

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



and also for Steeple Parish

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



The 3 stones remembering St Cedd, at St Peter's Chapel, Bradwell

FEBRUARY 2022

2 Corinthians 6 : 10

As servants of God we can be “sorrowful, yet always
rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing,
and yet possessing everything.”

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

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

To cover our costs we
have to charge for this
magazine. This is now
80p per issue
or £9 for a whole year
paid in advance.

Vicar's Reflection

On a recent very short trip to Yorkshire, Fiona and I stayed at a small family-owned bed and breakfast that was also a pub - restaurant. The Blacksmith Arms is right opposite a church, in a tiny village called Lavingham, which is just outside Pickering and Thirsk, located in the Yorkshire Moors. You may have heard of the village of Lavingham, especially if you have been to St. Peter's at Bradwell for, on the front of the Holy Table, are three pieces of stone: one from Iona; one from Lindisfarne and the third from Lavingham. The stone of Iona represents the Celtic Christianity that St. Cedd was taught under Aiden at Lindisfarne; the stone of Lindisfarne is Cedd's birthplace; and the stone of Lavingham is from Cedd's final place of rest.

Things did not go well for Cedd when he went to the monastery at Lavingham for he soon contracted the plague and died. When thirty monks travelled to pay homage to Cedd, they too died of the plague.

As I returned to Essex it made me think of the journey that Cedd made to come to these parts and bring the gospel to the east Saxons; how long that must have taken and the plans that needed to be made in order to do the work that God had called him to do. It is easier these days when priests are called to a parish, for there is transport available, accommodation provided and a church willing to receive the priest.

Not so in the days of Cedd: the area of the east Saxons was pagan without religious education or guidance, no focal place of spirituality, no pastoral care. To me that sounds like a place of no hope too, for what was there for people to look to or be comforted by? Cedd continued his journey with the gospel to Tilbury where another centre was established. I wonder how many people travelled with him, newly converted to Christianity and learning from him on their travels?

Cedd would have modelled his faith in the living Christ, and what Christianity meant, and he would have taught them. He would have passed on the knowledge and gifts that he had to those who would listen and he would have pointed them to Jesus for them to come to, and begin to know, and understand God. Thus, they could receive for themselves the resources, the gifts, the Holy Spirit Power from Him which they would definitely need (just as we do) to continue their walk with Him.

Thank goodness for Cedd! Thanks be to God for Cedd's obedience, sacrifice and faithfulness. Who knows what would have happened to this area of the country through the next few hundred years if Cedd had *not* been obedient to the call of God. We live in the legacy of his ministry, of churches planted and Christians teaching what they have learnt, passing on to others the glorious good news of Jesus Christ, of salvation made possible through Him, and the eternal message of hope.

Where would we be if we had not been told the good news or maybe been brought up in a Christian environment? We are heirs of a promise passed through generations of faithful people who loved us enough to tell us of Jesus, not for their own benefit but for the glory of God.

I wonder where our own journey will take us... what hardships we might have to face, what persecutions, trials or labours? The words of the apostle Paul really began to resonate in my spirit as I thought about Cedd and his life “.... sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.” We think of Cedd as being poor yet, in Christ, he would say he was rich beyond measure. Thank You Lord for those who have brought Your Word into our lives: may it find its home there and transform us as people who are now Yours.

Peter

A few extra thoughts from Rev'd Ken Dunstan

In his latest book, ‘Dear England’, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell recalls a conversation with a Waitress serving him coffee at Paddington Station. She asked, “Why did you become a priest?” “Two reasons,” he replied, “one very short, one a little longer. God. And I want to change the world.”

Jesus regularly talked about a transformed world, calling it “the Kingdom of God” - how the world is when God’s will is “done on earth, as in heaven.” Part of that is our call to be good-news bearers. Bishop Laurie Green, interviewing me before appointing me to be priest-in-charge of two parishes said, “Get to know them, love them, and remind them of Jesus.” Don’t feel you have to persuade. Know, love, share. That’s what Cedd did. We can, as well. Jesus encourages us to know that when we need the words, the Holy Spirit will provide them (Luke 12:12).

The Lord of the Dance

Dance has been described as a celebration, an expression of words and music. Dance is a way we express our emotions through moving our body. This can be expressed through many different forms of dance. If we are not able to physically stand to dance we can tap our feet or sway to music where we sit. Some of us when dancing have a good sense of rhythm and co-ordination or alternatively some perhaps have two left feet but at least have a go!



It has been said that music and dance can reduce anxiety, blood pressure and pain, due to a chemical released in our brain called Dopamine which is called a happy chemical!

In church, with the expression of dance, we sense that the Holy Spirit is more fully experienced and power more readily released. We, at St. Leonard's, have been blessed over the years with expressive dance from gifted members of the congregation which has really touched our hearts and brought the words of the songs danced to alive in a new way.

The Bible has many references to dancing. The first one, as recorded in the book of Exodus chapter 15, v 20-21, being of Miriam, sister of Moses, taking a tambourine and leading the women of Israel into a dance after witnessing the parting of the Red Sea after they had come out of Egypt. They expressed joy and celebration after seeing this great miracle.

We read in 2 Samuel 6 :14 that King David danced before the ark as he brought it home to his City, Jerusalem. He danced with abandon. He was chastised by Michal his wife for being undignified and vulgar and humiliating himself for dancing in full

view of everyone. David retaliated and said “if I wish to celebrate before the Lord, I will become even more undignified than this.” (2 Samuel 6 22).

Do we know if Jesus danced? Isaiah refers to him as a man of sorrows and familiar with pain (Isaiah 53:3), but in John 2v11 we see Jesus at a wedding in Cana where there would be much joy and celebrating. And in Luke 10 v 21 it describes Jesus as being full of joy through the Holy Spirit after He had commissioned his disciples to go out on their missionary journey and seventy-two returned with great news and joy after performing wonders!

One of the lovely Psalms is Psalm 150 – a Psalm of praise, including the playing of various instruments, making music and dancing to the Lord. We know that praise and worship is sometimes hard when we go through really tough times and can’t understand God’s ways or purpose for us. In these times I have always been reminded of the following quotes:

“Sing as though no-one can hear you,
Dance as though no-one is watching you,
Love as though you have never been hurt”.

and:

“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass
it’s about learning how to dance in the rain.”

A Christian musician said to me recently that when he plays a musical instrument he can immerse himself in the emotions of the music and for a time his own emotions are enveloped in the beauty of the notes played. Music and dance are wonderful ways to reach God’s heart so let us be led by the Holy Spirit into new realms of praise remembering always that Jesus is Lord of all, especially Lord of the Dance!

Brenda Sheppard

If Music be the Food of Love



I joined the Care in the Community work force in the year 2000 and stayed for 10 years. The section of Care in the Community I worked for was introduced for people with physical and mental disabilities who had previously lived in institutions and kept separate from society. They were then enabled to live in community-based services when local authorities became responsible for allocating funding for places. Some people had been in institutions all their lives and such was the case of the 3 ladies I cared for in my first appointment. They came to live in Tiptree in a lovely bungalow funded for them to taste the freedom of community living.

I was a complete novice in this area of caring and I have to admit I was pretty anxious about the care involved with adults who were unable to speak, who needed help with almost every part of everyday life functions and were unpredictable in their behaviour! But they all crept into my heart and I felt so much for them having to adapt to a whole new way of life with different carers, it must have been so frightening for them too. One thing I did find that the clients and ourselves had in common was our love of music, and those that could walk, we, the carers, would dance with them and enjoy many a musical time.

I was moved on from that particular home after 2 years to a new one set up in Chelmsford with a new set of challenges but also found the love of music and dance diffused so many a difficult situation. In fact one of the male carers I worked with thought I was a bit bonkers as I used to dance a lot with the clients but I soon educated him to do the same!! Music and dance will always enable a special connection between people and if music truly be the food of love let's continue to play on!

Brenda Sheppard

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SOUTHMINSTER
PRESENTS**

THE SID BOLAN BIG BAND
SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2022



**AN EVENING CONCERT OF THE BIG BAND
MUSIC OF GLENN MILLER, FRANK SINATRA,
PEGGY LEE AND MANY OTHERS.**

THE CONCERT STARTS AT 7.30 pm

TICKETS ARE £10 and are available from
CHURCH MEMBERS or by phoning 772199

Some of the proceeds will go to
Knightswood Day Care Centre.

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.

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that some restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and follow guidelines again during 2022. 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

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.

April 2022	3	10	17	24	
May 2022	1	8	15	22	29

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

Henry Cleaning Team

We, as a team, had great fun cleaning up after the Christmas trees had been taken out of the Church on 6th January. The trees had looked amazing, as always, when decorated and lit up and it was sad to see them go. Undaunted we went in on the Friday and in no time at all the floors were swept, mopped and chairs replaced. The carpets were swept at first to save Henry getting clogged up, and then hoovered to pick up any stragglng pine needles.



What a good team we have but we can always do with more people to help. As a real bonus we now have the pleasure of the organ being played as we work which is a real treat.

We meet twice a month on a Friday from 9.15am until 11am and stay for the length of time which suits us. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact me as there are still pine needles appearing from seemingly nowhere and Henry the Hoover is raring to go!!!!

Brenda Sheppard

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

Sunday 6th February

5th Sunday of Epiphany

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard

I Corinthians 15 : 1 - 11

Paul Lucas

Luke 5 : 1 - 11

Celebrant

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Paul Lucas

10.45 Family Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Readings as above

Christine Morgan

Intercessions

Brenda Sheppard

Audio-visuals

Sylvia Adams

Sidesperson & Refreshments

t.b.a.

Sunday 13th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

I Corinthians 15 : 12 - 20

Paul Lucas

Luke 6 : 17 - 26

Celebrant

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Paul Lucas

10.45 Family Celebration

Leader/ preacher

Jenny Pratt & Karen Flack

Audio-visuals

Christine Morgan

Sidespersons

t.b.a.

Refreshments

Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

The reason that refreshments are not served every Sunday after the 10.45 service is because we are still following the COVID guidelines as far as possible. This may change over coming weeks.

Sunday 20th February**2nd Sunday before Lent****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher

Revelation 4

Luke 8 : 22 - 25

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Rev'd Peter

Rev'd Peter

Celebrant

Pete Adams

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/ preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson & Refreshments

Rev'd Peter

Kath Dunstan

Rev'd Jacqui

Christine Lucas

t.b.a.

Sunday 27th February**Sunday next before Lent****08.00 Holy Communion**

Leader/President/Preacher

2 Corinthians 3 : 12 - 42

Luke 9 : 28 - 36 (37 - 43a)

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Rev'd Peter

Celebrant

Celebrant

Pete Adams

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/President/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson & Refreshments

Rev'd Peter

Linda Payne

Jenny Pratt

Christine Morgan

t.b.a.

HELP PLEASE

We would appreciate more people volunteering to serve in some way in our future services, so if you are willing to 'give it a go' please get in touch with Paul Lucas or Pete Adams.

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 and third Sundays each month and Holy Communion on the second and fourth. An on-line service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk



Marian De'ath 1947-2021

On the Monday before Christmas, Steeple Church lost a much loved regular member of its congregation. Marian De'ath had served on the Parochial Church Council for very many years, following in the footsteps of her mother Ellen Taylor who was a churchwarden. Marion was a key member of the catering team for the Harvest Supper and Historic Vehicle Gathering and was always ready to take on tedious chores such as cleaning the church.

Marion lived her whole life at Poplars Farm, which is astride the parish boundary between Steeple and St Lawrence. When she was born in 1947 it was farmed by her parents Charles and Ellen Taylor. She attended Mayland School and then St Peter's, now Ormiston Academy, at Burnham-on-Crouch.

Marion was a keen member of Southminster Young Farmers Club and served as its Secretary. In those days,

Poplars was a dairy farm and Marion was part of the milking team. She continued to be involved in management of the farm business throughout her life. In 1969 Marion married Norman De'ath who later took over running the farm. Margaret, known as Maggie, was born in 1971, followed by Claire in 1973, both of whom have pursued successful careers outside farming.

Marion's funeral will be in Steeple Church at 11.30 on Friday 4th February. Donations will be shared between Cancer Research and Steeple Church. Everyone in our church community expresses heart-felt condolences to Norman, Maggie, Claire and their families.

The season following the "Twelve days of Christmas" is called Epiphany. Traditionally, this is when we remember the "Three wise men from the East" paying homage to the infant Jesus after they followed the path of a star.



In the Church calendar, the first Sunday in Epiphany celebrates The Baptism of Christ. But in country areas it's also known as Plough Sunday which, prior to the mechanisation of farming, marked the resumption of winter ploughing after a break for the Christmas and New Year's celebrations. In Medieval times, a plough was a precious resource and one way the Domesday Book measured the prosperity of a village was by counting how many ploughs were available for sharing between the villagers.

We celebrated Plough Sunday 2022 and, although numbers were lower than normal because of COVID, the service was enjoyed by those present.

As usual,

To arrange a
Wedding, Blessing, Baptism or Funeral
please contact Rev'd Canon Peter Begley

01621 772 300

The Vicarage, Burnham Road, Southminster, CM0 7ES



A Harmony Choir Concert

will take place on

Saturday 26th March at 7pm

in **Althorne Church**, CM3 6BZ,

Tickets are £10 (glass of wine included)

Phone 01621 740481 or 741131

In aid of the church repair fund



SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

Depending on how the Omicron Virus Regulations are, we hope that the following gatherings will take place.

LUNCH CLUB continues on Mondays (but not 1st of month). Please call by the previous Friday to book your place. £5.00 for 2 courses plus tea/coffee. Ring Kath Savage 07434 915467

CHATTERBOX

meets on Thursday mornings 10am-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.

The **BEREAVEMENT GROUP** meets in a quiet corner on 1st and 3rd Thursdays as part of Chatterbox.

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 call or text Kath Savage. It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet at 7.30 pm on February 22nd

Speaker: Becky Simmons - 'Crochet for beginners'

Competition: A flower from my garden

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

It was lovely to have so many community groups and individuals involved in the Christmas Tree Festival in December.

Obviously attendance numbers were lower than usual because of COVID but those who came were full of praise for the lovely tree decorations and the different goods on sale on the stalls.

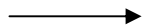
We look forward to holding more community events in church during this year.

How green are your prayers?

Ken Dunstan

The book of Genesis tells us that God's purpose for humanity is care for the earth (Genesis 2:15). We know that justice is part of God's requirement for human conduct – as the prophet Amos said in God's Name, "Let justice roll down like fountains; righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Yet those who have done least to destroy habitat and to alter weather patterns are suffering most, particularly in places where melting glaciers threaten water supplies, rising sea levels threaten to destroy low lying areas (Kiribati in the South Pacific: Highest point 10metres) and increased hurricanes and cyclones bring destructive floods. Those who caused the problems are the least affected and richest, starting with the place that pioneered the industrial use of fossil fuels like coal (did you ever hear of England?). Today, 15% of travellers account for 75% of aircraft emissions. Vast areas of forest have been destroyed by big European and American companies to grow soya to feed cattle for burgers and palm oil for luxury foods and cosmetics.

Our prayer does need to include prayer for creation, and in particular for justice in the way we use what God has given us to use, but also to care for. All that is included in the Lord's Prayer; "Your kingdom come ON EARTH, as in heaven." That prayer should affect the way we behave. Rosie Ward, a retired Vicar, has written a **Creation Care** prayer for A Rocha, which runs the Eco-Church scheme. Do use it.



**Creator God, you have given us a vision of
a new heaven and a new earth:**

Resources conserved

Earth tended

Atmosphere cleansed

Trees planted

Injustice ended

Oceans teeming

Nature at peace

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

Alert nations, enthuse churches

Recieve our commitments and so entwine our
lives with your purpose:

Earth and heaven will then sing of your glory.

Amen.

Some interesting puns

have recently been shared with us. Try these....



I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.

A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.

“THESE THINGS ARE SENT TO TRY US”

Chris Martin

Well, there's an old saying that we were all brought up hearing from our parents.

Students of philosophy might have a logical reason why sometimes life seems to flow along in at least a tolerable and at best a pleasant way, but every now and then there seems to be a spate of happenings, one after another, of “bad luck”, or bad news, or health problems. “You never know what's around the corner”.

The French “C'est la vie” is one way of explaining it. “That's life” - is that the good comes along and the bad comes along and that's just the way of things.

But things being sent to try us? Is there a belief that we need testing in situations? And then do we get judged on our reaction? Do we have to pass a test?

Of course it's all relative. Recently I've been “stressed” because of difficulties with domestic matters: heating problems, and an infestation of flies in the loft. I hasten to add that the polite flies didn't venture into the house so they were not a nuisance to me, but tradesmen needing to go into the loft always reported seeing them and of course a few escaped when the hatch was opened. So eventually I had to deal with the problem. The heating problems were solved with visits from a plumber and an electrician, but it's certainly a frustration when you think events shouldn't have happened in the first place. However, these things are minor and have to be put into

perspective. I know this will be sounding very familiar to you all – domestic problems arising one after the other.

People dealing with their own health problems or, sometimes worse, dealing with health issues of loved ones, really do suffer and sometimes it can go on for a long time. This is when life really does become difficult. The requests we get in the magazine for prayers demonstrate this. Far easier to deal with a tradesman than cope with a loved one being ill and feeling helpless to alleviate their suffering. And that's just normal life in our country...think of all the terrible situations in places like Afghanistan and poverty stricken countries around the world. Are these dreadful things “sent to try” whole populations?

There seems to be some relief in passing on problems to God by way of prayer, as Christians do. I don't know how often prayers are positively answered, and I know that sometimes the answer isn't always what we expect. Then, it seems that if the prayers are not answered, the explanation of “These things are sent to try us” comes into play.

I guess, just as we try our best at school to pass exams and later in life face other challenges that take a lot of effort, when “things are sent to try us” we do feel better if we can face the trial and deal with it – thus passing the test. It has to be better than wringing our hands and worrying about failure. But that can't be easy in some parts of the world.

Whatever adversities may be with you at the moment, I do hope that by dealing with them in the way that suits you, and particularly by prayer if that is what helps you, life will improve soon. Maybe it is all part of life's rich pattern.

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

This was created as a way to keep in touch, encourage and support each other during the difficult time of lock-downs. 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.

Karen Flack

If you are part of the Facebook group, you will have regular updates from the Diocesan Group "Greening the Church". Taking on board that information is helpful in these times where our environmental concerns are growing because of global warming etc. Your responses for this magazine will be very welcome.



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

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

If you wish to contact the Church regarding a Safeguarding issue
please contact the Church Office at 772300
or safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

NORMAL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS STILL A BIT DIFFERENT BECAUSE
ALTHOUGH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN REDUCED WE STILL
RECOMMEND THAT APPROPRIATE CAUTIONS ARE TAKEN.

See pages 10-13 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)

10:45 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 during term-time only.
It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.



Home Groups (in a new form) will be meeting in church:

Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 8 pm