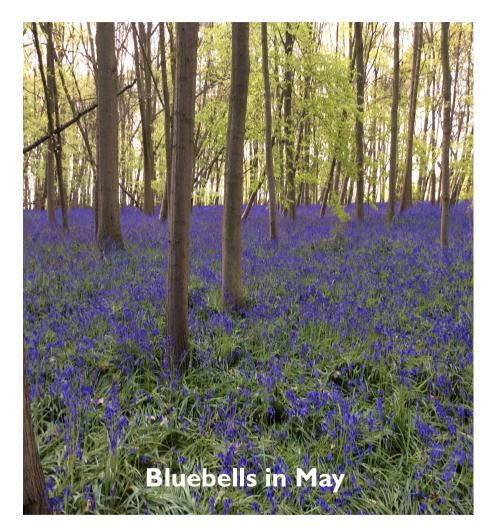
PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF ST LEONARD



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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Articles for the July magazine by Sunday June 14th please, to Kath Dunstan. New contributors will be welcome.

This month's Cover photograph Was taken by Fiona Begley. Thank you Fiona!

Reflection

Trust in God always.

I was privileged to be asked to officiate at a funeral of a local resident and family. When I spoke to the family they said that some of the funeral service had already been planned in advance, with music and readings that had been requested. When the Bible reading was given to me I saw that it was a specific translation that had been requested, so I looked up a familiar passage that we, as a church, have been looking at over these past two weeks.

The Bible reference is John 14; 1 - 6 and usually we read it this way:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. N.R.S.V.

However, as I read it from the New English Bible it read: Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me. N.E.B.

The words that really jumped at me were "Trust in God always" quite different to "believe in God". The word 'believe' in Greek is 'pisteuete' which in the King James Version is translated "Be ye believing".

I pondered these words for a few moments to allow them to sink in, because often I will say 'I believe' in the context of knowing. For example we declare our faith in God with the words of the creed and say "I believe in God and in Jesus Christ His Son". This is based on knowledge of God and all that His Son has done on the cross for me (and you). 'I believe' then becomes a passive statement, rather than an active statement (from my perspective, it may be different for you.). Yet when we read 'Be ye believing' or 'trust in God always', the words become active and alive in our lives. We are not just resting in a solution that God has given; we are active in its purpose through to conclusion: we are participating in trust. Living in trust means surrendering all to God to allow Him to direct us on our path of life. This is clearly seen in the life and teaching of Jesus as He says to His disciples "For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given Me a commandment about what to say and what to speak". (John 12 49). Jesus trusts the Father for <u>every</u> word that He speaks which will bring life to others.

I am reminded too, of Abraham taking Isaac up the mountainside with a dagger and firewood, to sacrifice his son - surrender him to God. Yet the words Abraham used to his servants were full of trust in God to work out *His* solution. Abraham says to his servants "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship, and then **we** will come back to you". (Genesis 22: 5) Active belief, active trust.

Jesus, talking to His disciples in the last hours of His life says to them "Set your troubled hearts at rest. **Trust in God always**; trust also in me." Again, this use of the present continuous tense: Set your..hearts at rest...Go on setting..trusting, go on setting...in God... also in me...and when you're trusting God, trust in God again... and again... keep on trusting...all the time, "always"; *keep on... keep on*.. Believing, setting, trusting, living it out daily... Through these past few weeks of lockdown we have all been praying that God would see us through, and I am confident that God will not only see us through but will surprise us with what He has been doing in the lives of others, and will thus continue, through your *keeping on* prayers and of those who have come to Him.

May our prayers, and our lives, reflect belief and trust in the one who is faithful.

Peter

A HUGE THANK YOU

The vicar and the PCC AND all the parishioners are so very grateful for the kindness of those who have cut the churchyard grass.

It really shows what a good community is all about, where we see others needs, and respond.

So a huge Thank You to the thoughtful people of Southminster parish.

Southminster Community also needs our prayers

Southminster Primary School; Pre-School; Hillside Nursery; Parish Council; Medical Centre; Residential Homes' staff and residents; ChristChurch members; Dengie Food Pantry; Memorial Hall Committee and groups who meet there: Women's Institute; Chatterbox; Wishing Well Club; Community Lunch Club; FOSCOS; Dancing groups and all key workers on whom we depend in so many ways.

Moving On God's Provision in Time of Need

St Paul tells us in Philippians 4 v 19 "My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" I have been looking at some of the stories in the Old Testament of how God provided for Elijah, Jonah and Daniel.

In 1 Kings 19 it tells us that Elijah had fled from Jezebel, King Ahab's wife, after defeating the prophets of Baal. Jezebel, who worshipped Baal, threatened his life and so he ran and went into the desert and sat under a



broom tree and prayed that he may die because he had had enough. God then sent an angel to him who provided him with food to strengthen him to enable him to move on.

In the books of Jonah 3-4 we read how Jonah eventually obeyed the Lord and went to preach to the city of Nineveh to proclaim to the Ninevites that God would overturn their city if they did not repent of their wicked ways. When they did repent Jonah was angry because God had shown compassion and did not bring the destruction He had threatened. Jonah wanted God's goodness to be shown only to Israelites and not to Gentiles. Jonah, in his despair, too wanted to die and made



himself a shelter as he sat outside the city and watched. God also provided a vine to shelter him from the heat which sprang up overnight and died overnight. God provided what was needed for a time before Jonah could move on.

Both Elijah and Jonah in their despair were provided with shade and food to give them time to recuperate and the strength to carry on. Another story I love is that of Daniel in the Lion's den (Daniel 6). Daniel was a highly esteemed man, an administrator in Kings Darius' court, but through jealousy the other administrators and satraps tried to get rid of him. One way of doing this was they got the king to issue a decree that anyone who prayed to any god or man except to the king in the following thirty days should be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel continued to pray to his God and because of the decree the king, against his better judgement, had no choice but to throw Daniel into the lions' den. God in His mercy and provision sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions and saved him and Daniel went on to prosper and God was exalted.

There are many more examples of God's provision in the

Bible and I'm sure we can all testify to God's provision for us in our time of need. We've been thankful in the lockdown time for the help we've received and for the chance to have time to acknowledge and befriend others either by phone, social media, or at a distance outside.



The most amazing and powerful provision from God in time of need was when Jesus came to the disciples when they were so afraid and confused after his death and then were told of His resurrection. Jesus came to them saying "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18) and so He provided the Holy Spirit to fill them with boldness to go out to all the world to preach the good news.

1 Cor 10:13 says: God is faithful he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. Amen.

Brenda Sheppard

Continuing to be a Transforming Presence

Love God, love people and tell them about Jesus.

A message (back in April) from The Rt Rev'd Peter Hill, the Acting Bishop of Chelmsford & the Bishop of Barking

"On Easter Day Bishop Stephen leaves us to take up his wider leadership and ministry in God's church. In a few months' time he will become Archbishop of York, but before then we must release him to contribute more fully to the Church of England's national resilience and mission strategy in the midst of the health and social crisis brought about by the coronavirus epidemic.

"Due to the current restrictions we are not going to be able to give him the public blessing and send off we had originally planned. Yet we will still pray him and Rebecca into their new future under God's call. He leaves behind a great legacy defined by two words: transforming presence - a vision and strategy for the proclamation and mission of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which he has held high before us these past 10 years. The great story teller leaves behind a terrific story.

"The call upon us who remain is to continue to tell that story through the power of the Holy Spirit, even in the demand of this tough time. We will not and must not tread spiritual water while we wait for our new Diocesan Bishop to arrive. Rather our call is to press on in making disciples, evangelising effectively, serving with accountability and inhabiting the world distinctively now more than ever. "Please join me in praying for Bishop Stephen and Rebecca as they go with our resounding thanksgiving and let us pray and work with one another in this neediest of times to be Christ to our families, our communities and especially to the disadvantaged and marginalised amongst us.

"Our task, as Stephen has reminded us so often is to love God, love people and tell them about Jesus. That is how we change the world!"

> + Peter Hill Acting Bishop of Chelmsford and Bishop of Barking

LOOKING FORWARD

The lockdown period has given us a vision of how nature can regenerate when humans limit their impact: we hear the birds sing, we breathe in less polluted air, we enjoy nature close to our homes.

Ahead of the lockdown many of our churches were making significant changes to limit their own impact on the environment. Both Chelmsford Cathedral and St John's Moulsham have recently been awarded the A Rocha Silver ECO Church Award.

The award requires churches to apply ECO principles to five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

A Rocha Eco Church awards

Find out more about A Rocha Eco Church awards at arocha.org.uk

Now turn to page 17 for more information

This poem was shared with us by Angela Parker as it seems relevant to today's situation. It had been published on line as if it had been written in 1869 and updated in 1919 during the Spanish Flu Pandemic by Kathleen O'Mara but more on-line checking has suggested that it was actually written in 2020 by Catherine (Kitty) O'Meara

Whoever wrote it, it certainly fits today's situation. Thank you Angela.

And people stayed at home And read books And listened And they rested And did exercises And made art and played And learned new ways of being And stopped and listened more deeply Someone meditated Someone prayed Someone met their shadow And people began to think differently And people healed And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways, dangerous, meaningless and heartless, the earth also began to heal And when the danger ended and people found themselves they grieved for the dead, and made new choices And dreamed of new visions And created new ways of living And completely healed the earth just as they were healed.

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.

September 2020	6	13	20	27
October 2020	4	11	18	25

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

Kathy Pegg writes

As we said last month, Easter flowers were not available this year and the church was closed from about 3 weeks before Easter too. However, when the lockdown restrictions ease and our church building re-opens, we will be able to have a service of remembrance and thanksgiving which normally would have happened at Easter. An updated Memorial Scroll can be displayed at St Leonard's church and the building



will be decorated with an abundance of floral displays! If you haven't yet sponsored flowers for such a display it is not too late. We'll just await the end of lockdown.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	7 June
w/b	14 June
w/b	21 June
w/b	28 June

South - West Central - West North - East Central - North - West



Because of the directive from the UK Government and the Archbishops, on 23rd March, concerning the Coronavirus pandemic, churches will be closed for any public meetings until further notice.

Some details of the services which will happen online during June are listed opposite, so please use them so that we can all be involved in worship together, from home, at this very difficult time. The set readings and the special prayer (the collect) of the day are shown. These details apply both to Southminster and to Steeple.

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/

This link has been greatly appreciated by regular Church family members and also by people who have not, to date, attended our church services - whether because of timings or travelling distances or even doubts about their personal Christian faith. God works in amazing ways! In difficult times, like this, we need to 'allow' Him to point us in possible new directions and then to respond appropriately so that eventually we shall be rejoicing and giving Him the glory for all that has happened during this 'lock-down'.

Also, we have a WhatsApp group entitled "Together Apart Our Church". Lots of people are involved in that. Keep in touch (not literally of course!).

Sunday 7th June

II - end

2 Corinthians 13 : 11 - end Matthew 28 : 16 - 20

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday 14th June

First Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 19 : 2 - 8a Matthew 9 : 35 - 10 : 8

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

Sunday 21st June

Second Sunday after Trinity

Third Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 20 : 7 - 13 Matthew 10 : 24 - 39

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 28th June

Jeremiah 28 : 5 - 9 Matthew 10 : 40 - end

God our Saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Trinity Sunday

Bradwell-Tillingham-Dengie and St Lawrence Church Services

If our Churches are still closed for public worship our church services will be 'Joint Benefice Services' and will be online at; https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/sunday-services/

If restrictions are removed and public worship is permitted please see https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/ for church services and times for Bradwell, Tillingham, St Lawrence and Dengie.

This website has been adapted to cover all the churches in Bradwell, Tillingham, St Lawrence and Dengie over this coronavirus pandemic period.

The **IGNITE** event 'that would usually take place in the grounds of St James Church, Keeling Road, Dengie in June', will now be On Line.

https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/ignite-event-2020/

This will be in the form of a one-hour online video featuring visual readings, poetry & music. This will be available to see on the following dates to suit your viewing preference. Saturday the 13th of June: 2pm to 3pm and Sunday the 14th of June: 3pm to 4pm. Links will be available soon.....

It is always good to share with our neighbouring parishes (as we have done over recent years for this event) so DON'T MISS IT. Obviously if you are intending to be involved with the Cathedral EcoChurch event (see page 9) there will be a clash but on-line events can sometimes be recorded I think! Kath Dunstan

Two Pillingers' Updates

For many of us, being at home doesn't **Tre** actually mean being less busy... but if you have a moment please can you pray for me (Johanna).



In recent years I have improved significantly, to the point that I am basically healthy. This has been a huge encouragement. Not strong, but healthy. We know many of you have been praying for that for a long time, for which we are deeply grateful!

However, every 3 months or so I go through a phase of feeling ill. I have body aches, my mind is in a fog, but no temperature or any other symptoms. It can last from three days to three weeks, and vary in intensity. The cause is unknown. During these phases I can be up, but only to "potter about". It leads to loss of muscle strength and general falling behind.

I'm now in day 11 of such a phase. Can we ask you to pray for a lifting of these recurring bouts of being unwell?

We are in isolation, with our daughter Jen doing our shopping and disinfecting all items before they enter the house, so in that way we are well protected!

May you know His peace and love during these challenging times. — Johanna (and Steve) (Apr 23).

We are thrilled to report that I am recovering now!

Thank you so much for your kind and encouraging messages, and for your thoughts and prayers. We feel very privileged to have each you as friends and supporters!

It turned out that it was a mould infection. I am on treatment now, and picking up by the day. As we've learnt the hard way, even small deviations from a regular healthy lifestyle makes me susceptible to any passing bug (or spore)! This time it was the lockdown that directly and indirectly affected my health.

May you all continue to know His grace and strength—and health!!—during this very unusual time affecting all of us, wherever we live.

With our love and gratitude,

Johanna (May 11).

Christian Aid Week was from 10th to 16th May.

There is full information about their current situation and all their work on their web site. Since we were unable to raise funds locally this year



you can still support this charity but please make your donations on line. If you are not able to do that but would like to give money, please use our Church accounts but label the donation clearly that it is for Christian Aid.

Several of us enjoyed the on-line service on 10th May and were well-informed and challenged by former Archbishop Rowan Williams in his talk. Obviously we can support Christian Aid at any time - not just in this week.

Kath Dunstan

Their latest appeal is because of the cyclone... see below.

Millions of people are have been evacuated from their homes in India and Bangladesh due to Super Cyclone Amphan. But these life-saving efforts are being restricted because of the need to social distance.

Raging winds of up to 120mph and 17 foot high waves have battered and damaged thousands of homes made with mud, tin and thatched roofs.

Please pray with us for our global neighbours who have felt the destruction of Cyclone Amphan. Pray for their protection and safety during these unimaginable circumstances. We want to thank you for your prayers and overwhelming generosity. It is because of your ongoing support that communities are more resilient and we can provide immediate, life-saving help in times of great need.

Christian Aid's Bangladesh Country Director, Pankaj Kumar says: 'We have an increased number of intense storms year on year, and it is the most poor and vulnerable who are being hit the hardest. They are still restoring their homes and livelihoods from previous years... Amphan risks putting them back to square one.' Our local partners are assessing the needs of people most in danger so that we can give life-saving support. Immediate help is likely to include safe water, hygiene kits, masks and sanitisers – to avoid transmission of coronavirus.

Our partners are on the ground supporting the evacuations to cyclone centres, especially elderly people and people with disabilities. Your support makes this possible.

Nick Georgiadis Director of Fundraising and Supporter Engagement Christian Aid

An extra note from Kath:

I was directed to view on line a song which had been written by Martin John Nicholls "A song from Kingdom Come".

It was so appropriate and so moving that I posted it on the St Leonard's Apart website so more people could listen to it. You can find it if you Google **Martin John Nicholls "Song from Kingdom Come".** Some of you may remember Martin as a Southminster resident. We have seen him regularly at the Greenbelt Festival sharing his work for Christian Aid.

..... Continuing from Page 9.....

Local Special Event to inform us about ecoChurch

Greening the Church - online conference' will be hosted by Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 13 June from 9.30am-4:30pm.

The conference will take place on the 'Greening the Church' Facebook group (<u>www.facebook.com/ groups/727013254703425</u>). Please join this group - as described on our website - if you would like to take part. More details will be posted to the group in the run up to the conference. Alternatively you can Email Rev. Canon Imogen Nay (imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

The day will also include input from A Rocha who will explain how to become an Eco Church and Speakers from Tearfund and Christian Aid will talk about their campaigning and advocacy work.

The Power of God

by Jane Train

As many of you know my daughter and 2 granddaughters live in New Zealand and I have had the privilege of visiting them several times. Each time I have seen and experienced the power of God first hand.

My first encounter in February 2011, was on a visit with my son after my husband had died. New Zealand experienced a massive earthquake around Christchurch which as you can imagine was very scary with powerful shockwaves and aftershocks.



On my second trip, in December of 2011, on which I went again with my son, I again experienced an earthquake and during one of the aftershocks, whilst I was advised to hold on to a doorpost feeling absolutely terrified, my eldest granddaughter said "Don't worry Grandma it's only an aftershock." They are obviously used to it!!!!

My third trip, which I made alone, I'm happy to say was uneventful, but on my way home from my fourth trip, again made alone, in March this year, I noticed from my plane seat flashes outside the window. Thinking it was the light from the plane wing I looked closer and saw it was lightning over the Himalayas which was spectacular to see as we flew alongside it. A sight I'll never forget. As you can see, each time I go to New Zealand I have powerful experiences, ones I'll never forget! One thing I do know is that God is all powerful, more powerful than earthquakes and lightning, and I know He upheld me in the scary times and gave me a sense of awe and wonder in seeing the wonders of nature at close hand.

I also thank God for the provision of finances for my trips and the wonderful care given to me on the plane journeys. I really have been blessed with so many answered prayers. Pray with All Your Heart Believe with All Your Soul & You Will See God Move

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 BankSort code: 20.54.30A/c No. 80825107Made payable to:SouthminsterParochial Church Council.Southminster

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

May God bless our gifts to Him.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

How the world around us is changing with the effects of Coronavirus!

By now we're getting used to being "locked down". We've been through ups and downs, we've been helped and been helping others, and generally settling into a routine. Then when there's a little "easing" we grasp at the opportunity to enjoy whatever the Government permits next.

At this moment, the sky is bluer than we've ever seen it, the skies are quiet and there are no aviation vapour trails. At first even the roads were very quiet though as more movement has been permitted, so now we are seeing more traffic again. I'm sure that like me, you're seeing more (and different) birds in your garden than you've ever seen before. I've even ordered a bird feeding station for the first time in my 57 years in this house! On our daily walks we can appreciate the spring blossoming of trees, shrubs and flowers and because so many people are not working we can talk to each other as we pass along the country lanes – keeping a safe distance, of course. Most of us don't normally have time to wander around the streets every day just looking at the scenery but now we have this perfect opportunity.

Will we appreciate all this when things go back to whatever the new "normal" will be? Things will certainly never be the same again.

But can we learn from this experience and change our mindset so that we walk rather than take the car if we can, and shop online rather than use the car to go to the supermarkets? I do appreciate it's more satisfying to SEE what you want to buy but maybe a few lorries delivering is better for the environment than dozens of cars on these country roads? Our local shops have given wonderful service with extra stock and free delivery to the "vulnerable". Let's carry on shopping there as much as we can! They've supported us – let's continue to support them when this is over.

Can we learn to slow down and appreciate what Nature has provided around us? "Stop and smell the flowers"???

Can we keep up some of the initiatives that people are taking advantage of – talking more often to family and friends using modern technology? Playing online games and quizzes?

Will children who live away from here continue to talk to their Southminster grandparents using WhatsApp or Skype in between the usual visits?

Can we continue to share and care like we have been during these difficult times?

Let's hope so!

Chris Martin

Snakes and Ladders

Some thoughts from Kathy Pegg

I had a picture, when praying this morning, of a giant Snakes & Ladders board! I was a bit perplexed to say the least but then it came to me that this about our faith during this earthly life.

The ultimate aim is to reach the goal and be with Jesus in the Father's throne room.

During this life the enemy puts obstacles and drawbacks (snakes) to pull us back and dishearten us but the Lord puts beacons of answered prayer and affirmation (ladders) in our path to bless and encourage us.

The most important thing is to never give up.

Life isn't fair - hence the roll of the dice - but how we deal with it, in faith, will enable us to endure and claim the victory in Jesus name.

ST. LEONARD'S NORMAL REGULAR MIDWEEK EVENTS

At this difficult time we pray for all who are usually involved in these activities, both leaders and general participants.

The **Music Group** meets in church on Fridays at 7.45 pm & occasional Wednesdays. See weekly bulletins for details.

Bellringers meet occasionally in the tower

but we don't have our own regular team now.

Henry Club - Church Cleaning Team - meets twice a month at 9.15 am (normally on Fridays)

CHURCH GROUNDS WORKING PARTY

Details of these will be in the weekly notices.

Midweek Morning Prayer services (Mon., Wed. and Fri.)

8:00 am (about half an hour) in the chapel. Tuesdays 8.30 am "Just Prayer" also in the chapel.

HOME GROUPS

Normally they are Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 7.45 pm for 8 pm

ALPHA & ALPHA FOLLOW-ON

Groups usually meet at the Vicarage on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm Check details on weekly bulletins.

Young people and children are always welcome,

especially at 10.45 services, and Families are encouraged to attend the monthly **FAMILY CELEBRATION SERVICES**

Messy Church is once a month on Mondays.

Obviously our Parochial Church Council should meet bi-monthly and the recent Annual Meeting which had to be postponed will need prayers for its eventual happening.

Informal PCC meetings are now happening on Zoom.

WHAT'S WHAT



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

SADLY THERE WILL BE NO NORMAL PUBLIC WORSHIP

Sunday Services - will become 'worship at home'

(See pages 12-14 for details of special days and readings)
8:00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer 1662)
10:45 am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

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



Morning Prayer (Mon., Wed. and Fri.) 8:00 am and Tuesdays at 8.30am (Just Prayer)

There will be no 'gathering together' but an e-bulletin will be sent every week to all who would normally participate.

We will still worship our Lord, even if we do so from our own homes and in self-isolation. Let's trust Him to bring us through.