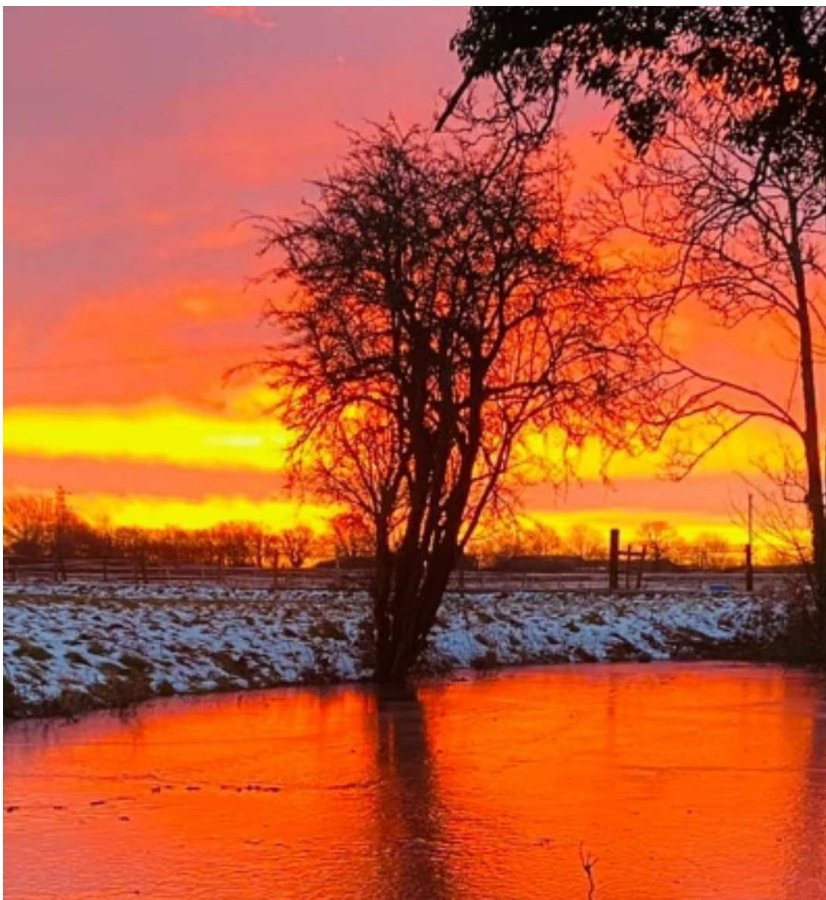


**PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER
MAGAZINE OF THE
CHURCH OF ST LEONARD**

StL



Every morning sunrise gives hope in these times.

Photograph is a view from Southminster Hall.

MARCH 2021

**“See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious”.**

Zechariah 9:9

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the
April magazine by
Sunday March 14th
please, to Kath Dunstan.*

New contributors will be welcome.

*If you pay an **annual fee** for distributed
copies that was due in January.*

*If you haven't yet paid your **£6** your
distributor will be pleased to receive it.*

Additional donations are very welcome.

The Church cleaning group
“Henry Club” are not
meeting regularly at
present, although the
church building is being
kept in order of course.

Similarly, the wonderful
flower arrangers are not
being as active as usual.

BUT we all keep praying
for our families, friends
and neighbours.

Reflection

“See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious”.
Zechariah 9:9

March is a very busy time in the church calendar; we progress through Lent to Passiontide starting on 21st March and then we slow the pace as we look at the last journey of our Lord travelling in to Jerusalem. Palm Sunday follows and we focus on Holy Week: the confrontations, the final teachings and the impending trial.

The gospel of John is a very good study as the gospel writer somehow goes in to slow motion as he looks at Holy week. The first twelve chapters put the background picture together of the Lordship of Christ, the miracles that only have been the Son of God could have achieved; the teaching declaring His authority in the Kingdom. The last eight chapters are all about the final week of the Messiah. John sums up his gospel in chapter twenty verse thirty: “Jesus did many other miracles in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have eternal life in His name.” Wonderful words. Yet one word stands out in this gospel – ‘Believe.’ It is mentioned ninety times, the Greek word is Pistis which means Credence, confidence and continuance and faith. It is another of those powerful present- continuous verbs; an action that we take responsibility in carrying out, and keep on carrying out, or, actioning.

As I write this piece for the magazine it is freezing cold outside at minus 1 degree³ with a ‘feels like of

possibly minus 9!). There is snow on the ground and it is difficult to see the soil beneath - it is covered. Yet, we know that the snow will pass, the ground will warm up and the daffodils and crocuses will start to appear. The clocks will go forward by one hour (on Palm Sunday) and we will again be gladdened by the approaching warmer days. It is the thoughts of better days that keep us moving forward in hope and in promise. For as sure as the sun rises each day and shines, we know that our Lord Jesus reigns and God the Father is in control. The writer to the Hebrews explains faith very well when he says "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Our faith (belief – Pistis) is confidence and continuance of what God has given.

The busy-ness of March is focussed down on to a few days, the last week of the life of Jesus. We may think about each day and what Jesus was doing on those days. We may think of the significance of Palm branches and cloaks; we may think of the last supper and the words that Jesus speaks to His disciples. We may even ponder the three hours of darkness that covered the earth, when the sun failed to shine. Yet, in the back of our minds, in the depths of our hearts that mustard-seed of faith helps us to look towards Sunday, remembering the promises of Jesus and the victory that is now in His pierced hands, our faith is restored, and our hearts rejoice that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Fiona Begley has been very busy....

She writes: Back to the marmalade making and the bonus ‘crop’: Seville Orange jelly. Amazing to get so much from just 4lbs of fruits: it’ll be in the region of twenty-eight 7oz jars... Wow! That’s then ‘batch 1’ of 3 lots.... rock on!!

I will try and sell some for funds to both Steeple and St Leonard’s churches.

Available to buy will be Plum Jam with Vanilla, luscious Spiced Damson chutney – kindly picked by our very good friend Tina Fisher from her garden tree, Seville Orange Marmalade (probably picked by a few very nice Señors from groves just outside several towns in Spain –the groves are so very beautiful at blossom-time). There will be both a tasty chunky cut and a really delicious silky-smooth ‘no bits’ version, (all the orange, none of the ‘bits’) and a few jars of wonderfully clear Seville Orange Jelly. The keeping of the chutney until an absolute minimum of this April will enhance the flavour: any longer makes it even better!! All will keep for at least 3 or 4 years unopened - of course it will: it’s so well preserved by the sugar and the vinegar, with sterilised jars and lids, and yes, we have tested that for our own comfort in saying it here. In fact – the chutney we recently used up was at least 7 years old, and the marmalade was about 4 years old: both absolutely perfect. We find they don’t need to be refrigerated after opening – keeping it in a cupboard is sufficient and it doesn’t actually last that long in this house anyway!! There may well be other flavours of chutney coming along throughout the year...

Prices are to be worked out but realistic in order to raise funds for our churches: I enjoy having the fun of making and hope everyone will really enjoy the ‘fruits’ of the labour. I suggest I let everyone know by an email when I’ve finished producing and then if I get a phone call I can deliver, or arrange for a pick up from The Vicarage.

Fiona

Taste and See

I am often intrigued by the fact that we all have differing tastes; in food, clothing, furnishings, music, etc. and have to remind myself when I see someone else's choice, which doesn't suit me, that "it's all a matter of taste". So, taste is a personal liking for something appropriate to ourselves and our lives. Taste is the sensation of flavour or something pleasing to the eye.

The Roman poet Lucretius quoted "One man's meat (meaning food in general) is another man's poison" Things liked or enjoyed by one person may be distasteful to another.

Some people don't like meat or some vegetables. As children we were made to eat what was put in front of us and if not eaten at dinner time, which was always midday, it was served up again at teatime until we ate it which involved a lot of gagging at times!!! One of the things I couldn't tolerate and was made to eat was custard. It took me many years as an adult to get round to eating it again but only if it had no skin on it or lumps in it!! This recollection reminded me of Romans 14 in the Bible which speaks of accepting differing tastes in food and drink and the need to be careful not to cause anyone to stumble by eating or drinking in their presence something distasteful to them which may cause distress, or judging them if they differ in taste to ourselves.



The word "Taste" occurs many times in the Bible:

Ezekiel 3:3 – Son of man eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it. So, I ate it and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. God had asked Ezekiel to take the words of lament, warning and woe to the disobedient and

rebellious Israelites in exile and although the words were sweet to eat Ezekiel knew it was a hard task he was being asked to do.

Revelation 10:10 also speaks of John being given a scroll to eat from an angel “Eat the scroll it will taste as sweet as honey in your mouth but will turn your stomach sour”. The sourness would come because he was told to prophesy again to many peoples, nations, languages and kings the message of repentance and turning back to God’s ways. This would be a very difficult, stomach churning message for John to proclaim to so often a hostile and hard-hearted people.

Colossians 2: 21 warns us of tasting things of this world that are contrary to God’s teachings and principles. Having a taster of something not good for us could lead to our downfall. God’s word is sweet, full of wisdom. We need to chew (spend time mulling it over) swallow it, digest it, let it flow through us. As we give out God’s word, we need to replace it, continuously feeding on it, learning from it.



One of the symptoms of COVID-19 is loss of taste or smell. Through this the enemy will try to rob us of these precious senses but one thing he cannot rob us of is the Word of God. Psalm 119:103 tells us “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth, I gain understanding from your precepts (principals or rules); therefore, I hate every wrong path”.

Psalm 34:8 tells us to “Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him”. So, in conclusion, let us continue to “Taste and See” and hunger for God’s goodness and presence in our lives for He is the ultimate in taste sensations.

Testimony of Mrs Jenifer Sims, from Hawkwell, Essex Written for us on 14th February 2021

(Jenifer is Fiona's much-adored cousin; Fiona was her bridesmaid when she was 3 ½ years old, and when she herself got married to Peter, Fiona was very blessed to wear Jenifer's wedding dress. Jenifer was a very strong Christian influence throughout Fiona's life, and still is today: they share a very close bond).

I was 16 ½ years old when I asked Jesus into my life. I had always gone to Church with my parents from about 4 years old. I had gone to Sunday School, Bible class, Youth Fellowship. I even helped Sunday school as I got older.

I knew a lot about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit from others teaching me, and from reading my bible, just like I knew all about the Queen from reading a lot about her.

One day in Youth Fellowship I was asked if I knew Jesus for myself; if I had ever asked Him to be part of my life. That Sunday evening on 18th May 1958, I became a child of God.

Revelation 3:20 says "Behold, I stand at the door and knock", just like the Holman Hunt picture I can see now as I write, called the Light of the World. I opened that door and deep in my heart and soul I knew He was with me. "Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and you will find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you." I did that evening at 16 ½ years and I am nearly 80 years old now.

Never have I regretted that wonderful moment. Through thick and thin God has loved and been with me, Jesus has saved me through His death on the Cross, and the Holy Spirit has blessed me with faith.

This verse was given to me by the person who came to run our Youth Fellowship: Deuteronomy chapter 31 v 8: “The Lord Himself will lead you and be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you, so do not lose courage or be afraid.”

Please, take that step of faith if you haven't already, and share it to encourage others. When you go through difficult times you can look back in faith to the moment of Opening That Door and know you are not alone, because Jesus and His family are with you. Jesus is your very Best Friend and Saviour. God is your most loving Father, and the Holy Spirit is the inmost wonderful Guide.

With love, and God bless you all, Jenifer Sims x

Do you want to fast this Lent? Some words from Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



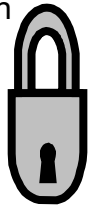
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER : Friday 5th March 2021

Welcome from the Christian ladies of Vanuatu who have prepared the World Day of Prayer Service for this year. The theme is “Build on a strong foundation”.

Because of Covid 19 we will not be able to run this event in the usual way of meeting together. So we will have to either Zoom it or Live Stream it. If you cannot do either of these you could still have a booklet and follow the service from that on the day. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us and I can get the relevant information to you.

Jenny Pratt

We are still learning to cope with all the regulations because of the coronavirus pandemic - involving limited gatherings in our church buildings - even no gatherings at all because of the Tier 4 regulations. Just remember: God is with us!



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 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.

June	2021	6	13	20	27
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July	2021	4	11	18	25
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PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFIL YOUR DUTY YOU SHOULD CHANGE WITH SOMEONE AND INFORM THE WARDENS OF THE ARRANGEMENT.



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	7 March	Central - North-West
w/b	14 March	Central - East
w/b	21 March	Central - South
w/b	28 March	South - West

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.

MARCH WORSHIP

Details of the March services, **which will happen on-line and sadly still not in our Southminster and Steeple church buildings**, are listed here - on pages 12 - 13 so please use them so that we can all be involved in worship together, in church or at home, at this continuing difficult time. The 'normal' services together with the readings of the day and the special prayer (the collect) are shown. Any changes will be on the outside church notice-board.

During this season of Lent we are probably more aware than usual of what we have had to 'give up' - but let's take on something new as we are guided by God's Holy Spirit.

Sunday 7th March

3rd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion: 8am BCP & 10.45am CW

Exodus 20 : 1 - 17

Steeple 9.15 Morning Worship

John 2 : 13 - 22

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 14th March

Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion 8am BCP & 10.45 Morning Worship

I Samuel 1 : 20 - 28

Steeple 9.15 Holy Communion

John 19 : 25 - 27

God, of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful; watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 21st March

5th Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion: 8am BCP & 10.45 am CW

Jeremiah 31 : 31 - 34

Steeple 9.15 Morning Worship

John 12 : 20 - 33

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Steeple's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
should happen today.

Sunday 28th March

Palm Sunday

BRITISH SUMMERTIME BEGINS TODAY

Holy Communion 8am BCP & 10.45 Morning Worship

Isaiah 50 : 4 - 9a,

Steeple 9.15 Holy Communion

Mark 15 : 1 - 39

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah; grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.

DON'T FORGET:

FRIDAY 5th MARCH is WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

See details on page 10

ALSO There are lots of details of Lent Study courses on the Diocesan Website so if you haven't already got a 'Lent Book' how about joining in with others

APPRECIATING WHAT WE HAVE

Chris Martin

Has anybody ever recommended that you go to a certain restaurant, or more likely a pub, where you are sure to get a good meal because they serve enormous portions? I wonder how many agree with me that you reach a certain age when you realise that, actually, a plate loaded with chips plus a small piece of inferior meat and a token salad garnish, although a lot on the plate, doesn't constitute a wonderful meal. You know that a really good piece of meat or fish with reasonable portions of some kind of good quality accompaniment is far preferable. Or a good vegetarian meal with a modest amount of high quality food is better than a huge plate full of salad with a token olive.

It's similar with Life. It's the content of our lives that makes whether it was a good life or a bad life. Living to 100+ is wonderful but a shorter life, well lived and enjoyed, is to be celebrated with equal enthusiasm. I don't want to discuss a short healthy life versus a longer life in ill-health because the will to live is a very personal matter to each individual and some people have an enormous capacity to carry on living and getting something positive out of life even when they are suffering physically, while others seem to give up and pass on because they have simply lost the will to live. And sometimes despite an enormous will to live, people die. There seems to be no rhyme or reason. Quality of life is not easily measured; it's up to each of us to make the best of what we have even though sometimes that is VERY hard. Christians maybe call on strength from the Almighty when things go badly, while others of us call on our personal resources, and we all fail at times to find that required strength, wherever it comes from. Either way, we all need each other when life is difficult. In the supporting of each other comes the quality of living.

I wrote last month about a school in Nepal and mentioned that I was fortunate enough to visit Kathmandu back in 1990. What I remember most among so many memorable experiences there was the cheerfulness of the people. Kathmandu is full of colour and the people dress in bright colours, so⁴even before you look at anybody's face your spirit is lifted. And it seems that everybody is smiling! A

city full of smiling, cheerful people! I came back and within a day or two was back in The City of London, admittedly with its own charm, but streets full of people hurrying and bustling and....not smiling, despite living in the UK and having a job and a much better standard of living than these laughing Nepalis. With Nepal being one of the very poorest countries in the world, and way behind “the West” in so many ways, it was astounding how content the people appeared to be. Even the begging children were laughing, unaware that having been brought up to beg money from strangers was not the way of life everywhere in the world. Even though the people mostly don’t have much, it appears that they have enough for their needs and are very philosophical about adversity. And they’re generous to a fault. I’m also aware that there are many other countries in the world where these qualities in the people exist despite desperate poverty.

The temples were full of people who seemed to be in and out of them as part of their daily life though I don’t pretend to know what goes on in them apart from prayers. With this in mind, I do think St. Leonard’s is to be congratulated as one of the most welcoming of churches, and all the activities that go on there now is a huge step forward from the days in the past when it would have been open only on Sundays for services and for people celebrating being hatched, matched and despatched.

I remember being a bit disappointed to see the disappearance of the beautiful pews, but soon saw that by being able to move chairs and tables around in the church, there was so much ability to promote the Christian philosophy in many different ways. In the social events as well as the services, you can feel fellowship with other people sitting in that beautiful ancient building. When I go into the church for a Quiz Night or a concert, I often look around and think to myself that in this place, people have come to congregate and to worship for a thousand years. Being part of something there, even a social event, has a special “quality” that is not always felt out and about in life in general, with all the human and natural problems this world has going on around us.

As an Australian friend of mine commented when visiting St. Leonard’s, “Coming to a church brings out the best in people”.

Remembering Jacky my dearest friend.

by Lynda Hedges

I Remember:

Jacky loved Florida Disneyworld. Her favourite place to holiday, She enjoyed the rides, waterparks everything was great fun for her, made all the more special by having her husband Mike, children, and grand children with them. Sons Sean, Steven and his wife Jane and their children Ryan, Kieran, Euan and Lily all can smile at so many happy family memories.

Whilst having lunch together, Jacky shared photographs of the Disney holiday hotel room or should I say suite!

It was vast, such a lovely holiday to have experienced. Our lunch wasn't that bad either...

Jacky and I went to lunch in various places around the Dengie, pubs, restaurants, and cafés. It was time of real fellowship.

I Remember:

Jacky and I attended a Lent course about 40 years ago, conducted by Wesley Carr, later to become Dean of Westminster, who sadly died in 2017.

Wesley explained that Jesus was probably crucified by the wrists and not the palms. He clarified this by explaining that the wrist would hold him to the cross more efficiently than his palms. A shocked church! Haven't heard this before!.

Jacky and I discussed this point of view when the evening course had finished. "If that was the way Jesus was crucified I want to know, I don't want to believe in a Fairy-tale Jesus" said Jacky.

From then on, Jacky read her bible, prayed and searched the scriptures with others, at fellowship/prayer meetings.

Seeking the truth of Jesus wonderful riches, and his ultimate suffering and sacrifice, on that cross, on Good Friday.

Saturday, to release those who had gone before and did not know Him.

On Sunday the Glorious resurrection

Jacky had such good news to share with everyone.

I Remember:

Back in the day a group of us, about 8 people, were commissioned by the church to speak about our faith. We went to village halls, meeting rooms, old barns, church halls.

Jacky was always prepared.

Excited to chat over a cuppa with people to share the good news, with people eager to listen..

I Remember:

When Jacky, Mike, myself and John my husband, his sister Gill and husband Keith, went to St Andrews church hall Althorne, to make up a group, to be part of a quiz night.

"Just bring some crisps and drink for the evening" well that's how it started! After attending a few quiz evenings this escalated to a full cheese board, French bread, crisps, olives and two bottles of wine, and the quiz of course!

We never listened to Mike as he had a cheeky smile, and we were not sure whether he was joking about his answers. We never did win, as Mike was normally right. The food and drink were worth going for!

We also shared dinner parties with Jacky Mike, Pauline and Tony Siggers, Terry and Barbara Duffy. Now a thing of the past, as we all eat out more and do not cook as much.

Great discussions around the table over food and wine with good friends.

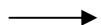
I Remember:

Jacky's faith showed in everything she said and did, she had opinions, sometimes strong ones.

As with the Lent course and Wesley Carr, Jacky listened before she formed an answer after seeking God.

If Jacky was ever impulsive, and said something that might be wrong, she would apologise.

Jacky attended many fellowship groups around our village over the years, through these meeting she developed a sense that God was calling her to play a bigger role in our Church life.



She travelled to Chelmsford and Maldon to take part in the Christian Studies Course training and became an Evangelism Enabler.

Jacky was also a Server during Holy communion.

Jacky was so committed.

As part of the Ministry team her prayers were so open, listening to those who needed to talk and not interrupt, a gift Jacky had.

I Remember:

When Jacky and I first met, it was through our Church at St Leonard's Southminster. We were new to the village with young children.

The vicar was Bob Chesterton. and his wife was Shirley.

This was around 1973, the Church started a bible study prayer group, playgroup, coffee mornings, book clubs with choir practice in the evenings.

We loved it, with the children tucked up in bed at home and being looked after, we enjoyed a precious time of singing.

Learning more and praising Jesus in our worship.

During the day our children were watched over as we took part in Church activities.

Many things were new to us, and we wanted to hear more.

Bible study we found interesting as many of us were not yet Christians.

I Remember:

I remember Jacky serving our present day Church. Peter and Fiona Begley, our vicar and his wife, enabled Jacky to come into her own.

Jacky was so accomplished with everything she did, preparing well for her worshipful dance alongside Viv and Karen.

Jacky was PCC secretary and Church warden in past years, working with fellow warden John Hedges during an interregnum, in the selection process, to appoint a new vicar for us.

Jacky also sought deep fellowship and prayer with Brenda Sheppard her prayer partner, She worshipped the Lord with such desire and passion through our wonderful music team.

As an Evangelism Enabler she encouraged people to come forward and share their faith with the congregation.

She also arranged readers, dancers, and presenters with Steeple Church and URC church for the Women's World Day of Prayer with her normal enthusiasm and attention to detail.

There were many more activities Jacky played a part in, not mentioned here, but equally important.

When Jacky's cancer returned, her love for Jesus grew and grew. It was a privilege to observe, as it was so difficult to watch for those of us, trusting for a miracle.

We prayed at home through our Together Apart WhatsApp and St Leonard's Church Together Apart and Church email. She would want all of this to continue for others to benefit during this time of Covid 19.

In her love for her family Jacky wanted to stay longer.

Jacky knew it was not to be.

My dearest friend Jacky died 18th January, age 71 years.

One day we will meet again..

Jacky has left her body and is drinking wine.

Rest in heavenly peace.

Jacky.

The path of righteousness is like the morning sun,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day
Proverbs:4:18

Let us pray to our loving Father in these very difficult times

For family members - near and far - and neighbours

For people suffering from illness and/or bereavement

For people making decisions about treatment

For hospital staff, carers, all front-line workers

For people suffering financially because of unemployment....

And let us remember "Father, your will be done."

We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.



Lent, Bishop Peter and Kenyan Women

Ken Dunstan

Every year the Bishop of Chelmsford makes a Lent Appeal. Lent is for renewing our vision of God and particularly our understanding of Jesus and changing our lives appropriately. Our Ash Wednesday Gospel reading showed us the compassion of Jesus in steering a woman caught in adultery into a new life. The reading from Isaiah reminded us that penitence isn't just a ritual thing – a sackcloth and ashes parade, but needs to be expressed in action. The actions include working for justice and for freedom for oppressed people, and ensuring that hungry people are fed, homeless people sheltered and naked people clothed. Bishop Peter's Appeal speaks into that.

We are partners in mission with the two Kenyan dioceses of Meru and Marsabit. Marsabit is a hard place to be. The diocese is the size of England with half the population of Essex. It is semi-desert and in the past we have helped provide drinking water through wells and a bowser.

This year we are helping a charity called Five Talents to set up work in Marsabit following success in Meru. Five Talents works with women in three important areas: skills, savings and support. Fewer than a third of the women can read and most of the people live below the minimum wage recommended by the Kenyan authorities. Nearly all the income (from men) is spent on basics. Many of the women have no support in anything that might improve their situation. Five Talents offers literacy classes and coaching in

money management so the women are able to save a little. Those savings can help qualify for a loan to start a business or to improve housing. And because the learning is delivered in groups, each woman has support in learning and in her work. The women gain in status and can help make wise decisions in the community. There is more on this on the Diocesan website. You can read about it at <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/bishops-appeal/> Can you help, this Lent, set these prisoners of their surroundings free, help them feed and clothe their families and play a greater part in their communities? There's a "donate" button on the website.



*Here is a letter being shared with us
by Rupert Killick about this year's
fund-raising efforts for Christian Aid.
The links - and more - are on their
website*

Dear Rupert,

caweek.org

As a key volunteer, this email journey will help you explore and plan for an engaging and vibrant Christian Aid Week, whatever is happening in the world this May. We are delighted to be able to share with you our refreshed Christian Aid Week film featuring Florence, showing just how much the money you raise can change peoples lives.

In this fortnightly email, we will share with you resources and ways you can get involved this May. We will also support you with 'digitally focused' emails which you can use or share with others to help you refine your digital skills and adapt your fundraising with comprehensive guides and information.

This year our offering can be summarised into four main areas:

Life changing envelopes – we are planning for house to house collections (depending on restrictions). Also, the digital e-envelope is back and ready to share with your family and friends. Lastly we are recommending delivery only collections as an excellent way to gather contact free donations. [Find out more here.](#)

Virtual events – Quiztarian Aid will be back for its second year, so sign up and share our fundraising event on 8 May. You can also find out about the Song of the Prophets concert featuring the Chineke! Orchestra and access useful guides to help you plan your own quiz night with brand new quiz questions. [Find out more here.](#)

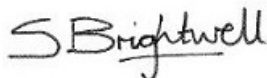
Take the challenge - Join our 300,000 steps challenge in May or complete your own unique challenge with our helpful resources. [Get started here.](#)

Worship with us – Our suite of worship resources will help you plan a service that suits you. With refreshed resources such as our order of service and sermon notes, as well as lots of new resources like our reflective rivers film and audio visual Christian Aid Week prayer coming soon. [Find out more here.](#)

Naturally we don't know what the coronavirus situation will be like in May this year, but we have advice to help you keep safe whatever you plan to do in the link below. We will keep this regularly updated as we progress towards May, including decisions on house to house collections, so please check back for the latest advice.

As ever, we are so grateful for your continued support and determination.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Brightwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

began on 20th March 2020, just a few days before we went into lockdown. The group was created as a way to keep in touch, encourage and support each other during this difficult time. 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.

It has been a real privilege and blessing to run this group, and the bonus has been that I have got to know some wonderful people through the group too.

During Lent we will continue special 'activities' which will help us to remember what Jesus went through and how we can improve our own lives, even when we can't meet one another face to face. Let's not give up!



WHO ARE WE?

Mission Statement

“To be a people offering praise and worship to God and serving him by being the Good News by our words and actions”

Web Site www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Contact: vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

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

NORMAL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS STILL A BIT DIFFERENT.

See pages 10-13 for some details.

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

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**

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



Home Groups are obviously not gathering at the moment.