

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



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



Southminster Church at Christmas.
Thanks to this photograph by Martin Skiggs
we can still remember how it was.

FEBRUARY 2023

Remember this too:

We love because He first loved us (1 John 4 : 19)

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

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
Articles for the March magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, Sunday 19th February
New contributors are welcome.

Vicar's Reflection

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4: 19

I was listening to a radio programme the other day and the discussion panel were talking about the films of the modern era and the language that is now used to convey a thought or emotion. I'm not talking about the bad language that occurs on our screens on a regular basis – there is much to say about that! But the panel discussed how love is expressed in film now, compared with a few decades ago.

Films like 'Love Actually', one of the most popular over the Christmas period, was made in 2003 and has several stories running through it depicting a quest for love and the measures that people take in order to find love. Some are not looking for love yet, when someone is introduced to them a spark of emotion erupts in their hearts. Some travel abroad in the hope of finding someone that will be attracted to them. Another suddenly falls for their domestic help who has been in the background but now is seen in a new light. For others, there is tension in their love as disappointment creeps in through misunderstanding, or plain lust for something else.

So many twists and turns and observations on love, yet in the films of the seventies and eighties love was depicted in a different way, more overt, expressed in joy and commitment. The panel on the radio programme observed and made the comment that the language of love has changed: no longer will a man or a woman declare their love for another; instead we have phrases like "You complete me" or "You make me more than I am". What does that mean even?

We all search for love and need to be loved, however, as the film ‘Love Actually’ demonstrates, sometimes we find love in the most obvious place, right under our noses even, just where we didn’t expect. That spark of emotion is fanned into flame and we know that we have found what we have been searching for, perhaps a search that has lasted for many years. That spark occurs in the heart and not the mind; it comes from the core of our being.

The book of Psalms gives us many insights into [God’s] love and one example is Ps. 42: 7 – 8 which reads:

Deep calls to deep
in the roar of Your waterfalls;
all Your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

⁸ By day the LORD directs His love,
at night His song is with me—

The love of God is constant and searching; it seeks us out, it comes to find us – the ones that He created and made to be in fellowship with Him. His deep love calls out to our yearning for who He is and as we respond the spark of love suddenly becomes the flame that can never be put out. God has planted His love within, in order that we might know the Father, the creator – and then and only then can we be complete and be more than we ever thought we could be. It is God who is love, it is God who makes us whole, it is God that brings transformation to our lives. He gives us unconditional, perfect love that never ends. Consider His love today.

Peter

A new machine!

You may have noticed that a new machine has appeared in the church next to the sound desk. This is an electronic pay-station where people are able to make donations to the church using a contactless payment card. Many of us got used to using these machines through the Covid period, as nearly all shops now only take card payment via this method. If you would like some help in the first instance please speak to one of the wardens or myself or Rev'd Jacqui – it is fairly easy to use and quite simple and self-explanatory. Fiona managed to use it ok last Sunday gone, 22nd Jan. It works with a tap when directed.

If you have a *contactless* card and would like to make donation to the church, please make use of this facility and encourage others to do the same, especially if you are bringing visitors who may not have already set up a regular payment scheme. These donations are much appreciated, and will really assist the church of St. Leonard to pay the new higher fuel bills, along with the ongoing costs of keeping the church open for everyone.

May God bless every single donation that is given using this method. Amen.

Peter

Editor's note:

Please do see the other financial giving details on page 21 of this magazine.

The Dog Collar

I was sent a video on YouTube featuring Charlie Mackesy who told the story of a friend of his who was a Vicar and also a hospital Chaplain. The Vicar told him that there was a terminally ill man in the hospital he visited and every time he passed this ill man's bed the man would stick two fingers up to him as a rude gesture. This happened many times until one day the man called the Vicar over and said to him "Why do you wear that white thing round your neck and what do you believe? The Vicar told him about Jesus, about the love of God, about Grace and forgiveness and that Jesus would listen to his prayers. The fragile man then said to the Vicar, "How do I pray?" The Vicar then put a chair next to his bed and said "Imagine Jesus sitting on that chair loving you, you can talk to Him, so what do you think you would say to Him?" The man answered "I'm scared, I'm sorry but I've mucked up my life, I don't know what else to say?" The Vicar said "Just keep talking to him, remember that He knows you, He loves you". The man said thank you and the Vicar left.



A few days later the Vicar went back and the man's bed was empty and he was told that the man had died two days after the Vicar had left. The nurses said he kept saying about

what the Vicar had told him about Jesus sitting in the chair and their conversations. The staff nurse said that when they found him the morning after he had died, he had managed to get to sit on the side of the bed and had leaned over to put his arms round the back of the chair, he had reached out to the Lord.

What a lovely true story. The man had taken on board everything the Vicar had said and had spent his last moments in the arms of Jesus.

I wonder if the Vicar hadn't been wearing his Dog Collar that the man would have given him a second glance and perhaps because the Vicar didn't chastise him for being so rude that his curiosity got the better of him and he called him over.



The Vicar wore his Dog Collar as sign of his Holy calling and most importantly a sign of his availability to approach people and be approached. How wonderful that the dying man is now with the Lord in heaven and how wonderful that the Vicar in his chaplaincy role was able to be available for him!

Brenda Sheppard

Appeal as we approach the A.P.C.M.

As we look forward to this year, and all that is required of us to fulfil the calling of God, I am aware that there are some ministries that need to be taken up for us to function properly as a church. These gifts of ministry are what God is calling us to “do” for Him in this place of prayer and worship. We have all been given talents with which to serve God and our community and therefore we look to God to raise up those gifts to assist us through this year.

We may also pray about our giving each week, and if we have made a promise to God financially, set up regular giving through Standing Order or through the envelopes scheme. We as a church are, like us all, facing some higher bills through this year that we would like to meet, so prayer for God’s provision for His church would be greatly appreciated.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Sunday 23rd April, which will come soon enough, and I am asking that the church be in prayer for the positions that we will need to fill at that meeting. We need a *treasurer/bookkeeper* who will help us each month to steward and use God’s money wisely and appropriately. We need *Church Warden (s)* who will assist me as Vicar in keeping the church functioning; helping to organise others to assist at each of our services and maintaining correctly order within the church. *Assistants* who are able to help at Little Lions. We need more *PCC members* who represent the people of God here and seek out, to be able to give voice to, the opinions of

the parish and also contribute to the future growth of spiritual maturity in this place.

We also need willing people who are called to be *sides people, intercessors and readers of the lessons*. Perhaps there may be some people who feel called to serve but unsure of what to be doing; in which case speak to me or to Rev'd Jacqui and we will discern together where God would have us be, as we grow as the body of Christ. This is an exciting time of growth for the church and we look forward to serving the living God together.

There are so many more gifts that we may offer that cannot be listed here, but please do pray about who you will nominate for election to the various roles at the APCM and, please, ask God if it could be you! We serve Him together, not alone.

Blessings... **Peter**

Prayer Ministry on Sundays

We have resumed regular Prayer Ministry after Holy Communion and other morning services. Please come to the area outside the Chapel if you have a particular need for prayer, where there should be two people available to pray with you. Informal prayer ministry continues to be available at other times, as always!



Christine Lucas

The Demise of the Printing Industry

Harry Payne

***Section 6** The next couple of sections are hardly relevant in today's world, but you could argue that the content has a place, it refers to a time when the printed image had very little practical use or demand. In historical times very few people could read, so there was hardly a market for printing. At times it seemed, man was possibly on the verge of discovery. Then everything went on the back burners for a few centuries. Then once again there was development, but very little progress. I guess as with most things, necessity fuels development, occasionally development in other spheres, create the tools enabling further development.*

Earlier we noted Mark Twain paid a lot of credit to Gutenberg, however there had been others involved in forms of printing much earlier in history. Maybe it would be unjust to say Gutenberg was really an innovator. His Printing Press was said to have been created by him in Mainz, Germany around 1440. You could say since then, snail like progress was made by the industry until mechanisation came along. Then fairly rapid development in the process, up to and including the years I was a printer. However in the last 50-60 years processes have changed and printing with it.

Books had of course been around long before Gutenberg and Caxton. Hand copied volumes were accessible, mainly one offs at great cost, available mainly to members of the clergy. We all have images of the scribes of the period labouring away by candlelight. By the late 1400's with the introduction of the newly developed printing press, movable type and advancing literacy, (undoubtedly the most important accelerator) we began to see the hard working scribes being made redundant. Redundancy too it appears, has been around for centuries.

Although the Printing that I have been looking at, 'began' in the fifteenth century, Printing before then did have a history. But, just as the industry that I was involved in has disappeared since the 1970's. So too earlier printing systems disappeared too. With any phase of development the earlier systems were replaced. They became outdated and of no further commercial use. Of that period I can do no more really, than just scratch the surface. During that time experiments with a form of movable type showed glimpses of what was to come, but they remained 'for the future'.

This part of the article will be continued in the next issue of the magazine .

Sunday 5th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui

Isaiah 58:1-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Celebrant

Matthew 5 : 13 - 20

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Gordon Baker

10.45 Family Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui

Readings as above

Paul Lucas

Intercessions

Kath Dunstan

Prayer Ministry

Brenda Sheppard & Christine Lucas

Audio-visuals

Sylvia Adams

Sidesperson

Gwyneth Iffland

Refreshments

t.b.a.

Sunday 12th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 ; Romans 8 18 - 25

Celebrant

Matthew 6 : 25 - end

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Paul Lucas

10.45 Family Celebration

Leaders

Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack

Readings & Prayers

Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack

Audio-visuals

Christine Morgan

Prayer Ministry

Sylvia Adams & Frances Hatfield

Sidesperson

Leon Flack

Refreshments

Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

****** *See the details on page 9 about the regular provision of Prayer Ministry.*

Sunday 19th February**Sunday next before Lent****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

President/Preacher

Rev'd Jacqui/Jenny Pratt

Exodus 24:12-end; 2 Peter 1:16-end

Celebrant

Matthew 17: 1- 9

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Leon Flack

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher

Rev'd Jacqui/Jenny Pratt

Readings as above

Pauline Siggers

Intercessions

Fiona Begley

Audio-visuals

Christine Lucas

Prayer Ministry Sarah Prendergast & Yvonne Thorburn

Sidesperson

Paul Lucas

Refreshments

Eira Hagger & Frances Hatfield

Wednesday 22nd February**ASH WEDNESDAY****Details are overleaf - on page 14**

Sunday 26th February**1st Sunday of Lent****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19

Celebrant

Matthew 4 : 1 - 11

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Pete Adams

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Norman Pratt/Brenda Sheppard

Readings as above

Rupert Killick

Intercessions

Gwyneth Iffland

Prayer Ministry

Keith Hatfield & Fiona Begley

Audio-Visuals

Christine Morgan

Sidesperson

Gordon Baker

Wednesday 22nd February 8.00 pm

At St Leonard's Church

ASH WEDNESDAY

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Jacqui/Jenny Pratt

Readings: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Other details will be available in church.

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 children's service on the third Sunday and Holy Communion on second and fourth.



An on-line service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on

www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

The recent Quinquennial report for Steeple Church was quite reassuring. Thanks to the major roof repairs thirty years ago, replacement of shingles on the spire ten years later and last year's refurbishment of timber around the belfry the building is in far better condition

than some other local churches. But the fact remains that it's almost 140 years old and the report identifies many defects that need timely attention if it's to stay that way.

Gutters, downpipes, gullies and soak-aways all need to work properly if a building is to remain sound and dry. Unfortunately, the review highlights many deteriorations in these systems as well as problems with several of the buttresses. Some of the repairs will be expensive because "working at heights" means scaffolding will be required. The need for these repairs has been known for some time but actions had to be postponed while priority was given to the belfry timber project.

Architect Hilary Brightman is recommending that Steeple's Parochial Church Council finds ways to commence these repairs before the end of this year but completing some of the more expensive actions will require our fund-raising events during the summer to be financially successful.

Some of the necessary repairs are much more straightforward and can be dealt with by volunteer helpers. These include treating interior woodwork affected by woodworm, controlling ivy growth on the exterior and cutting overgrown hedges. If you can help, please let us know.

SAYING GOODBYE

Chris Martin

Perhaps because it's winter, several people I was fond of have died recently. I suppose it is natural that as we reach "a certain age" people of around our own age will pass away but it doesn't make it any easier to say goodbye to friends or relatives we've had in our lives for a long time. Even if a death is expected, you never think it's going to be *that day*. It's always going to be on another day in the future.

The two comforts I have noticed at funerals is that it is reaffirmed how loved and appreciated the deceased person was by their dear ones, and if they had been ill with some awful medical condition there is a kind of relief to know that they are no longer suffering.

It seems to be more important how well a life was lived than how long it was. As speakers at funerals reflect upon the life of their lost one, we learn about the achievements of their life and it's interesting how some very ordinary-seeming people seem to have lived extraordinary lives.

Funerals also make us reflect upon our own mortality as we get older. Some people seem young at 90 while others seem "elderly" at 70. One thing is for sure: when our number is up, it's up.

All we can do is make the best of it while we are here, to pack in as much "living" as we can, enjoy our blessings and cope as well as we can with our misfortunes.

If I may I will end this by reminding you that I do run the local Bereavement Group which is now meeting weekly at Christchurch at 10am on Tuesdays. Please call me if you'd like further information. 01621 772751.

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

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

LUNCH CLUB meets on Mondays (except first of month).

If you would like any information please phone

Dave Christie 07775 758118.

CHATTERBOX

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

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

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

There are other groups too. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer to help us in running this valuable community organisation, please just attend and think about it.

It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet in the hall on **Feb 28th**

Line Dancing & Funny Reminiscences

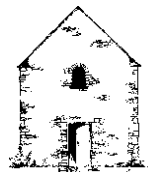
Competition – Funniest Christmas Card

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



Keep praying for everyone who has recently lost a loved one, and for others who are in need of healing and general care. Pray for all medical personnel, local and wider afield, and all the regular carers.

A Local Service worth noting; at St Peter's Chapel, Bradwell



Rev'd Steven Poss writes:

I invite you to a service led by the Dean, Nicholas Henshall, at 11am on Thursday 2nd February to celebrate Candlemas.

It is also a chance to say our farewell to the Dean if you cannot make his leaving service at the Cathedral.

Lunch will be provided by Othona afterwards. If you would like Lunch, please let Othona know by email to them on bradwell@othona.org

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

Southminster Community Hub

The proposal to work closely with the United Reformed Church to open a Community Hub in Christ Church's building continues to gain momentum. The first meeting of a wide range of different agencies was held last September and a follow-up meeting took place in November to hone our thinking.

We are excited about our plan to open a community space in partnership with other organisations, so we can offer a variety of support to individuals and groups. Our next meeting is a bring-your-own lunch on the 20th of February. This has been transferred from the original date on January 23rd. To find out more, or if you'd like to get involved, contact Rev'd Jacqui.

Meanwhile, the "Warm and Toastie" sessions after Sunday services in church have been welcomed and really enjoyed. Do ensure that people who need a warm space and a bite to eat are invited.

CHURCH BELLS RING

Many of you will have been aware of the wonderful bell-ringing that happened in 2022. Unfortunately some had to be cancelled but we look forward to more in coming months - mainly on Saturday afternoons. This month it will be on 25th February.

Be prepared to hear them monthly on Saturday afternoons.

The team need practices and could welcome new members too. Enquiries to me, the Magazine Editor, please.

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 2023	2	9	16	23	30
May 2023	7	14	21	28	

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



A big thank you to all who attended Henry Club in 2022. Henry Club of course is named after one of our trusty vacuum cleaners!! We have met once a fortnight for the last year and will continue to do so in 2023. We have been thrilled to have two new volunteers come on board which really lightens the load.

Most Henry days we are fortunate to have the organ being played by Graham whilst we work, to which some of us sing along, and this really enhances our time and we really appreciate it. We will continue to meet on Friday mornings fortnightly from 9.15 – 11am and do as much as we feel able. Please contact me if you would like to help at any time.

Brenda Sheppard

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that most restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and continue cautiously during 2023. Any changes will be available on posters & on-line.

To keep aware of what is happening, and to participate on line with services, log into the website <https://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stleonardstogetherapart/>

Also, we have a WhatsApp group entitled “Together Apart Our Church”. Lots of people are involved in that.

These links have been greatly appreciated by regular Church family members and also by people who have not, to date, attended our church services. In difficult times, like this, we need to ‘allow’ God to point us in possible new directions and then to respond. **God has a plan with hope for future.**

If you would like specific prayer, please contact the vicar. preferably by email but otherwise on 01621 772300

A notice about our offerings to God.

Many of us use the facility of the offering plate to give our gifts to God. Whether we are attending in person, or not, it is always a good time to think about a standing order to the church so that we are still bringing our gift. Many of us are doing this already – Thank you, but those who may be wondering how they can continue their giving through Standing Order the details of the church bank are here:

Barclays Bank

Sort code: **20.54.30**

A/c No. **80825107**

A/c Name: Southminster Parochial Church Council.

For Steeple use: Sort code: **20.54.30**

A/c No. **60842494**

A/c Name: Steeple Parochial Church Council.

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SOUTHMINSTER

THE SID BOLAN BIG BAND

25TH FEBRUARY 2023



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

THE CONCERT WILL START AT 7.30pm

TICKETS ARE £10

and will be available at Church services in February

or by phoning 01621 772199

**Some of the raised funds will go to the
Knightswood Day Care Centre.**



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	5 February	South - West
w/b	12 February	Central - West
w/b	19 February	North - East
w/b	26 February	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

Contact: vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

If you wish to contact the Church regarding a Safeguarding issue
please contact us by telephone on 07745 688845
or via safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

See pages 12-13 for details during this season.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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 but this is **during term-time only.**
It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.



Everyone is
welcome to join.
Details on board.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS usually meet in the
church on **Mondays (10am) and Thursdays (8pm)**

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