PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF ST LEONARD





and also for Steeple Parish

The Church of

St Lawrence & All Saints



Southminster celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

JULY 2022

"For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle."
St Paul is described thus in Acts 9:15

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Articles for the August magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 17th July** 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

"For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle."

What a wonderful occasion last month when we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen. There have been a series of events that brought people together in street parties, picnics and fun. Plus, we had a double bank holiday to help prepare and rest. As we have reflected on the life of Queen Elizabeth II we have heard some of her speeches to the nation and to the commonwealth; her first being a message to the children in the 1940's encouraging them with sustaining words and prayer. On other occasions she has always mentioned her calling and her faith, for she has always known that she would one day be Queen but she knew would need God's help and the prayers of the people. We have sung the National Anthem many times, yet do we see it as answered prayer? "Long to reign over us?" I think that these seventy years have shown that prayer to have been truly answered. Our Queen has demonstrated grace and faithfulness throughout her life and we are grateful that she has shown - through her way of life and the way she handles herself - to other world leaders the true grace which is a gift from God.

The thoughts of our Queen and her Jubilee made me think of preparation: how the royal heirs are appointed

for their office to come, and immersed in the things of royal duties. The heirs have not yet reached the pinnacle of their calling yet are becoming fully aware of what is expected of them and how they are to perform their royal duties. It is certain that at some time they will need to step up to the mark and be the focal point of the royal household. They do not need to have hope that it may happen, that by 'luck' they may be chosen, but in certain knowledge that they are chosen and destined for the role they are to play in the future.

When the apostle Paul had his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus he was told to go into the city and there to wait until he is told what to do. In the meantime, God purposes Ananias to deliver healing and a message to Paul. Ananias is to say to Paul "You are a chosen vessel of God to bear His Name before the gentiles, kings and the children of Israel" (Acts 9: 15). Once Paul had received the message and his sight had returned he went to the synagogue preaching Jesus is the Christ. In the space of three or four days, Paul has heard the call of Jesus and is now purposed for mission. As we look at the writings of Paul we read in the opening statements of his letters "Paul called to be...." Or "Paul an apostle..." or even "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ...." Paul knew that the call of God was for a new

ministry used, but transformed, by God for His service. In his first letter to Timothy, as Paul encourages this young disciple, Paul outlines Timothy's call and purpose and then affirms his own appointment.

Entering into the Kingdom of God through the Way that **IS** Jesus, we too belong to the royal household of God. Let us, therefore, live remembering that for the rest of our lives. We <u>are</u> His children and, with Jesus, joint-heirs of His promises. Hallelujah!!

Every blessing

Peter

A recent celebration with some challenges too!

This year's **IGNITE** Festival on Sat. 11th & Sun. 12th June (organised by the Parish of St James, Dengie with Asheldham) was a superb example of responding to God's call within our community. Its purpose was to spread HOPE & LIGHT throughout our communities. It did that - in spades!

Some of our Church family participated in the Saturday 'show' in various ways - including Sound engineer Pete Adams who kept all in control; Canon Peter presented challenging thoughts on a Biblical text relevant today; Jenny and Norman Pratt gave a puppetry version of Genesis; Rev. Ken Dunstan shared some poetry/songs he wrote some years ago that are still relevant. Then on Sunday afternoon we enjoyed Graham Martin's "Songs of Praise" service. It was good to hear the testimonies of people who chose the hymns/songs as well as to sing them.

The Power of God-Given Ideas

For a long time, I have used the UCB "Word for Today" Bible based notes and with their permission can share some of their material.

For 3 days in May the "Words for Today" were on God Given Ideas and how the world has been blessed through them. Ideas given to people who "ran" with them often against many obstacles and hurdles but with perseverance to win through.

One idea was the introduction of anaesthetic. A Scottish doctor named James Young Simpson introduced something he called "Artificial Sleep" after being troubled by the pain and mortality rate experienced during operations. He thought chloroform might be the answer. He was inspired as the result of reading Genesis 2:21 where God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep while he operated to remove a rib to make a woman as a helper for him. Despite encountering opposition James pushed forward and we are so thankful that he did!!!

In 1824 Louis Braille, a Christian, invented a system of raised dots on paper so that blind people could read. Other forms of communication, we owe in part, to a Christian named Samuel

Morse, namely our mobile phones and computers. Another Christian, Christopher Sholes, invented the typewriter leading to word processors and computers.

Louis Pasteur, a French scientist and devout Catholic realised that infection is the result of germs and viruses and he introduced sterilisation methods to aid us in combatting these. He discovered also that milk turns sour because of the action of tiny living organisms. He developed a process of gently heating foodstuffs like milk to kill these organisms without changing the flavour or nutritional value. This process was called pasteurisation in honour of his name.

There were and are of course many inventions to enhance our lives in this world, research goes on all the time. Every gadget or aid invented, however small, is invaluable to someone.

Not every inventor professes to be a Christian but every

inventor had a "light bulb moment" which enhanced life and God continuously gives these moments today. However large or small our inventions may be let us continue seeking new ways to help each other and look to our God for His inspiration.



Brenda Sheppard

Go Gently Conference, 21 May 2022, Chelmsford Cathedral

"Would you like tickets for the Go Gently conference?, Rev Jacqui asked unexpectedly. My initial thought was "What is this?!" but after a brief explanation and consideration, my answer was an enthusiastic, "Yes, please!" I'd heard about the Japanese art of Kintsugi; mending broken pots with gold glue so that they become even more beautiful than before, making a feature of the cracks, but I didn't know that there was an organisation based on this concept. Over recent years I have developed a strong interest in how mental wellbeing or otherwise affects each one of us, so it sounded fascinating.

Kintsugi Hope exists to create a world where mental and emotional health is understood and accepted, with safe and supportive communities for everyone to grow and flourish. It was founded by Patrick and Diane Regan in 2017 and carries the motto 'Discovering treasure in life's scars.'

The conference featured uplifting worship led by Graham Kendrick and a wonderful audience with Terry Waite CBE. I'd like to share some key points that struck me from several inspiring talks by the leaders and co-workers in Kintsugi Hope.

Many people are feeling angry, tired and overwhelmed following the pandemic. There's an increased need in society for mental health awareness and support, as has been highlighted in the media. We need to "go gently". Gentleness is a recurring theme in the Bible, but how many sermons do we hear on gentleness? When Elijah ran away from Jezebel, an angel touched him and led him to take food and rest, and to listen for God's gentle, small still whisper of a voice. The Book of Proverbs tells us that a gentle answer turns away wrath. Jesus describes Himself as being gentle and lowly in heart, willing to carry our burdens. In Galations 5, gentleness is listed as one of the segments of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Gentleness is *not* weakness but is "strength wrapped in peace" (L.R.Knost). It is an act of

rebellion against the stiff upper lip culture that can be so toxic. In Revelation, Christ eventually wipes away every tear from the eyes of His followers. This is an intimate act. Whose tears have we wiped away recently?

We need to be gentle both with ourselves and with others. Gentleness is being fully present for someone else's pain, but without trying to fix it. It is being quick to let things go (ouch!) and to be eager to show kindness and empathy. We watched a brilliant video clip demonstrating the difference between sympathy and empathy. A bear sees a fox fall down a hole. He looks down on the fox and sympathetically says," Oh dear, it's awful down there!" and offers him a sandwich. In the alternative version, he jumps down into the hole with the fox and comforts him, sharing in his pain. That is empathy!

We were challenged to clear out our 'shame basements'. Shame is not the opposite of shamelessness, but of humility, because shame is a mistrust of God's promises. After killing an Egyptian who murdered his fellow-Israelite, Moses suffered shame in Egypt and hid for 40 years before God called him to become a great leader for 40 years. Shame isolates people, but people are created to be interconnected. Very often, shame is falsely based. It's vital that we build our relationships on honest foundations, avoiding a façade of appearing to be okay when we are not okay. If we are unwary, shame can easily conduct our lives. Fortunately, shame cannot survive openness or empathy. Jesus took all of our shame upon Himself so that we can be forgiven. We can choose to allow ourselves to be open and vulnerable. God offers us unconditional love, healing and life; He desires us to live freely and joyfully. Emotional security can be found in God, through His grace.

"How do we survive our darkest times?" is a very difficult question. Terry Waite stated that we can never know the extent of our inner resources and resilience until we are placed in a tough situation. Terry told us that, although he didn't *feel* that God was close to him during his years of captivity, he was sustained by his faith that God was with him.

Terry's resilience was founded on the knowledge that his captors could hurt his body and disturb his mind, but they could never reach his soul. The speaker recommended trusting in God's character, without trying to understand why things are happening; and to practise prayer that is just resting in God, simply 'being' in His Presence from a deep place within.

How can we become a more mental health-friendly church? Theological training needs to include education about mental health disorders. 91% of church leaders lack any such training. We must work to outlaw stigma and learn to walk alongside one another, encouraging resilience, whilst acknowledging that it is "okay to not be always okay". We all need to practise being non-judgemental. People do not need to be fully 'fixed' before they can usefully serve in church or community settings. As Voltaire said, "Do not let the perfect be the enemy of the good".

We can give ourselves permission to forgive ourselves, because God has forgiven us, even when others can't forgive us. We cannot control what other people think about us. We can offer gentleness, kindness, support and prayer that is free from any agenda.

We need to know that prayer doesn't usually accelerate recovery from trauma, and that trauma therapy is extremely specialised. Purpose can be found in suffering. Let's go gently!

Thank you again to Rev Jacqui for giving me the opportunity to attend this challenging and inspiring conference. I would highly recommend similar events in the future to anyone if you are able to attend!

Kintsugi Hope is a charity which also offers a flexible 12 week training programme for Kintsigu Hope Group leaders to run groups in communities, workplaces, churches and other settings. For more information please visit kintsigu hope.com

Christine Lucas

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.

September 2022 4 11 18 25 October 2022 2 9 16 23 30

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

It seems that there is always a need for volunteers to do jobs in and around the church building. We, at Henry Cleaning Club, have lost some valued members this year for varied and very valid reasons. They are sorely missed but have left a void. We try to keep the cleanliness of the church building to a good standard but can always do with more willing hands. We meet once a fortnight on a Friday morning from 9.15 – 11am and do as much or as little as we feel able. If you would like to come along, please contact me, it would be great to have you onboard.

Brenda Sheppard

CHURCH BELLS RING

Many of you will have been aware of the wonderful bellringing that has happened recently. Firstly, there was the memorial peal for the late Allan Pye, then peals at two recent weddings.

Be prepared to hear them monthly on Saturday afternoons. The team need practices and could welcome new members too.

Sunday 3rd July

3rd Sunday after Trinity

4th Sunday after Trinity

5th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher Rev'd Peter Celebrant Ephesians 2: 19 - end John 20:24 - end Celebrant Sidesman Gordon Baker

10.45 Family Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher Rev'd Peter Christine Morgan Readings as above Norman Pratt Intercessions Sylvia Adams Audio-visuals Kath Dunstan Sidesperson

Refreshments t h a

Sunday 10th July

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher Rev'd Ken Dunstan Colossians I: I - I4 Paul Lucas

Luke 10:25 - 37 Celebrant Sidesman Pete Adams

10.45 Family Celebration

Leaders Rev'd Jacqui /Karen Flack/Jenny Pratt

Audio-visuals Christine Morgan Sidesperson Brenda Sheppard

Refreshments Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 17th July 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Sidesman

President/Preacher Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui Colossians I: 15 - 28 Celebrant/ t.b.a. Luke 10:38 - end Celebrant Leon Flack

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Sunday 17th July

10.45 Morning Worship with Holy Baptism

Leader/ preacher Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui

Readings as at 8am Fiona Begley

Intercessions Brenda Sheppard
Audio-visuals Christine Lucas

Sidesperson Sylvia Adams

Refreshments Eira Hagger & Yvonne Thurbon

Sunday 24th July 08.00 Holy Communion

6th Sunday after Trinity

President/Preacher Rev'd Ken Dunstan / Norman Pratt

Colossians 2 : 6 - 15 Celebrant Luke 11 : 1 - 13 Celebrant

Sidesman Paul Lucas

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher Rev'd Jacqui & Norman Pratt

Readings as above Christine Lucas
Intercessions Rupert Killick
Audio-visuals Christine Morgan

Sidesperson John Hedges

Refreshments Christine Lucas & Sandra Billinghurst

Sunday 31st July

7th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion

President/Preacher Rev'd Peter
Colossians 3: I - II Celebrant
Luke 12: I3 - 2I Celebrant
Sidesman Pete Adams

10.45 United Service/ Holiday Club Service

President/Preacher Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui / Jenny Pratt

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 online service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on the church website (p24)

The Diocesan Registrar at Chelmsford has issued the Faculty that authorises our belfry timber renovation project. So we now need a firm starting date from the principal contractor, Bakers of Danbury. Barring some last minute discovery of bat roosts, we are now reasonably confident the work can be completed later this summer.

To prepare for when the bills arrive, our summer fund raising activities are vitally important; firstly **Wheels & Paws** at Burnham in July followed by **Steeple Gathering**. We also need successful outcomes from our applications for grants from appropriate organisations.

Steeple Historic Gathering at Grange Farm on 21st August.

This will closely follow the format of previous years and we hope other local organizations will take the opportunity to promote their activities. As well as the usual wide selection of vehicles plus stationary engines driving various bits of farming memorabilia, we will of course have excellent refreshments.

Entry forms for vehicles, engines or stalls are available from Peter Marshall in response to a text message to 07711 472 132.

LOOKING AHEAD AGAIN

The Annual Ride & Stride event organised by The Friends of Essex Churches Trust

will be on Saturday 10th September 9 am - 5 pm

You are invited to RIDE or STRIDE

And raise funds for your church.

It is fun for all the family.

Please join us!

Full details are on the website www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride

News from the Pilliingers

Wyc|iffe Bib|e Trans|ators

We have had a newsletter from Johanna Pillinger giving details of their current family and work situation. In general, all is well but there are family difficulties. The newsletter will be available to read in church but meanwhile please pray for Johanna and Steve regularly.

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.

We remembered with love and appreciation the late

Michael Bikhazi whose funeral was held on Tuesday 21st June.

His long-standing service to God in many ways, especially through being our church treasurer over the years will never be forgotten.

We pray for his widow, Lynne and their family at this time.

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 Jan on 07742 002389

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 of the hall 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 Jan (above). It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on July 26th
Birthday Party with the Prydes Princesses
Competition: Frilly Garter (to be worn)
For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



We Pray

Our deanery will be prayed for throughout the diocese from 19th July. Specifically Southminster and Steeple will be prayed for on Friday 29th July.

Keep praying for Ukraine and Russia in these difficult times.

ECONOMISING

Apparently an MP has said on radio something to the effect that we need to economise and that it's possible to make a meal for 30p.

Without wishing to go into the feasibility of that idea, it certainly is possible to make a meal at a reasonable price, with a little effort. And cutting down on some days might free up a pound or two to buy more expensive food on other days.

The worry seems to be that with money not stretching far these days, some people are buying cheaper food that lacks nutrition – eg cheap pizza, too many chips (which have their place however), cheap ready made meals which don't have much good food in them.

We older folks who remember rationing etc. can also probably recall how our parents managed to feed us well on a budget. Most of our food was fresh – by which I mean not processed. Personally I quite enjoyed omelettes made with powdered egg – processed, though! But it was still egg. It was available long after rationing stopped and I used to ask for it even though my family was well able to afford the eggs that were also in the house. I was one of those youngsters who "didn't like" much food so my mother was glad that I was willing to eat the powdered egg since I wouldn't eat a real one. But it wasn't generally popular so I'm afraid I can't suggest it for these days.

I gather from this radio programme that today's problem is that some* (*let's not say all of them! That wouldn't be either true or fair!) of the younger generation budget in a different way, choosing poor but cheap ready-to-eat food instead of wholesome food that needs more attention than putting in an oven or a microwave. We can understand the temptation of a £1 pizza (if there is still such a thing this week) but its nutritional value might be not the best.

I don't believe that younger people can't cook and in order to save money I'm sure they would be willing to spend a little bit more time in the kitchen in these difficult times.

If anybody is struggling or knows youngsters who are finding it difficult to budget may I suggest they try:

Eggs in all their forms. Protein etc. and quick and easy.

- Tinned fish sardines are livened up if grilled on toast with chopped onion.
- Home made soup of any vegetables. Fry chopped onion with or without added garlic, add chopped up vegetables and stock. For mixed vegetable soup an added small tin of "value/economy" priced tomatoes, and a pinch of herbs of your choice, or mixed.
- A whole chicken can be an investment as, depending how many are eating it, it could last for most of a week boil the bones at the end to make a nutritious stock for the above soup.
- Add spinach to a salad for extra "goodness". Make it a meal with cold meat, tinned fish, hard boiled eggs (add mayo?) or cheese. With a roll or slice of bread, or a few new potatoes this makes a substantial meal.
- Pasta and noodles aren't expensive and make a budget meal with a sauce. Sauce CAN be bought or better still home made.
- Fruit salad made with a little fresh fruit and maybe a tin of "economy" mandarin slices.

Just trying to help!

Chris Martin

Local events and some in other places



Bradwell Pilgrimage 2 July 2022

Full details will be in church but basically

10.30 am commissioning of pilgrims at St Thomas' Church

Walk to the Chapel (shuttle bus available if needed)

12.00 Midday worship with Bishop Guli

Salvation Army Chelmsford Corps leads the worship Lunch - Bring a picnic but coffee/tea/cakes available

2.00 pm Afternoon activities begin

Eucharist (Anglican Order)

Including Spring Dance Company- The Green Project
Prayer Gallery - St Francis Community Church
Reducing our carbon footprint - Othona Community

3.15 pm Afternoon Worship led by Richard Saunders, Othona Community 4.00 pm Close

Wheels & Paws at Elmwood Equestrian, Burnham-on-Crouch, 10th July

(Full details have been available during recent months)

Southminster Flower Show Saturday 16th July 2022 King George V Memorial Field (Details will be available locally.)

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that most restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and continue cautiously 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

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.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB "WONDER ZONE"

Discovering God's wonderful world

A holiday club for Primary age children from the parishes of Southminster and Steeple. (Others may be included if space allows.)

25th July 2022 to 29th July 2022 at St. Leonard's Church 10am to 12.30 pm.

Great fun.

Registration forms available soon from church or the school.

Hope to see you there.

Jenny Pratt



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	3 July	Central - South
w/b	10 July	South - West
w/b	17 July	Central - West
w/b	24 July	North - East
w/b	31 July	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 the Church Office at 772300 or 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 during term-time only. It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS will meet in the church

Everyone is welcome to join. Details on board.

Mondays at 10 am

"ARTS IN OUR CHURCHES"

More details will be on notice boards.