

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



and also for Steeple Parish
**The Church of
St Lawrence & All Saints**



1
←

2
→



3
→



**Three stages of a route
out of Southminster**

MARCH 2024

“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 29:11)

- 3 Curate's Reflection Rev'd Jacqui King
- 5 Community Hub details & Easter Flowers plans
- 6 The Nuggett Brenda Sheppard
- 7 **ECO** tip of the month (from A Rocha)
- 8 Let's enjoy Travelling Well Together APCM details etc.
- 9 Earth Hour 2024: be aware of the needs of our planet
Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal Details
- 10-12 **Services at St. Leonard's during March**
- 13 Steeple Church News Peter Marshall
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team update Brenda Sheppard
Food Pantry details ----- Bereavement group
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox
and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas)
Confidently Leading Some possible training Rev'd Peter
- 17 Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Important Althorne event & then more Southminster church events
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the April magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 17th March
New contributors are welcome.*

To cover our costs we have to charge for this magazine. The charge per issue is £1 but if you pay for the whole year in advance the charge will be £10 - (obviously a bit saved!)

Curate's Reflection

At the beginning of the year, I was officially 'signed off' from my Curacy by Bishop Adam of Bradwell. This means I've been given permission to seek a clergy vacancy in the Church of England, or, more commonly known as 'looking for my own parish!' Realising that I'm on the move again isn't easy, as it means I won't be here to see the exciting things God is doing in the Southminster & Steeple Benefice.

For clergy, the moving-on process is about discernment. This means listening to God, waiting on God to prompt us, and trusting that God will guide us to a place that is just right (Psalm 139:16 - "in your book were written all the days that were formed for me"). So, when people ask, "What do you want?" my reply is, "I'd prefer to stay in the Chelmsford Diocese, but I'm open to where God calls me next." I must trust that God will lead me to the right place for my gifts, character and experience, just as happened when I came to The Dengie.

During my time here, I've witnessed God at work, pointing people out, drawing people into the church family, using people's gifts and encouraging people to step out in faith. The development of the Southminster Community Hub is one example of God bringing multiple agencies together to serve and support our community in partnership with Christ Church United Reformed Church. If you are interested in getting involved or feel God stirring you to do so, our next meeting is at lunchtime on Monday 11th March so do pop in. Another example is the development of prayer spaces in each classroom in Southminster Primary School. God has raised up a team of creative people to lead and continue this important ministry with children and staff in school. There are numerous other examples of God using people and inspiring them to organise,

administer, lead, serve and love our community. The evidence confirms that God is calling people and equipping us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our villages.

We are now part way into Lent, the time of preparation for Easter when we draw close to God, give up things that disrupt the equilibrium, rid ourselves of bad habits, and spend quality time with God to discern what God's plan is for us in the future.

In John 1: 38, Jesus asked the fishermen who were following him, "What do you want?" They were taken aback and they fumbled a reply asking Jesus where he was staying. Jesus' response was, "Come, and you will see." God had predetermined a path for those fishermen because as they spent time with Jesus, they discovered he was someone they could relate to. God executed his perfect plan as these fishermen became the first disciples.

So, my answer to the question, "What do you want?" is to be sent to a community of people that I can relate to and them me – a perfect match for this next season of my ministry. To somewhere I can invite people to 'come and see' for themselves how God will lovingly transform their lives.

But, my question is, "What do *you* want?"

I invite you to dwell with God, ponder, be vulnerable and notice any thoughts that stir, excitement that arises and clarity that may come about the future. Prayerfully ask by the power of the Holy Spirit for God to reveal what and where God may be leading you in this next season. Let this question penetrate your prayer times for the rest of Lent. God may have a plan for you - be open to what God reveals. (See *Jeremiah 29:11*)

God bless,

Rev'd Jacqui

Rev'd Jacqui had sent this email around

Anne Sardeson had written it: to invite people to lunch on 11th March 12 – 1.30 at Southminster Community Hub (North Street/Orchard Road). “It will help you to find out where we are up to and talk about what you could help take forward.” Please let Anne know if you can come by 28th February.

“Can you also make a note of Friday 19th April at 4pm, when we will be having a launch event at the Hub. This will include signing the partnership agreement between St Leonard's Church and the URC in Southminster!”

Important notice

This Easter, as in previous years, we will be decorating St Leonard's Church with flowers in celebration. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of these flowers and have a loved one's name written on the Easter Memorial Scroll, please enter details on the form at the back of the church. May your memories become joyful and your life encircled by God's love.



Kathy Pegg

The Nugget

Have you ever watched the television programme “Aussie Gold Hunters?” These people work out in extreme heat in very dry, dusty, remote locations in Australia searching for gold. It’s great to see the joy they exude on finding even a very tiny piece of a gold nugget knowing that it goes toward their financial target for the season.



So, what is a ‘Nugget’? One definition I found, is that it is a small lump of gold or other precious metal found which has already formed in the earth. These nuggets are just sitting there waiting to be found! Another definition of the word ‘Nugget’ is: Helpful bits of knowledge or anything of great value or significance. This led me to think of helpful and valuable bits of knowledge or words of wisdom that have helped me. I searched out an old autograph book in which my Nana had written this lovely “Nugget” for me and I still remember it to this day: It says:

“Don’t look for faults as you go through life,
and if by chance you find them,
be wise and kind and be somewhat blind,
and look for the virtues behind them”

Hard to live up to but great wisdom and advice!

The Bible is full of “Nuggets” of wisdom, knowledge and advice. The Book of Proverbs especially, which was written by King Solomon and other wise men, is full of these things. Most proverbs are concise, memorable truths that describe common life experiences and ‘Nuggets’ of wisdom to be found in so many of them.

So, just as the gold prospectors work hard in looking for their nuggets of gold so we too need to be diligent in searching out God's Nuggets of wisdom and knowledge in His Word, nuggets just waiting to be found. I have found that when listening to a sermon, I look for a 'Nugget' or a real 'Gem' to take away with me. It may be just one word or phrase that impacts me, something I can dwell on for the coming days.



[This Photo](#) by

Wouldn't it be good to share any 'Nuggets' we hear from a Sunday sermon, not just to encourage us but to encourage the preacher too!! There is always something new to be found, so let's keep searching, digging deep into the Word of God. Let's make it our target in this season of Lent to enrich our own lives and also of those around us.

Brenda Sheppard

Eco tip of the month from A Rocha: March

MARCH Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-overlent/

Let's enjoy **travelling well together!**

This magazine regularly reports how our Church members carry out their local roles in the Southminster and Steeple community. Such roles are appreciated because being church members is not just being committed to attending Sunday services. It is also sharing God's love among our families and neighbours. If you find this a bit daunting don't worry. Joining in with activities can be uplifting for ourselves too.

The actual running of the church as an organisation still needs people from within. Every year the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) provides a summary of the year's work and the requirements for the future plans. If you would like to be involved please contact Gwyneth Iffland who will enrol you on the Parish Electoral Roll.

This year the APCM will be on Sunday 21st April after the 11am service. As usual, Churchwardens and PCC members will be elected. A particular need this year is for a new treasurer so that Sylvia Adams, our secretary, will not have to continue covering both roles. There are obviously other particular roles which need to be filled, such as volunteers needed including sidespeople at services, others to help with serving refreshments, joining the flower-arranging team, being part of the "Henry Club" church cleaning team and helping with the outdoor work to keep the church grounds healthy and attractive. Even if you are unable to attend services regularly because of Sunday commitments, your willingness to be part of the team in some way will be welcomed and appreciated.

Earth Hour 8.30pm to 9.30pm 23rd March 2024.

Since 2007, individuals from around the globe have switched off their lights during Earth Hour to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.

This year, Earth Hour falls on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, so please set a reminder or note the date and time in your diary and switch off your lights to help save the planet.

This year's **BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL** will be supporting the Diocese of Jerusalem's Healthcare Ministry. This diocese is home to about 7,000 Anglicans worshipping in 28 congregations across five different countries or territories: Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan, the ministry of healthcare offers help to those in need regardless of race, religion, or ability to pay. Its institutions range from homes for the elderly to therapeutic residential facilities for special needs students, to clinics, rehabilitation centres and hospitals. The need for support is particularly pressing at this time of war in the Holy Land.

More details are available on leaflets in church or by visiting www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-appeal.

We will have a special opportunity for people to donate at one of the Lent Services in church. This will be described as a "LOVE OFFERING" from Southminster benefice.

A possible designated date is 17th March. There will be a special Sunday title to highlight this good Sunday. Watch out for it!

Sunday 3rd March

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
1 Corinthians 1 : 18 - 25
John 2 : 13 - 22
Sidesperson

3rd Sunday of Lent

Rev'ds Jacqui & Peter
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 Holy Communion

President/Preacher
Readings as above
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'ds Jacqui & Peter
Gwyneth Iffland
Brenda Sheppard
Sylvia Adams & Sarah Prendergast
Christine Morgan
Kath Dunstan
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 10th March

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Colossians 3 : 12 - 17
John 3 : 16 - 17
Sidesperson

Mothering Sunday

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION

Leaders
Audio-visuals
Prayer Ministry
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui & team
Christine Lucas
Keith Hatfield & Fiona Begley
Brenda Sheppard
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

BE READY FOR THIS

Saturday 23rd March 10 am EASTER CRAFT MORNING

Sunday 17th March

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher
Hebrews 5 : 5 - 10
John 12 : 20 - 33
Sidesperson

5th Sunday of Lent

Rev'd Peter/Norman Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher
Readings
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-Visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Norman Pratt
Pauline Siggers
Rupert Killick
t.b.a.
Christine Morgan
Kathy Carnell
Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

Sunday 24th March

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher
Psalm 118 : 1 - 2, 19 - end
Mark 11 : 1 - 11
Sidesperson

Palm Sunday

Rev'd Jacqui/Jenny Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Keith Hatfield

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as above
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-Visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui / Jenny Pratt
Christine Lucas
Fiona Begley
Yvonne Thurbon & Frances Hatfield
Sylvia Adams
Gordon Baker
Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

Sunday 31st March EASTER DAY

Details of services in Holy Week are overleaf.

Thursday 28th March

Maundy Thursday

6.00 pm Service in chapel

I Corinthians 11:23 - 26 & John 13:1 -17, 31b - 35

Friday 29th March

Good Friday

10.15 am Walk of Witness begins at Christ Church

10.30 am Service continues at St Leonard's

Leader/preacher **Jenny Pratt / Rev'd Peter**

Hebrews 10:16 -25 & John 18:1 - end of 19

Sunday 31st March

Easter Day

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'ds Jacqui & Peter

Acts 10:34 - 43 & Mark 16:1 - 8

Celebrant

Sidesperson

Paul Lucas

11.00 Holy Communion

President/Preacher

Rev'ds Jacqui & Peter

Readings as above

Linda Payne

Intercessions

Norman Pratt

Prayer Ministry

Christine Lucas & another

Audio-visuals

Christine Morgan

Sidesperson

Kath Dunstan

Refreshments

Social Committee

Steeple Church contacts

Rev'd Canon Peter Begley, Vicar 01621 772 300

Rhona Leech, Churchwarden & PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Churchwarden,
Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on the church door. We have Morning Prayer with activities for children on the first and third Sunday each month, and Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays.

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



www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Our tradition for Mothering Sunday is for a service very much focused on children so we'll be providing each one with a spring plant they can give to their mother. We hope to see even more mothers and children this year.

Steeple Church is thankful for having a high proportion of "under 16s" in its congregation. This sometimes approaches 50% which is very unusual, particularly when remembering that our regular services start at 9.15am.

Before work started on the belfry timber renovation project in 2022 we removed the wrought iron gates at the church entrance to avoid them getting damaged during the building works. These gates have historical significance because they were installed just after the end of WW2 as a thanksgiving for the return of peace. After exposure to 75 years of rain and road spray they were overdue for refurbishment. That work is now underway and we hope to have the gates back in position in time for Easter.

Henry Church Cleaning Club 2024

The cleaning continues on in the Church! We are blessed to be part of a great team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits. We meet fortnightly on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am. If you could spare just a little time during those 2 hours and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me on my phone. You will be made very welcome.



The Southminster Food Pantry

continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at Christ Church, but it now has an extra collection point: on Thursday afternoons at Burnham URC

If you are willing to donate food for the Pantry there is a list of basic requirements at the back of church.

In these difficult times more and more people are in need of what some of us take for granted.

The Bereavement Group has started to meet again On Tuesdays at 10.00 am at ChristChurch, North Street. Everyone is welcome. If you need more information contact Chris Martin. 01621 772751

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.

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB meets on alternate Mondays.

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



Chatterbox continues to grow in numbers. Each week we look forward to being together with our faithful friends, and also to welcoming new people who would like to come and join us on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the Memorial Hall. It is a great place to meet and make new friends. Chatterbox lives up to its name as there is always a lovely buzz of chatter and also lots of tea and coffee and biscuits. We also have jigsaws always on the go and different craft activities. We have also recently acquired a laptop computer for people to learn new skills.



You will be made very welcome and If you would like more information, please ring Norman.



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. They enjoyed Christmas events, and families joined the main services.

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on 26th March

Sophie Ede : Hearing Help Essex

Competition: Potted Flowering Bulb

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 2024	5	12	19	26	
June 2024	2	9	16	23	30

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

Rev’d Peter writes about CONFIDENTLY LEADING

I have mentioned some training that is available to anyone who would like to take part which includes leading intercessions; reading the Bible in church and leading a service. These start soon, so please put them in your diary – just come along to one or all of the sessions.

Confidently reading the Bible:
Wednesday, 28th February at 2:30pm in St Leonard’s

Confidently leading intercessions:
Friday, 15th March at 2:30pm in St Leonard’s

Confidently leading a service:
Friday, 22nd March at 2:30pm in Althorne Church Hall

CORONAVIRUS 2024

We are pleased that most restrictions were lifted but we do need to be aware of possible new viruses, so we must continue cautiously. New information 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.

Special notices for your diaries

Saturday 13th April **The Sid Bolan Big Band.**

The concert in church will begin at 7.30 pm
Tickets (£10) will be available in church, at local stores
(Chapman's, and Southminster Butchers) and by
phoning 01621 772199

Light refreshments will be available.
Funding will support Knightswood Day Care Centre.

Another popular 'returner' to our church will be

The Remedy Band **On Sunday 28th April at 3 pm**

Supporting the
Brompton Heart & Lungs Hospital for Children
Pay (donate) on the day

Meanwhile, at **Althorne Church Hall**

There will be a **"Bit of a Do"**

On 16th March: 11am - 3 pm

In aid of St Andrew's Church Repairs

& St Clare's Hospice *(See local posters)*

PRAY FOR SOUTHMISTER:

w/b	3 March	North - East
w/b	10 March	Central - North-West
w/b	17 March	Central - East
w/b	24 March	Central - South
w/b	31 March	South - 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 10-11 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)

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 Prayer

'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.



Everyone is
welcome to join.
Details on board.

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

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