

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



and also for Steeple Parish

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



**Southminster Operatic and Choral Society
Concert in church
on Saturday 21st May.**

(The Broadway music was very much in tune
even though this photograph is out of focus!)

JUNE 2022

**We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
to do good works, which God prepared in advance
for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)**

- 3 Vicar's Reflection Rev'd Canon Peter Begley
- 6 Let the Little children come to me Brenda Sheppard
- 8 Events - local and in neighbouring parishes, in the future
- 9 Annual Parochial Church meeting: some notes
PCC Meeting - recent information
- 10 Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted
- 11 Rotas
Henry Cleaning Team Brenda Sheppard
Bellringing notice
- 12 Services at St. Leonard's during June
- 14 Steeple Church News Peter Marshall
- 16 Facebook Group (St Leonard's Together Apart) Karen Flack
Recent Weddings in church
- 17 Southminster Memorial Hall programme.
Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 18 Lest we Forget : A currently relevant poem from Brenda Sheppard
- 19 New Bible Study Groups start now..... .. Jenny Pratt
- 20 Christian Aid Week: some information Kath Dunstan
- 21 IGNITE event in Dengie this month
- 22 Children's Holiday ClubJenny Pratt
Prayer for Southminster
- 23 Who are we? ... Details of our 'normal' Church family life.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the July magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 19th June
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

We have been thrilled to see in the Vicarage garden a vast number of birds and their young visiting the seed feeders and fat ball peckers. It seems that we are needing to nip out and top up the feeders twice a day at least, and we could fill up the fat balls three times a day! They also seem to really appreciate the home-made bird 'flapjack' we make for them: they hit that first every time! Even so, it is really lovely to watch them and we're amazed at the lovely variety which grace us with their visits: it is so worthwhile feeding them good 'food' knowing it is for their thriving.

We have seen a lot of blackbirds, blue tits, great tits and goldfinches this year, along with a thrush, robins, greenfinches and a woodpecker plus the occasional jay: a real show of colour and joy.

I am sure that as you have travelled you have seen the young lambs growing or the calves moving through the fields. You may have seen the ears of the barley or the sheen of the Lucerne (a lovely blue) as the crops mature in the sunlight.

The true beauty of late spring can be the deepening green hues of the roadside shrubs and trees, contrasted against clear blue skies and it all adds up to make us realise that new things are happening around us even when we don't think that there will be any longer evenings or warmth in the sun...yet.

My father-in-law used to say that he had his ‘mental video’ going as we journeyed through valleys on holiday; these are the ‘videos’ that he would recall when drifting off to sleep or when, on a cold winter night, remembering that new seasons will soon approach, when we can all enjoy better times or even holiday once again!

Looking at past holiday photographs helps on gloomy days, to lift our spirits and bring to mind our family and friends, places visited and journeys made; maybe even the comments that have been said to us on special occasions that have given to us great encouragement. What lovely thoughts and images to have stored in our minds to draw upon when things are hard. It helps us to focus on the good rather than the current situations, it re-assures us that in time, the situation will change and our hearts are filled, and fuelled, with hope, joy and love. Remembering occasions and words are so important to us, helping us to put things into perspective and realise the important things in life, like close friends and family. The love that we have for them is stronger than any situation or trouble: that love fuels us for the coming days.

The letter to the Ephesian church (chapter 2) tells us of the great love that God has for us, and has given to us in order to make us ‘alive’ again, ready for anything because of the grace that He has given to us. In the book of Psalms God remembers us and the covenant that he has made: “For their

sake He remembered His covenant and showed compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love”. (Ps. 106:45).

It doesn't take very long for us to see a situation, or something familiar, that spurs a thought onto something, or someone that we love. God **continually** thinks of us, the intercessions of Jesus are **always** for those whom the Father loves, as we remember Jesus, He remembers us before the throne of God, because He loves us. It well behoves us to practice our 'remembering' of verses for our own building-up of faith, to sustain us in more difficult times, and to share readily with others for their encouragement. Often in the Bible we are encouraged to really set about 'remembering' what God has *already* done of His people, for **us**.

“Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things**”. (Philippians 4:8) *and think about them often.*

May God bless you and keep you, and those whom you love, this month... this year... Hallelujah!

Every blessing

Peter

“Let the Little Children come to Me”

As a belated birthday present my sister booked us tickets to see a ballet at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford which was based on the stories of Beatrix Potter. We went to a Matinee performance and it was with some trepidation I went thinking it would be full of noisy children, but I was wrong it was such a beautiful production and the children, and ourselves, were mesmerised by the wonderful costumes of the Beatrix Potter's characters, my favourites being Jeremy Fisher and Jemima Puddle-Duck! One little girl entertained us during the interval by practising her ballet steps up and down the aisle, I was tempted to join her!!



One of my ambitions as a child was to be a ballet dancer and I used to stand on my toes and dance around but alas never fulfilled my dream! Isn't it great today that there is so much for children to do even in our own home town! It can be difficult in these times of austerity but we need to encourage them in to the things that are affordable.

It is a lovely sight to see children enjoying themselves and we know that Jesus Himself encouraged children and loved to bless them. We read in Mark 10 v 13-16 that people were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was

indignant. He said to them “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” He then took the children in his arms and blessed them. Jesus, is here, challenging first century ideas of social status where children had no status and would be unwelcome in many contexts. Just as we sit and enjoy watching shows and many forms of entertainment, we most importantly as Christians need to come to Jesus, to sit at his feet and be mesmerised by his teachings. We come to learn, to grow up in the Christian faith. Hebrews 5 v 11-14 tells us that we need to mature in our faith, starting off as children with milk and then maturing on to solid food, digesting the Word of God.

It's never too late to turn to Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. We may have many regrets and lost opportunities and perhaps lost childhoods through difficult circumstances or not having been able to fulfil our dreams. We sing “Jesus take me as I am, I can come no other way”. We come as little children, eager to learn. The joy of knowing Jesus is more than enough for me and one thing I know that although I will never be a ballet dancer in this world but when I get to heaven who knows!!!!



Brenda Sheppard

Local events and some in other places

The Chelmsford and District Welsh Society

The Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir

with Elin Manahan Thomas Soprano

Soloist at the opening of the Paralympics in 2012

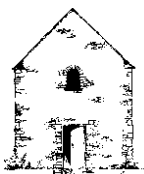
Soloist at the Royal wedding in 2018

She will be singing at

Chelmsford Cathedral

on Saturday June 11th 2022

Tickets at £17.50 available from Arthur Williams,
3 Englefields, Tillingham. Tel. 01621 778711



FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Bradwell Pilgrimage 2 July 2022

Details will be in church

Southminster Flower Show

Saturday 16th July 2022

King George V Memorial Field

**Wheels & Paws at Elmwood Equestrian,
Burnham-on-Crouch, 10th July** will combine
a Historic Vehicle Gathering and a fun dog show
Once again, Steeple Church is partnering with the
churches at Althorne and Creeksea. We are grateful to
Pat Charlton for organising the dog show, the Eccentrics
for managing the vehicle gathering and Elmwood for
allowing us use of the excellent site.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held in church on 24th April after the morning service. Paul Lucas, after 14 years, has retired from being churchwarden and thanks were given for his longstanding service. Pete Adams continues as Churchwarden and was re-appointed. Kath Dunstan has retired from her role as Deanery Synod representative and has been replaced by Fiona Begley. Christine Morgan and Fiona Begley now represent the two parishes of our benefice. The details of some who have agreed to take on roles in serving our parish are on page 23. We do still need more people to assist us as the church is now fully open and is growing, please speak to Peter, Jacqui or Pete if you feel led to volunteer.

Elections of PCC members also took place at the APCM and Leon Flack was welcomed onto the PCC. A full list of elected members can be seen on the inside of the main church door.

Please watch out for announcements of meetings being set up to plan and organise various activities over the coming months.

The PCC hold their meetings every other month and if anyone registered on the Electoral Roll would like to view approved minutes, then please contact PCC Secretary – Sylvia Adams.

PCC Meeting

At our PCC meeting held on 16th May it was agreed to have a Churchyard Working Day on Saturday 28th May as the church prepares for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

If you enjoyed participating in that Churchyard Working Day or if you couldn't make it on that occasion but would like to help out in the future please speak to Fiona Begley, Pete Adams, or Rev'd Jacqui King to volunteer your services.

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.

August 2022	7	14	21	28
September 2022	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.

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.

JUNE WORSHIP

Sunday 5th June

Day of Pentecost

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations continue.

Details will be on notice boards. Do participate.

In addition to the Flag colours (red, white & blue) try to wear something "fire colour related" for the services!

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Acts 2 : 1 - 21

John 14 : 8 - 27

Sidesman

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui

Celebrant

Celebrant

Gordon Baker

10.45 Family Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui

Linda Payne

Kath Dunstan

Sylvia Adams

Gwyneth Iffland

t.b.a.

Sunday 12th June

Trinity Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Romans 5 : 1 - 5

John 16 : 12 - 15

Sidesman

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Paul Lucas

Celebrant

Paul Lucas

10.45 Family Celebration

Leaders

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui /Karen Flack/Jenny Pratt

Christine Morgan

Leon Flack

Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 19th June

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher
Galatians 3 : 23 - end
Luke 8 : 26 - 39
Sidesman

1st Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard
Celebrant/ t.b.a.
Celebrant
Pete Adams

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/ preacher
Readings as at 8am
Intercessions
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard
Rupert Killick
Fiona Begley
Christine Lucas
Paul Lucas
Eira Hagger & Yvonne Thurbon

Sunday 26th June

08.00 Holy Communion

President/Preacher
Galatians 5 : 1, 13 - 25
Luke 9 : 51 - end
Sidesman

2nd Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter & Norman/Jenny Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Leon Flack

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as above
Intercessions
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter & Norman & Jenny Pratt
Pauline Siggers
Brenda Sheppard
Christine Morgan
Lynda Hedges
Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

*If you would be willing to take on any roles in future
rotas please tell Paul Lucas in good time.*

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 the church website (p24)

The Steeple Church belfry timber renovation project has moved another step forward. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) members didn't raise any queries when they reviewed our faculty application package on 19th April. For the month of May, there's been a public consultation advertised in the notice board outside the church inviting anyone wishing to object to the planned repairs to write to the Diocesan Registrar at Chelmsford before 2nd June.

Assuming no such objections, we'll get the formal go ahead around the end of June but it will be conditional on making sure that the bats that almost certainly roost in and around the building will not be adversely affected by the repairs. A representative from the Bat Conservation Trust is making an initial assessment of the whole building during May but only from ground level. The definitive evaluation will occur once the scaffolding has been erected. Our chosen contractor, Bakers of Danbury, is aware that our Faculty Application is on schedule and expects to get our work completed during the third quarter of this year, hopefully before the weather deteriorates. That means we have just four months to complete our funding plan by securing grants from organizations committed to preserving listed rural churches and from money we hope to raise through our summer fund raising activities.

Wheels & Paws 10th July at Elmwood Equestrian, Burnham

Basic details are on page 8. We hope to have a wide selection of stalls, community and commercial. You may contact Pat Charlton on 07972 183 232 by text message, not voice call, about your dog entry. Entry forms can be completed on the day; no prior booking is necessary.



The vehicle displays, organised by The Eccentrics, will include cars, motor cycles, tractors, commercials and probably military. Entry forms can be requested by text message to John Ward on 07702 721 400. Exhibitors must sign a declaration that their vehicle has valid insurance so it reduces delay at the entrance if completed entry forms are submitted in advance.

The organiser for stalls is Peter Ingram who can be contacted by text message to 07854 217 941. It's essential for stall holders to book in advance so that we can allocate appropriate space on the field layout.

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 will soon be available from Peter Marshall in response to a text message to 07711 472 132.

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.

RECENT WEDDINGS

It has been great to celebrate two recent weddings in church. We pray that both couples will be truly blessed throughout their future together.

Mark and Georgia Carrigher

Nigel and Sonya Winger

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!

The main changes for Memorial Hall gatherings are because after a very long and amazing service to us all Kath Savage has retired from her position. We are grateful for all that she and husband Gerry have done over recent years, so we wish them a really enjoyable future. We'll still see them around of course, but the official responsibilities for many of the Memorial Hall activities have passed to Janice Stratton-Lee (Jan, above).

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on June 28th

Sheila Gunson – What to do with all this Stuff?

Competition: A pin cushion

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

Lest We Forget

I watch the news day after day,
the topics seeming much the same.
Beer- gate, Party- gate, who did what,
But don't let's forget Ukraine?

We, too, in our precious land
have people struggling and oft in pain.
With recession looming, Inflation, soaring bills.
So why discuss Ukraine?

We thank God for our Sovereign Queen
and we celebrate her lengthy reign.
We look to be ruled with integrity and truth
As do those who reside in Ukraine.

War is cruel, children cry, homes are lost
and it happens time and time again.
People violated, dictators wanting power,
How our hearts do ache for Ukraine.

Let's not forget that on each side of war
the bloodshed leaves an awful stain.
Someone's daughter, someone's son,
And that's not just Ukraine.



Life can be a struggle, not just with war,
new battles fought each day that drain,
battles to live a better life
and not be under constant strain.

So, we watch the news day after day,
seeing who did what and for what gain?
And with tears we pray for an end to war
And lasting freedom for Ukraine.

Brenda Sheppard

Here is the latest Bible Study Group Plan

ARTS IN OUR CHURCHES

Explore the different types of art there is in our churches.

Includes: paintings, mosaics, tapestry, stained glass,
icons and more.

Have a go yourself. You don't have to be a Rembrandt
or Pollock.

Starts Monday 30th May at 10 am in the chapel

For more information phone Jenny Pratt



Christian Aid Week May 15th - 21st.

We couldn't have a house-to-house collection again this year, but there were envelopes available for everyone to donate funds appropriately in Southminster and Steeple.

Envelopes were in both churches, in the Memorial Hall, in the school and in Chapman's Store, Southminster Butchers and Southminster Primary School. We are grateful to all these managers for their willing assistance.

On **Thursday 19th May** there was a special event after Chatterbox in the Memorial Hall.

There was a **"SOUP AND A ROLL"** at 12.30 pm and lots of lovely cake, tea and coffee.

There was some support from people outside "Chatterbox" as well as the 'regulars' but we had hoped for more people there. The provision of food from Kath & Gerry Savage was really appreciated - as was the practical help from Linda Payne, Brenda Sheppard and others.

The amount raised - all for Christian Aid - was £168.70.

The S.O.C.S. Concert proved to be an extra opportunity for people to contribute to Christian Aid, since the collection bucket was appropriately visible near the entrance table.

Also thinking of contributions made this week, we can't ignore the sponsored "Prayer Walk round the Dengie Hundred" which Paul Lucas has managed to complete. His proceeds have been added to our church collection. Thank you Paul!

The final overall total this year was £566.16

Kath Dunstan

Ignite 2022

Join us for the 5th Annual Ignite Festival.

Ignite returns this year to an in-person
FREE event in June over 2 days and 2 locations
featuring entertainment and uplifting messages.

St James Church, Dengie invites you to join them
to spread **HOPE & LIGHT** throughout our wider
communities.

Saturday 11th June 10 am - 12.30 pm

visit St James, Dengie: come and enjoy the grounds
and the building; listen to the organ being played; view
historical photographs of the Dengie Art Exhibition,
and themed flower displays, or win a prize by taking
part in a Quest!

*Also taking place on Saturday will be an inaugural bike
ride round the Dengie: **Bike 4 Ignite***

and 1.30 - 4.30 pm at Dengie Village Hall

Come, sit back and be entertained by a range of local
performers, free refreshments, hear messages of hope
and encouragement and enjoy activities for children.

On **Sunday 12th June** from **3pm - 4pm** join us for
a Special “**Songs of Praise for Ignite**” St James
Church, with uplifting, engaging songs and messages.

For further information dengie.ignite@gmail.com

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



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.



Everyone is
welcome to join.
Details on board.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS will meet in the church

Mondays at 10 am

"ARTS IN OUR CHURCHES"

More details on page 19 and on notice boards.