PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF ST LEONARD





and also for Steeple Parish

The Church of

St Lawrence & All Saints

Are you a **GUS** or a **TOM**?

During **LENT** this year will you

GIVE or TAKE

UP ON

SOMETHING MORE

Whatever our situation is, we need to remember that God is present, to love, guide and sustain us through our lives and to enable us to encourage others to receive His love.

MARCH 2023

| 5 | A new machine! Rev'd Canon Peter Begley | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--|
| 6 | Living Stones Brenda Sheppard | | | |
| 8 | Vicar's Appeal about the forthcoming A.P.C.M. | | | |
| 9 | 9 Prayer Ministry on Sundays Christine Luc | | | |
| | Support Althorne Church event | | | |
| 10 | The Demise of the Printing Industry (Se | ection 7) Harry Payne | | |
| 12 | Services at St. Leonard's during March | | | |
| 14 16 | Steeple Church News | | | |
| 17 | Southminster Memorial Hall programme. Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information Please pray for the recently bereaved and the wider world | | | |
| 18 | Politics Aside Chris Martin | | | |
| 19 | Book Review Brenda Sheppard | | | |
| 20 | Rotas (Paul Lucas) and Henry Club Update from Brenda Sheppard. | | | |
| 21 | Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches | | | |
| 22 | Concert by the Remedy Band to s Prayer for Southminster | support Earthquake help | | |
| 23 | Who's Who at St Leonard's Church | To cover our costs we | | |
| 24 | Who are we? | have to charge for this magazine. This is now 80p per issue or £3 for | | |
| | NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: | | | |
| | Articles for the April magazine | Every 4 months paid in | | |

Curate's Reflection Rev'd Jacqui King

3

Articles for the April magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 19th March** New contributors are welcome. have to charge for this magazine. This is now **80p per issue** or £3 for Every 4 months paid in advance in January. There may be changes ahead, so we have removed the annual subscription..

Curate's Reflection

How do you know God is real? This was the question posed in a recent discussion with some 10-year-old children in school during an RE lesson. My reply was about my own personal experiences when I felt and believed God was present, guiding and directing my life. I thought this was better than a biblical study or quoting a 13th century theologian like Thomas Aquinas who considered it necessary for us to experience divine revelation in life to know God's truth.

Our lives can be the most incredible series of highs and lows, but if we take time to reflect and look back at our life, we will notice that God has been present - even if we didn't recognise or acknowledge Him. The famous poem 'Footprints in the Sand' by Margaret Stevenson puts it beautifully, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you." God is walking with us and is always caring for us particularly when we are struggling.

This month, as we journey through Lent, we are invited to think about our personal experience of God: how we may have been tested during this last year, just as Jesus was tested by Satan in the wilderness for forty days after His baptism (Mark 1:13); how God has blessed and kept us and how His face shone upon us giving us peace (Numbers 6:24-26). So, during the forty days (plus the six Sundays)

before Easter, we take time to reflect and resolve things that disrupt our equilibrium and relationship with God and maybe with each other too. We examine ourselves and our lives, to notice the things that are drawing us away from God or preventing us from noticing Him. Some people decide to 'give something up' and abstain from something like chocolate, alcohol or Facebook because of the dependence and hold it has on their life. Other people choose to 'take something up,' do something each day that helps them demonstrates or know God's love, for example doing something kind or focusing on caring for themselves more. Then some people spend the time on 'changing something,' to restore relationships that have gone wrong, to reconcile things from the past that harden our hearts and get in the way of our relationship with God.

The overall purpose during Lent is to reflect upon, review and renew our relationship with God. So, as we avoid those things that: prevent us from depending on God; or distract us from spending time with Him; or resolve things that overshadow His gift of peace, we must believe that our Lenten experiences will bring us to understand and know God in a new way – to know that God is real.

May God bless you with new experiences this Lent that affirm your faith and understanding of Him.

Rev'd Jacqui

A new machine!

You may have noticed that a new machine has appeared in the church next to the sound desk. This is an electronic pay-station where people are able to make donations to the church using a contactless payment card. Many of us got used to using these machines through the Covid period, as nearly all shops now only take card payment via this method. If you would like some help in the first instance please speak to one of the wardens or myself or Rev'd Jacqui – it is fairly easy to use and quite simple and self-explanatory. Fiona managed to use it ok last Sunday gone, 22nd Jan. It works with a tap when directed.

If you have a *contactless* card and would like to make donation to the church, please make use of this facility and encourage others to do the same, especially if you are bringing visitors who may not have already set up a regular payment scheme. These donations are much appreciated, and will really assist the church of St. Leonard to pay the new higher fuel bills, along with the ongoing costs of keeping the church open for everyone.

May God bless every single donation that is given using this method. Amen.

Peter

We have a change of times for Sunday services. (See page 12) This change has been arranged in order to enable leaders to officiate at Steeple (9.15) and return to Southminster in good time for the next service at 11am. Please share this information with people who would normally be present at 10.45.

Living Stones Brenda Sheppard

When I was young, I used to go often to my Nana's house at St. Lawrence, (or "The Stone" as it was also

called), and from her garden she had private steps to the beach. It was a very stony beach but what a privilege and fun it was to spend many an hour searching for stones of all different shapes, sizes and



colours from which I often made up plates of pretend dinners with them. I expect this may sound familiar to some of you.

So, how do we get these amazing stones? The descriptions I found were: Stones, being a product of nature, are formed through the process of compacting grains or pieces of any kind of existing rock material, which is weathered, eroded, transported, deposited and then cemented over many years to form the wonderful stones we see today. From this process we find that no two pieces of stone are entirely alike. I Peter 2 v 4-8 tells us that we, as Christians, are also like living stones, a Holy priesthood, being built into a spiritual house. No one exactly like another, all shapes, sizes, colours and formed from different backgrounds and upbringings.

In the Bible God is referred to as "The Rock", the solid, safe and permanent base on which everything rests. Jesus is also referred to as a Rock and a Cornerstone.

Matthew 21:44 tells us that "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Jesus was rejected but is now the cornerstone in the building of God's Kingdom. Jesus is the rock that will never move, he is resilient to storm's damage and he is the cornerstone of our lives.

Jesus looks for "Rocks and Living Stones" He can depend on to build His Kingdom. I am told that the cornerstone in any building has to be exactly right otherwise the entire building would be out of line and so, we are to build on the perfect solid cornerstone and foundation that has already been laid. Jesus looks for:

People who hear His words and put them in to practice and people with a sure foundation of faith who can weather storms. Although we may be battered about at times, we are always, like stones, in the process of being moulded and shaped to be more like lesus.



When we see that most precious stones come from a form of rock it reminds us that we are created by our precious Father God who is the ultimate Rock that we depend on and all good things come from him. Let us continually search for and learn His ways and always appreciate the wonders of creation and especially the beauty of the finds on a stony beach!!

Appeal as we approach the A.P.C.M.

As we look forward to this year, and all that is required of us to fulfil the calling of God, I am aware that there are some ministries that need to be taken up for us to function properly as a church. These gifts of ministry are what God is calling us to "do" for Him in this place of prayer and worship. We have all been given talents with which to serve God and our community and therefore we look to God to raise up those gifts to assist us through this year.

We may also pray about our giving each week, and if we have made a promise to God financially, set up regular giving through Standing Order or through the envelopes scheme. We as a church are, like us all, facing some higher bills through this year that we would like to meet, so prayer for God's provision for His church would be greatly appreciated.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Sunday 23rd April, which will come soon enough, and I am asking that the church be in prayer for the positions that we will need to fill at that meeting. We need a *treasurer/bookkeeper* who will help us each month to steward and use God's money wisely and appropriately. We need *Church Warden(s)* who will assist me as Vicar in keeping the church functioning; helping to organise others to assist at each of our services and maintaining correctly order within the church. *Assistants* who are able to help at Little Lions. We need more *PCC members* who represent the people of God here and seek out, to be able to give voice to, the opinions of the parish and also contribute to the future growth of spiritual maturity in this place.

We also need willing people who are called to be *sides people, intercessors* and *readers of the lessons*. Perhaps there may be some people who feel called to serve but unsure of what to be doing; in which case speak to me or to Rev'd Jacqui and we will discern together where God would have us be, as we grow as the body of Christ. This is an exciting time of growth for the church and we look forward to serving the living God together.

There are so many more gifts that we may offer that cannot be listed here, but please do pray about who you will nominate for election to the various roles at the APCM and, please, ask God if it could be you! We serve Him together, not alone.

Blessings... Peter

Prayer Ministry on Sundays after the 11 am service

Please come to the area outside the Chapel if you have a particular need for prayer, (for yourself or someone close to you) where there should be two people available to pray with you.

Support our Neighbouring Church by joining

"A Bit of Do" on Saturday 25th March from 11am - 3 pm at Althorne Church Hall

Toasted cheese sandwiches; Doughnuts; Teas & Coffees Books, Puzzles, Crafts, Easter cards, Raffle & Tombola Proceeds are in aid of St Andrew's Church repair fund and St Clare's Hospice.

The Demise of the Printing Industry Harry Payne

Section 7. Continued from last month.....

A form of 'Movable Type' was an 11th century Chinese invention, it was refined in Korea around 1230. That is long before conditions and circumstances allowed it to be developed and flourish in Europe in Gutenberg's time. The first overtures towards printing, it is said, began roughly around 800 AD. It is possible it may have been even earlier in China, who can say? This early printing technique involved carving an entire page into a block of wood. This would have had to be carved 'mirror image' as explained earlier, for right way final reading. Ink or dye would then be applied to the block, then material or parchment would be pressed against the block, then the process repeated. There is record of printers in Zhejiang, China, producing a print of the vast Buddhist canon called the Tripitaka, using carved wooden blocks. The Tripitaka is a compilation of Buddhist literature including scripture, disciplinary manuals, commentary, doxography and history; based on this collection of information a unique system of scholastic research is established. There were in excess of 130,000 blocks, one for each page!

The Koreans became involved in the story when, as often happens, invasion led to innovation. Around 1087 AD a group of nomads called the Khitans attempted to invade the Korean peninsula. This prompted the Korean leaders to

create its own Tripitaka, similarly with wooden blocks. Difficult to say why they should want to do this, possibly with the aim of preserving the Korean Buddhist identity, against further invasions. In the 12th and 13th centuries Genghis Khan had created the largest empire in human history. After he died his successor Ogedei Khan continued conquering. In 1231 Ogedei ordered the invasion of Korea. In 1232 when they reached the capital as part of their victory, they burned the Korean copy of the Tripitaka to ash. Like many conquering armies then as now, they like to destroy the heritage of the vanguished. The Korean monks set about recreating their Tripikata. It was scheduled to take until 1251 to complete. Then around 1234 AD the rulers asked an individual named Choe Yun-ui to print another Buddhist text called The Prescribed Ritual Text of the Past and Present. It would have required carving an impossible number of wood blocks. So Choe, building on an earlier Chinese attempt of making movable type, adapted a method that had been used for minting bronze coins. He cast three dimensional characters in metal, these were arranged in a frame, coated with ink, then used to print on to parchment. The metal characters could then be reorganised to print another page. This eliminated the need for continual wood block carving. It was also faster, to a certain extent. The project still took some 16 years to complete. Maybe the name we should be remembering for the idea of movable type is Choe Yun-ui, not Johanne Gutenberg.

NOTICE THE NEW TIME FOR SECOND SERVICES

11.00 am instead of 10.45 am from now on.

Sunday 5th March 2nd Sunday of Lent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui

Isaiah 58:1-12; I Corinthians 2:1-12 Celebrant Matthew 5:13-20 Celebrant

Sidesperson Gordon Baker

I I.00 Family Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui

Readings as above Christine Morgan Intercessions Norman Pratt

Prayer Ministry Brenda Sheppard & Christine Lucas

Audio-visuals Sylvia Adams
Sidesperson Gwyneth Iffland

Refreshments Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 12th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Genesis I:I - 2:3; Romans 8 18 - 25 Celebrant
Matthew 6:25 - end Celebrant
Sidesperson Paul Lucas

11.00 Family Celebration

Leaders Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack

Readings & Prayers Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack

Audio-visuals Christine Morgan

Prayer Ministry Sylvia Adams & Frances Hatfield

Sidesperson Leon Flack

Refreshments t.b.a.

Sunday 19th March 4th Sunday of Lent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher Rev'd Jacqui/Jenny Pratt

Exodus 24:12-end; 2 Peter 1:16-end Celebrant
Matthew 17: 1- 9 Celebrant
Sidesperson Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher Rev'd Jacqui/Jenny Pratt

Readings as above Sylvia Adams
Intercessions Fiona Begley
Audio-visuals Christine Lucas

Prayer Ministry Sarah Prendergast & Yvonne Thorburn

Sidesperson Kath Dunstan

Refreshments Eira Hagger & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 26th March 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

5th Sunday of Lent

Leader/Preacher Rev'd Peter/Norman Pratt Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19 Celebrant

Matthew 4 : I - I I Celebrant Sidesperson Pete Adams

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher Rev'd Peter/ Norman Pratt

Readings as above Christine Lucas Intercessions Brenda Sheppard

Prayer Ministry Keith Hatfield & Fiona Begley

Audio-Visuals Christine Morgan

Sidesperson Sylvia Adams

Refreshments Christine Lucas & Sandra Billinghurst

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 Sunday each month, a children's service on the third Sunday and Holy Communion on second and fourth.



An on-line service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on

www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Steeple's Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) will be held in St Lawrence & All Saints Church on Tuesday 21st March, starting at 8pm. This is an open meeting for anyone living in Steeple or connected in any way with Steeple Church. Please come along if you would like to learn more about how our church is managed.

The agenda will include presentation of the accounts for 2022 which are more complex than usual due to the belfry timber refurbishment project. Happily, that was completed on time and within budget. The meeting will be asked to approve the Financial Report for 2022 which confirms that the accounts have been reviewed and recommended by our Independent Examiner, Kate Johnson.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) can feel relieved that the belfry project was successfully completed but

cannot rest on its laurels because our architect has identified a host of smaller repair projects that need to be planned and funded if Steeple Church is to remain available for use by the people of this village for many more years to come.

Repairs to the guttering and downpipes have to get high priority. This work is likely to prove expensive because "working at height" means that scaffolding or a cherry-picker will be required. The downpipes lead to soakaways, some of which are clearly not working. On the southern side it might be desirable to replace them with pipes into the front ditch.

On the other hand, some of the repairs are much more straightforward and can be dealt with by volunteer helpers. These include treating interior woodwork affected by woodworm, controlling ivy growth on the outside of the building and replacing capping tiles on some of the buttresses. In the churchyard, the hedges need cutting and we must deal with the horse chestnut tree by the entrance that has been confirmed to be diseased and potentially unsafe. It's a very long list but few of the items are really urgent so not everything will be done this year. But if you can help with any of these jobs, please let us know. During the summer, we'll also be looking for help with our fund-raising activities.

Key Contacts: Rhona Leech, Churchwarden and PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Churchwarden, Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer, Roll Officer and Verger CHATTERBOX: as described opposite....We are an open door to people who like to come along. We also have jigsaws on the go and a Craft table from which we have exhibited some of the amazing items made in the Flower Show. We are hoping in the future to have a computer to use to help people enhance their computer skills. We are a friendly group and would love more people to come and enjoy a warm space and good company.

On a practical level, if anyone has any Jigsaws they would like to donate or lend to the group we would be very grateful as we get through quite a few in a year!!

Any enquiries to: Norman

or: Brenda

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.

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

Depending on how the Omicron Virus Regulations are, we hope that the following gatherings will take place.

LUNCH CLUB meets on Mondays.

If you would like any information please phone
Dave Christie 07775 758118.

CHATTERBOX

meets on Thursday mornings 10 am-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.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

This will now meet every week on Tuesdays from 10 am - noon at Christ Church, North Street.

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 just attend and think about it. It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet in the hall on March 28th
Ray Lee: "What's so Special about Opera?"

Competition – Poem about an opera
For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



Keep praying for everyone who has recently lost a loved one, and for others who are in need of healing and general care. Pray for all medical personnel, local and wider afield, and all the regular carers.

POLITICS ASIDE Chris Martin

13th February: This is the date I'm writing this.

For several days now we've been seeing the misery and devastation caused by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Although we can never foresee what disasters may hit any of us during our lives, in this country earthquakes are not something we fear (although tremors are not totally unheard of) and our thoughts are with those thousands and thousands of people who have lost family members, friends and their homes in this nightmare of an event.

Help is arriving from all over the world and brave people are on site to help. The better side of humanity is shining once again as people of many countries arrive to do their best to rescue and recover.

We have to hope that politics are being put aside in Syria and hopefully assistance is being given to all areas now. It's a pity if it takes a common enemy in the form of a disaster to make people work together in peace but let us hope that this will happen. Then, perhaps afterwards, differences can be discussed and the politics will improve.

In a few days the situation will no longer be the first item in our media and our attention will be elsewhere. But for the affected people of Turkey and Syria, the future will never be the same.

I haven't been able to find any local fundraising going on except that, according to yesterday's local BBC news, the Sark Restaurant in Maldon is raising funds for Turkey.

Otherwise, one thing we could do is to donate to DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee). It can be done in all the usual ways including online.

I know that everybody affected will be in your prayers.

Editor's comment: Please see page 22 of this magazine for details of how we hope to raise funds.

Book Review The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

January 27th was Holocaust Memorial Day where

we remembered the dreadful acts of genocide against the Jewish people.

During the week leading up to the 27th I read the book "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" which is a very moving story of a nine year old boy who was the son of a Commandant in the German Army.



The boy's family had moved from Berlin and went to live in Auschwitz, right next to a concentration camp where the Commandant took charge. The boy was lonely and had no friends to play with but struck up a friendship with a nine year old Jewish boy, wearing striped pyjamas, on the other side of a wire fence separating them.

The story of their friendship unfolds. It is a tale of the innocence of youth and the disastrous consequences of a friendship across a divide.

There is also a film of this book which I have also seen. Perhaps you'd like to read the book, if so I will be happy to lend it to you but you will need to have your tissues handy!

Brenda Sheppard

We are pleased to have bookshelves at the back of church containing lots of books which can be borrowed to read. Spend a few minutes looking at these. Children's books are available too.

Editor

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 2023 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
|-----------|---|----|----|----|
| June 2023 | 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

A big thank you to all who attended Henry Club in 2022. Henry Club of course is named after one of our trusty vacuum cleaners!! We have met once a fortnight for the last year and will continue to do so in 2023. We have been thrilled to have two new volunteers come on board which really lightens the load.

Most Henry days we are fortunate to have the organ being played by Graham whilst we work, to which some of us sing along, and this really enhances our time and we really appreciate it. We will continue to meet on Friday mornings fortnightly from 9.15 – 11am and do as much as we feel able. Please contact me if you would like to help at any time.

Brenda Sheppard

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that most restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and continue cautiously during 2023. Any changes will be available on posters & on-line.

To keep aware of what is happening, and to participate on line with services, log into the website https://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk/ and https://www.facebook.com/groups/stleonardstogetherapart/

Also, we have a WhatsApp group entitled "Together Apart Our Church". Lots of people are involved in that.

These links have been greatly appreciated by regular Church family members and also by people who have not, to date, attended our church services. In difficult times, like this, we need to 'allow' God to point us in possible new directions and then to respond. **God has a plan with hope for future.**

If you would like specific prayer, please contact the vicar. preferably by email but otherwise on 01621 772300

A notice about our offerings to God.

Many of us use the facility of the offering plate to give our gifts to God. Whether we are attending in person, or not, it is always a good time to think about a standing order to the church so that we are still bringing our gift. Many of us are doing this already – Thank you, but those who may be wondering how they can continue their giving through Standing Order the details of the church bank are here:

Barclays Bank

Sort code: **20.54.30** A/c No. **80825107**

A/c Name: Southminster Parochial Church Council.

For Steeple use: Sort code: 20.54.30

A/c No. 60842494

A/c Name: Steeple Parochial Church Council.

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SOUTHMINSTER has a concert by the REMEDY BAND



Saturday 11th March
2 pm - 4 pm
To raise funds for Turkey & Syria after the
dreadful earthquakes.
Admission donation £5
but more will be appreciated.



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b 5 March Central - East w/b 12 March Central - South w/b 19 March South - West w/b 26 March Central - West



WHO ARE WE? Mission Statement



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

Web Site www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk Contact: vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

If you wish to contact the Church regarding a Safeguarding issue please contact us by telephone on 07745 688845 or via 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) **11.00 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 but this is during term-time only.
It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.





BIBLE STUDY GROUPS usually meet in the church on Mondays (10am) and Thursdays (8pm)

Everyone is welcome to join. Details on board.

The new course details will be on the notice board and at the back of church.