st Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion: 8am BCP & 10.45 am CW

Genesis 9 : 8 - 17

Steeple 9.15 Morning Worship

Mark 1 : 9 - 15

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 28th February

2nd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion 8am BCP & 10.45 Morning Worship

Genesis 17: 1 - 7, 15-16

Steeple 9.15 Holy Communion

Mark 8 : 31 - 38

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Advance notice:

FRIDAY 5th MARCH is WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

See details on page 10

A Tribute to Jacky by Brenda Sheppard

I have known Jacky Griffiths for well over 30 years, we first met when I joined the church family at St. Leonard's in the early 80's.

Jacky always astounded me by being able to carry out so many tasks within the church as well as her family life commitments. She fulfilled many roles and maintained a high standard in them all. Jacky, in all her roles, needed to be well prepared and must have spent hours preparing for her roles at Holiday Club and Messy Church. She shared being minute secretary for the PCC; she assisted in Baptism preparations; she looked after us with DBS



(Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and made sure they were up to date. Jacky was also the verger for weddings and funerals in church and always looked smart and efficient in her duties.

Jacky was also in charge of the Henry cleaning team and kept us all well stocked with cleaning supplies and made sure all the tasks were covered to make the church clean and welcoming. Jacky was a prayer warrior and loved to pray whenever she saw an opportunity.

During our coffee breaks at Henry Club, Jacky always included a time of prayer. When we stopped having these breaks Jacky and



I would get to church early to have a prayer time before the cleaning began. These times were invaluable to us both as we had by then formed a prayer partnership which led to a deeper friendship and understanding of each other.

Jacky loved to express her faith in dance and in the later years would dance before the congregation with Viv Perry and Karen Flack which was always very moving. Jacky was also a member of the Prayer Ministry Team and often had words of knowledge for church members and often had good feedback from people who had gone forward for

prayer and had been greatly helped. When we were able, the Ministry Team would meet for prayer before each service and we would see Jacky coming to round us up as she saw that time as very important and I know I often needed to be chivvied along so the opportunity wasn't missed!

Jacky was very forthright at times and not afraid to voice her feelings if she didn't agree with something said or done. This caused some trepidation in some of us at times but our love and acceptance that we all have different personalities and ways of expression won through and harmony restored!

Jacky's love for the Lord was unwavering and she went through her times of being very unwell showing great strength. I would imagine she witnessed for the Lord whenever and wherever she could. Her 's training to be an Evangelism Enabler encouraged herself and us to be bolder in our witness and I thank her for that encouragement.

I'm sure I have left out some of the roles Jacky played in her church life as there are so many and now, they pass on to someone else. I pray that we too can carry them out and do the best we can to glorify our God as Jacky did.

Jacky will be sorely missed. I am so grateful for the love and prayers that we shared and I know she shared an even deeper friendship with other Christian friends. St. Leonard's won't be the same without her and we mourn her loss, but we know she has gone home to be with the Lord and we will meet again when our time comes. Our love and prayers go out to her husband and family. Bless you Jacky, you have finished your race on this earth and I'm sure our Lord, on greeting you, said "Well done you good and faithful servant".



A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL IN NEPAL

Chris Martin

Back in 1982 I was fortunate enough to be contacted by a Nepalese lady called Lakshmi. The context of the connection is another story but suffice to say that since that day we have remained very good friends. Lakshmi came to England that year to work as a House Mother at the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Sussex and she stayed in this country for some six years in that role. Sometimes I visited her in Sussex and sometimes she came to stay with me in Southminster so some of you may remember her.

In Nepal she had been Headmistress of a school in Kathmandu but it was her dream to open a school of her own to offer free education to the very poorest of children outside of Kathmandu who would normally never receive formal education, with wealthier parents paying for their children to attend.

She saved a lot of her salary as House Mother to put towards this project and I helped her to raise funds from my City friends, local friends and others. Suffice to say here that eventually, with the funds she had managed to raise, by 1988 she was able to build and open her school.

In 1990 I went, with a friend of mine from Kent, to visit Kathmandu and we stayed at Lakshmi's home. We saw the school which at that time had, from memory, a dozen to twenty pupils.



Over the years Lakshmi has been sending me Christmas cards and each one bore a photo of the school, and a message telling me how successful the children had been in their exams. Before long she was taking children to SLC (School Leaving Certificate) level. Each year the number of children in the photo grew.

I had a telephone number for her but nine times out of ten I could never get through. But we kept writing by airmail from time to time. Sometimes letters arrived, sometimes they didn't.

Once the internet arrived there was an internet café in Kathmandu and Lakshmi used to go there and we exchanged emails and on rare occasions had a chat in Messenger. But the connection was always difficult and the last earthquake must have damaged the cafe because I didn't hear any more until quite recently when she suddenly called me from a mobile phone.



Last week, having exchanged mobile numbers, she suddenly appeared on WhatsApp Video and we had our first face-to-face chat since I left Kathmandu at the end of that visit in 1990. It was quite moving, and after our chat she sent me, by WhatsApp, a couple of dozen photos of the school taken on a recent presentation day.

In the middle of this lockdown (it's 9th January as I write) it has been so cheering to realise that all that effort over the years, with help from people over here, is paying off so wonderfully. This is one charitable organisation that has really come to fruition in a wonderful way.

If any local people reading this were ever involved in donating to this cause at the time, THANK YOU. It was all worthwhile.



World on fire?

Ken Dunstan

I wrote in the Summer about Bishop Stephen's 2020 Lent talk on water. The Cathedral Lent series covered the ancient idea that the world is made of four elements, earth, air, fire and water. But this isn't about ancient myth. It's about modern science and applied theology, and I'm grateful to Bishop Roger of Colchester for what he had to say about fire, which will inhabit my words.

Bishop Roger suggested that we are what we are because of fire. Early people experienced it from volcanoes and lightning strikes, learned to control it and discovered cooking, which makes food more nourishing. Perhaps, over meals by a campfire, they developed language and community. Fire shapes our lives today. In 2019 51% of our electricity came from burning gas, biofuels and coal. In 2019, only 0.2% of all the vehicles on UK roads didn't have internal combustion engines. We burn things to travel, to stay warm and to make things. However, the process that makes us rich comes at a cost.

Burning produces Carbon dioxide, CO₂. In nature, plants absorb CO₂ to grow, and produce Oxygen as a "waste" product. Volcanoes pump more CO₂ into the atmosphere, as do living things by breathing, but in general there was a balance and CO₂ levels remained constant. Human industrial activity has changed that. Humans now produce more CO₂ than all the volcanoes on the planet. Without CO₂ in the air, the natural balance of incoming solar energy and outgoing radiated energy gave us a global temperature of -18° Celsius, as cold as a domestic freezer. CO₂ and methane (CH₄) molecules and other similar gases prevent much of the infra-red radiated heat reflected from earth from ever reaching space. They form an insulating blanket round the earth like a duvet, so our actual temperature is 15°C. Sir David Attenborough covered this in his recent series "A Perfect Planet".

As we pump warming gases into the air, the “duvet” thickens. Our current rising emissions have increased average global temperature to 1.2°C APIL (Above Pre-Industrial Levels). The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) warned that a rise of 1.5°C APIL will bring “increasing extreme weather events, rising sea levels, mass extinctions, glacial melt, lack of clean water, food shortages, deteriorating human health, increased migration, increased tension between peoples and risk to economic growth.” But those things are happening **now**. The IPCC Paris Conference in 2015 voted for action to keep temperatures from rising to 1.5°C by 2050. Our efforts so far have put us on course to 3°C, a temperature rise that would be “unimaginably catastrophic.” Fine – I shan’t be here, unless I live to 110. Our grandchildren, and theirs, will be.

What to do? Fire *consumes* its fuel, leaving CO₂, water and ash. We’re used to that, and to our own consuming, wearing things out. We define ourselves as *consumers*. Bishop Roger said, “We believe that it is our right to consume and nothing should get in the way of our consumer rights.” Suppose Parliament outlawed cruises and holiday flights to warm, sunny countries? (That’s a different article, but do tell me.) The Bishop says “Defining ourselves as consumers, is killing the planet.”

Bishop Roger calls on Christians to live by different values. Leviticus 19:9-10 commands leaving the edges of a field uncut and fallen fruit left, so the poor can feed. *As a principle* that means we don’t have a divine right to use things up at the expense of others. Tourism has severe downsides, as does “fast fashion”. They produce a lot of extra CO₂ emissions and in Britain in 2017, 336,000 tonnes of waste clothing according to WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme). Bangladeshi garment workers are paid about 25p an hour and struggle to pay bills even working 60 hours a week. Beef burger makers cause huge deforestation by growing soya to feed cattle. The felled trees no longer absorb CO₂; they simply make more as they rot or are burned. —→

What to do? We can start by buying things that will last, perhaps wasting less food, turning down the thermostat, and travelling less, and by less polluting means. (If we need a car, an electric or hydrogen-powered car has zero in-use emissions, though it would have the same emissions in manufacture as a petrol or diesel car.) The money saved can, following Leviticus 19, enable us to help those not able to help themselves. (Again, that's a different article.) It's also that being mindful of personal consumption can only go so far. We need community change and that requires activism to change attitudes and some Government action to regulate the necessary changes.

The last words - for now - are Bishop Roger's: "We are to be more frugal, thoughtful, moderate, humble and easygoing;" and as an expression of the serious nature of our situation, Greta Thunberg's challenge to the United Nations General Assembly: "I want you to panic; the house is on fire."



This is the time of year when we may normally be planning some fund-raising events for Christian Aid Week (in May). Obviously, this is not likely to be

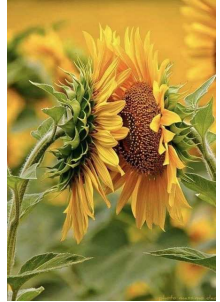
possible this year, so we hope to bring to everyone details of a way of supporting Christian Aid on-line. The Charity has been over-stressed with needs to help people during this pandemic time, but fortunately there have been some generous responses. Let's pray for them as they continue their valuable work worldwide - and be ready to support them financially if we are able to do so.

Full details of Christian Aid's work can be found on their web site. www.christianaid.org.uk

Here is some valuable thinking for us all at this pandemic time.

It was sent to the editor on an email.

Thank you Jan and Chris.



Sunflowers

It makes me realise that we were quite like sunflowers until Covid19 came along. It will be a great day when Social Distancing is a thing of the past.

Sunflowers

Sunflowers turn according to the position of the sun. In other words, they “chase the light.” You might already know this, but there is another fact that you probably do not know!

Have you ever wondered what happens on cloudy and rainy days when the sun is completely covered by clouds?

This is an interesting question. Isn't it?

Perhaps you think the sunflower withers or turns its head towards the ground. Is this what crossed your mind?

Well, that's incorrect!

This is what happens:

They turn towards each other to share their energy.

Nature's perfection is amazing. Now let's apply this reflection to our lives. Many people may become low-spirited, and the most vulnerable ones, sometimes, become depressed.

How about following the example of the beautiful sunflowers i.e. "Supporting and empowering each other".

Nature has so much to teach us.

Wishing everyone a "Sun flower" trait of turning towards each other on their cloudy and gloomy days.

Spread goodness.....it will come back to you.

As part of her newsletter, former Southminster friend, Julie Blackburn sent her latest poem for us to share. She and her husband Barrie now live in West Sussex. Their family includes son David who is mentioned in the poem.

LOCKDOWN 2020

Covert kindness all around,
Only friendship to be found.
Very smiley neighbours new
It's so good to wave to you,
Don't succumb to feeling blue.

Loved ones missed and out of sight,
Our family hit by Covid blight.
Choir is out, each day the same,
Keept fit cancelled, such a shame!
David's called in every day,
Out of sync, no rugby play.
Wishing you stay Covid free
New vaccine could hold the key.

ANOTHER CANCELLATION

We had hoped that the **SID BOLAN BIG BAND** would return to St Leonard's this February to entertain us again with their music. Obviously, the pandemic says this cannot happen but we hope that another date may be arranged in the future.

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

began on 20th March 2020, just a few days before we went into lockdown. The group was created as a way to keep in touch, encourage and support each other during this difficult time. Since then we have shared songs, daily devotions, prayers, church services, Bible studies, Alpha courses etc.

At the present time each weekday looks like this;

6am Daily Devotion including a worship song

11.30am Family Time (Tuesday and Thursday)
including Little Lions' singing time,
Veggie Tales movies, virtual Sunday School etc.



3pm Bible Study / Reflection

8pm Prayer

Saturday is a quiet day and on Sunday we post the church service and weekly bulletin.

We welcome others to share encouraging posts on the page too.

It has been a real privilege and blessing to run this group, and the bonus has been that I have got to know some wonderful people through the group too.

During Lent there will be special 'activities' which will help us to remember what Jesus went through and how we can improve our own lives, even when we can't meet one another face to face. Let's not give up!

Karen Flack



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

NORMAL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS STILL A BIT DIFFERENT.

See pages 10-13 for some details.

Weekly notices, covering any changes, will be available to read on the outside church notice-board

On Wednesday 17th February there will be a special ASH WEDNESDAY service, planned for 8pm

8:00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer 1662)

10:45 am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

Steeple Services similarly continue at 9.15am

(Our Prayer ministry for any needs will continue even though it happens 'at a distance'.)

Children and Young people are always welcomed especially for the **Family Celebration Services**



MESSY CHURCH is normally monthly on Mondays at 3.45 pm in church. The next one will be publicised as soon as it is allowed to happen.

'LITTLE LIONS' usually meet on Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall during term-time only. It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.



Home Groups are obviously not gathering at the moment.