

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

**StL**



and also for Steeple Parish

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



**MARCH 2022**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29 verse 11

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***NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:***

*Articles for the April magazine  
should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
**Sunday 20th March**  
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

February marked the seventh anniversary of our arrival in Southminster to live; the tenth of February the day when I was licensed by Bishop Peter Hill to the Benefice of Southminster and Steeple. Bishop Peter seven years ago: I still remember his warm words on the day of my installation. He had three themes to hold on to; three areas to concentrate my ministry upon, they being to teach, serve and love. Bishop Peter has retired now, and we wish him well.

Fiona and I are still in pretty regular communication with our first vicar and his wife; Andrew and Catharine, both of them in their eighties now, but still involved in local church and enjoying long caravan holidays in Scotland. They were both 'missionary children' and spent much of their time in Africa, based in a small village just outside of Nairobi serving some small village churches. Andrew was ordained, as was his father before him, and went on to become Provost of the Cathedral in Nairobi (nowadays called Dean of the Cathedral). He would tell us of the services that they had at the Cathedral where people would walk for miles to be there, often leaving home the day before to be in church for the Sunday worship. The Sunday worship may continue for hours as people stayed just to sing and be in the presence of God, and always there was wonderful worship with dancing, prayer and sudden spontaneous singing. What an enormous [cultural] change it was for Andrew and Catharine to come to a church in England, to Westcliff-on -Sea, a small suburban

church of around 80 people. It was this dear couple that encouraged Fiona and me into ministry, serving in the local church where we looked after the Pathfinders, a group of 11 – 14 year olds, and a role that we have been blessed to have done. Under the guidance of Andrew and Catharine the church grew slowly and steadily, their faithful love so served us in the community. They taught us to be that Christian presence in the community, share our faith and teach others to know more of the wonderful love of Jesus. Andrew and Catharine encouraged others into different kinds of ministry and they demonstrated service and love, teaching us to do the same. About 3 years after they had left St Michael's for Nottinghamshire, we too left that church for me to become curate in Benfleet; yet we still have contacts there who keep in touch.

I am sure that some from Southminster and Steeple are still in touch with friends from previous churches: we are the family of God, serving Him who loves us unconditionally. It is only in periods of reflection that we see what God has done in His perfect time – as we give our time to Him. He uses it for His purpose. For example, we gave many years to Pathfinders, often finding it to be exhausting – sometimes uninspiring in our eyes, yet God used our words and actions, our sowing seeds, to pour on His water of life. Sometimes too it was utterly amazing! Some of our Pathfinders are now church leaders themselves, youth workers or worship leaders, faithfully bringing the gospel to new ears. We never know what God is going to do, or how he is going to shape our lives – we just need to trust that He will do it in His way and in His time. You could take a look at Jeremiah 29 verse 11...

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

The charge to me seven years ago, to teach, serve and love, was not just made to me for *my* ministry as vicar in the benefice, but a call to us *all* to work together in this way to win hearts and lives for God, in this benefice and beyond. As we say at the end of our Communion services “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Who knows where God will take us in the future? I *do* know that God is faithful and **He** will continue to teach, to ‘serve’ us through Christ – to give us - of His absolute best for us, and to always love us, never leave us. He is so very faithful towards us. Wonderful Father..... Amen

*Peter*

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This year the **World Day of Prayer service** will be held on **Friday 4th March** in **St. Leonard’s Church at 10am.**

The theme is “**I know the plans I have for you**”.

Each year a different country puts together the service and this year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is good to know that people from all over the world will be praying on that day. It is only a short service and you would be most welcome to attend - even the men!

# The Lord's Prayer

Do you, like me, often find yourself combining the older and the newer versions of the Lord's Prayer? If I'm doing the Intercessions on a particular Sunday, I make sure I have the new version to hand in case I get it muddled!

I have been dwelling on the Lord's Prayer and some of the words used that have been changed. For instance, the more modern version has replaced the word trespass with the word sin. It reads, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us", instead of "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

When I think of the word 'trespass', I automatically think of being unlawfully on someone's property. Trespass implies an unwarranted intrusion. Trespassing, I believe, is a matter of civil law and the police have no power to arrest someone for it although they can assist the landowner to remove the trespasser if they aggravate the situation. The matter can then (if pursued) go through the civil courts (the trespasser being sued by the owner of the property).

Another way we can commit a trespass is by committing an encroachment or intrusion on a person's privacy or time, or by an unlawful act committed on a person.

So, we see, both sin and trespass go beyond one's right by violating a boundary or a law that society or that God has set for us.

We are asked by the Lord to forgive others if anyone has hurt or damaged us: by injustice, dishonesty or deceitfulness or even stolen or spoiled parts of our life in some way.

In the Bible we read in the book of Genesis of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers who hated him as he was his father Jacob's favourite. Joseph was taken as a slave to live in Egypt and after many trials and hardships he eventually found favour with Pharoah and from then onwards was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt. Joseph's father and brothers later went to Egypt because of famine in their land and Joseph made himself known to his brothers and forgave them. God turned around what the brothers meant for harm, to bless Joseph, and Joseph in turn could then graciously bless his whole family. Joseph settled his family in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land and provided them with food. An amazing act of forgiveness on his part.

So, sin or trespass? One and the same. A wrongdoing against another. Violating another's personal space or property. Going against God's definite instructions as did Adam when God told him not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden (Genesis 3) his disobedience influenced the whole course of human history! Adam trespassed into a forbidden place.



We know that we also at times fail to keep God's commandments, doing what we ought not to have done and failing to do what we should have done.

Thank God He does forgive us our sins when we have wandered past the boundaries of right and wrong. May we, learn to do as He does, and forgive others when we feel they have trespassed against us, and in turn restore peace and harmony into our lives.

Forgive others  
as quickly as  
you expect  
God to forgive you.

Brenda Sheppard

## **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.

May 2022	1	8	15	22	29
June 2022	5	12	19	26	

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

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## Henry Cleaning Team

We, as a team, had great fun cleaning up after the Christmas trees had been taken out of the Church on 6<sup>th</sup> January. The trees had looked amazing, as always, when decorated and lit up and it was sad to see them go. Undaunted we went in on the Friday and in no time at all the floors were swept, mopped and chairs replaced. The carpets were swept at first to save Henry getting clogged up, and then hoovered to pick up any straggling pine needles.



What a good team we have but we can always do with more people to help. As a real bonus we now have the pleasure of the organ being played as we work which is a real treat.

We meet twice a month on a Friday from 9.15am until 11am and stay for the length of time which suits us. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact me as there are still pine needles appearing from seemingly nowhere and Henry the Hoover is raring to go!!!!

**Brenda Sheppard**

# MARCH WORSHIP

**Wednesday 2nd March**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**20.00 Holy Communion**

Leader/President/Preacher  
2 Corinthians 5 : 20b - 6:10  
John 8 : 1 - 11

Rev'd Peter/Norman Pratt  
t.b.a.  
t.b.a.

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**Sunday 6th March**

**1st Sunday of Lent**

**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Romans 10 : 8b - 13  
Luke 4 : 1 - 13  
Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Rev'd Peter  
Paul Lucas  
Celebrant  
Paul Lucas

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**10.45 Family Holy Communion**

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

Rev'd Peter  
Christine Morgan  
Kath Dunstan  
Sylvia Adams  
t.b.a.

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**Sunday 13th March**

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Philippians 3 : 17 - 4 : 1  
Luke 13 : 31 - end  
Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Paul Lucas  
Celebrant  
Paul Lucas

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**10.45 Family Celebration**

Leader/ preacher	Jenny Pratt / Karen Flack/ Rev'd Jacqui
Audio-visuals	Christine Morgan
Sidespersons	t.b.a.
Refreshments	Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

## Sunday 20th March

### 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

1 Corinthians 10 : 1 - 13

Luke 13 : 1 - 9

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

## 3rd Sunday of Lent

Rev'd Peter

Rev'd Peter

Celebrant

Pete Adams

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### 10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/ preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson & Refreshments

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Linda Payne

Jenny Pratt

Christine Lucas

t.b.a.

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## Sunday 27th March

### Mothering Sunday *(Summer time begins)*

### 08.00 Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

2 Corinthians 1 : 3 - 7

Luke 2 : 33 - 35

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

## 4th Sunday of Lent

Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui

Celebrant

Celebrant

Pete Adams

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### 10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/President/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson & Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui

Christine Lucas

Rev'd Jacqui

Christine Morgan

t.b.a.

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## HELP PLEASE

We would appreciate more people volunteering to serve in some way in our future services, so if you are willing to 'give it a go' please get in touch with Paul Lucas or Pete Adams.

# 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 [www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)



As usual,	To arrange a
<b>Wedding, Blessing, Baptism or Funeral</b>	
<b>please contact Rev'd Canon Peter Begley</b>	
<b>01621 772 300</b>	
The Vicarage, Burnham Road, Southminster, CM0 7ES	

After two huge funerals in just six weeks the Steeple Church congregation has been happy to return to the fellowship of our regular Sunday services. We are pleased that numbers attending our services have increased significantly this year due to an influx of younger people and their children. It's really uplifting for older worshippers to see and hear small children in church and realise they represent future continuity. We have always enjoyed splendid floral arrangements in Steeple Church – now we have children's art on display as well!

March is shaping up to be an important month for the Belfry Timber renovation project as the PCC will receive and review responses from the three potential contractors invited to quote for the work. At long last we'll

be able to establish a financial target and develop a funding plan. This will enable us to submit a Faculty Request which is the Church's equivalent of a Planning Application. Although we've been building up reserves for this project, we know we'll need to seek support from organisations that give grants for maintaining listed churches.

The PCC hopes to get the belfry timber work done this year which makes our fund-raising events crucially important. With the help of The Eccentrics group, we ran two Historic Vehicle Gatherings last year. The 2021 "Wheels and Hooves" event at Elmwood Equestrian Centre, Burnham-on-Crouch was a new venture supported by our colleagues from Creeksea and Althorne. It had a horse show running alongside the vehicle displays but this year it will be a dog show so the event, on Sunday 10th July, will be "Wheels and Paws".

We plan to follow Wheels and Paws with another Historic Vehicle Gathering here in Steeple on 21st August, using the format established over several years. This is very much a 'village show' and we hope other Steeple organisations will take stalls to promote themselves and individuals to sell produce or crafts. The Burnham and Steeple gatherings both feature cars, tractors, trucks and motor cycles but only Steeple has stationary engines. One of the engine exhibitors last August was a well known journalist who put us on the map with a two page picture spread in the December issue of Stationary Engine Magazine, which circulates as far afield as New Zealand! Let's hope this free publicity brings us even more support this year.



# Steeple St Lawrence Vintage Gathering

By Alan Cullen

**“On 22nd August, my wife Lynne and I attended the Steeple Essex Vintage Gathering which was run to raise monies for repairs to the wooden steeple of Steeple’s St Lawrence and All Saints church.”**

• *the article ended with -*

**“The visitors (and the exhibitors) were treated to a good range of engines plus classic cars, motorcycles, commercials, tractors, scale steam engines and much more. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day with plenty to see.”**

**@ Kelsey Publishing Ltd**

**There’s much more going on locally in March,  
so don’t forget.....**

## **A Harmony Choir Concert**

will take place on

**Saturday 26th March at 7pm**

in **Althorne Church**, CM3 6BZ,

Tickets are £10 (glass of wine included)

Phone 01621 740481 or 741131

In aid of the church repair fund

## **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 on 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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 March 8th for a  
**FREEDOM PARTY**

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

# INCLUSIVITY

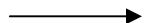
Chris Martin

Somebody years ago once remarked to me (and I took this as a compliment) that I am a very “inclusive” person. Thinking about this, I would measure the veracity of it by the number of people who have been invited to my house to eat. If you’ve eaten in my house, you’re included in my life.

I calculate that I have had people from all over the UK and Northern Ireland at my table (and sometimes staying for a night or two – or even longer) as well as from the following countries: Ireland, France, Germany, Holland, Cyprus, Italy, Poland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, India, Nepal, Iran, Syria, Peru, Brazil, Bangladesh, British Guyana, Dominican Republic and St Kitts. I’m quite proud of that record. I’ve been lucky enough to travel quite a bit and my lifestyle has widened my views on life.

My hospitality means that I have welcomed people of various religions as well as those without a belief. I don’t even know the religions of all my overseas friends. I really don’t mind what they believe because all the major religions preach peace and friendship and hospitality and I’ve enjoyed all these with my foreign friends without having to discuss exactly which religion they belong to or what their beliefs are. The shared friendship and precious time together are enough for me. It’s sufficient for me to know they are nice people and there’s affection between them and me.

It’s also important, in my view, that we are “inclusive” with the local people around us as well as those from further afield. Our closer friends and acquaintances may share the same theological views, or they might be completely different in their beliefs and what we have in common is that we live near each





other, get to know each other and perhaps become friends. To me it's important to include as friends people we meet along the way by keeping in touch, inviting them to share, finding common interests to discuss and generally enjoying together the better aspects of life – and trying to help when things go wrong for them. People have been very kind to me when things have gone wrong for me. It's equally important to share friendship when things are going well.

When friends (or family) move away, it's good if you can keep in touch, even if you know you will never meet again. You don't even have to be "penpals" these days, with the advent of email and instant messaging and affordable phone calls. Keep in touch – we all need each other. Remember that relationships, like gardens, need attention and nurturing - let's not take each other for granted and let's remember to include each other in anything going on that can bring us together. Life is richer if you can share it with people from other backgrounds, different beliefs or alternative viewpoints as well as those whose views you share about everything.

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## **Editor's comments**

Here in our church benefice, inclusivity has long been a high priority. Although we can't always demonstrate it, because of the seemingly formal gatherings for worship, we always try to welcome people whatever their background is. We hold many community events in the church building to illustrate our acceptance of people who may not, yet, be active followers of Jesus. Recently we ran an open course entitled "Living in Love and Faith" which covered differences which hit the national headlines and which the Church is learning to deal with. These included Identity, Sexuality, Relationships and Marriage. It was good to hear views which differed from our own but to be able to trust that Jesus' loving plan for all people can become a reality if we work together.

# 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**

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*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.*

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## PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	6 March	South - West
w/b	13 March	Central - West
w/b	20 March	North - East
w/b	27 March	Central - North- West



## WHO ARE WE? Mission Statement



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

**Web Site** [www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**Contact:** [vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**See pages 9-11 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 DURING LENT

#### “CARING FOR CREATION”

**will meet in the church**

**Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 8 pm**