

PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF ST LEONARD

StL

and also for Steeple Parish



The Church of St Lawrence & All Saints



MAY 2022



**The Cross teaches us that
through Christ
Life never ends and
Hope never dies.**

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*Today's cover
As usual, we were able
to enjoy the wonderful
flowers in church over
Easter. Thank you,
flower arrangers.*

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
*Articles for the June magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 22nd May
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

In Your presence there is fullness of joy. Psalm 16:11

An opportunity was taken one Thursday afternoon to have an overnight stay in a place near to Southwold in Suffolk. We stayed in a dog-friendly inn owned by the Adnams brewery (someone has to stay there!) We had booked an early-ish evening meal and only had a few moments to unpack, get ready and across to the pub for our meal; all a bit rushed but really good. We took with us the two poodles along with their beds, food etc and they found it very strange to be somewhere unfamiliar; lots of sniffing round and investigating. Across at the pub the dogs were very quiet and wary of others who had gathered, some with their dogs too. A good meal was had followed by a short walk in Southwold (5 mins drive) before retiring to the room to settle for the night. The dogs seemed happy just to spend time with us and settled easily.

The following day we walked along the prom at Southwold and, as we walked, we spotted a couple, a man and a lady swimming just offshore. We noticed when checking through the binoculars that they were bare-armed (no dry-suits worn), had their faces in the water, and were using snorkels to breathe. The couple got out of the water a little ahead of us and walked up and into the front part of a beach hut to change, just as we were coming near to them. We asked if they were awake yet! The outside air temperature was 9 degrees, and it was incredibly windy and bite-y so goodness knows what the water temperature was like!

The couple said that they swam regularly and it was a discipline; steeling themselves to do something that would have benefits both to their mental health and immune systems, and they seemed to have really enjoyed it as well. Clearly this was working as I guessed their age to be in their mid-seventies and they seemed pretty fit and well even if rather red and shivering as they got dry and covered up! Being out of the water appeared, by then, warmer than being in. However, you still won't find Fiona and me down at Creeksea slipway nipping for a swim!!

In one of our previous churches there was a lady who swam everyday from April to September – she lived to ninety-four and still swimming daily well into her nineties. Some of us may have other routines that take some real determination to help us with our wellbeing. It may be walking everyday or gardening; whatever our activity, the exercise really helps keeps us fit for life. So, what has unsettled dogs and cold-climate open-water swimmers to do with this month's reflection?

Firstly, I thought about people who come to church, a discipline in itself when we have not done so before, or, have re-started coming or are looking for a new church when moving to the area. Like our two poodles, the visitors look around to see who is there, checking if it is safe to come in, wondering if they can find a safe place to be and to settle. Visitors are sometimes guarded and quiet, yet we know that as they get used to the environment, they will find peace in the surroundings and hopefully peace for their [possibly anxious] minds.

We know and understand that for us to keep our bodies healthy we need exercise, likewise to keep our spiritual body fit we need spiritual exercise. We are mind, body and spirit and all of our being needs to be exercised. Our two dogs soon settled into the cottage and enjoyed the surroundings; new stimulations for them as they found new adventures.

Secondly, the swimmers reminded me of self-discipline. We can make all kinds of excuse for not doing something, yet we are called by God to alter that way of thinking and be determined to seek God. In seeking God, we find fulfilment, peace and joy as we are met by Him, and as we surrender to Him in worship.

As a lady was leaving church the other day she said to me that she felt “all peaceful” when she comes to church. As we come into the presence of God we sometimes feel disturbed, uncomfortable – the surroundings are different, yet as we spend time in the new environment, God will give to us His peace that leads to real sense of wellbeing in our minds and in our bodies. What a loving, ever-giving God we meet when we come together as a family here in church... His Peace is given to each, as they have need. If any of us lack wisdom or guidance, ask in prayer, follow that Peace which comes and He will guide us forward by it. Do come and talk to me if you want to know more about it... never go out unsure.

Every blessing

Peter

Preaching a Sermon!!

Have you ever said “Don’t you preach at me” when feeling confronted by someone trying to forcibly get their point across? Good preaching isn’t just at a person or a congregation it is about inclusion. Preaching is opening up the Word of God in an understandable way and drawing people closer to God.



Of course, we know, that the greatest preacher was Jesus. Crowds flocked to hear Him. Jesus preached in a language the people understood with illustrations of the culture and time they lived in. In Matthew chapters 5-7, The Sermon on the Mount was not just a sermon of “Thou Shalt Not’s” it was a long sermon starting off with blessings and following on with instructions for living. The people listening to Him were amazed at his teaching, as one of authority. Jesus had a compelling personality, He included all people, He was hospitable, He liked company. He had confidence in His words and deeds. So how do we respond to sermons in church? Hopefully we look to learn something new, to hear what the Lord is saying to us through them.

Unfortunately, it can happen that we become distracted while listening to a sermon with our own thoughts, or by the room temperature, or maybe feeling a bit tired and weary after a busy week, or even thinking about getting home to cook the dinner!

I love the scripture in Acts 20 v 9 where Paul was preaching for a very long time in an upstairs room of a 3-storey building and seated in a window of the room was a young man, Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on

and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell out of the window and died. The outcome of this tragedy was a happy ending as Paul went down to where Eutychus lay and in the power of the Holy Spirit raised him from the dead hopefully to live to hear more sermons!!!

We all respond in different ways to sermons; one style may not suit us as much as another style does. Some preachers use visual aids, some with props like puppets, some with drama, some preach with notes or without notes, all different ways. One study I read found that after 3 days a listener retained approximately 10-20% of spoken information but almost 65% of visual information. We also shouldn't feel condemned if we don't remember all that was said in a sermon but if we come away with just one nugget of wisdom or with one word of encouragement that stays with us it has been worthwhile.



If anyone in a congregation feels called to preach, I read a really good quote whilst doing some preaching training myself which was: "God does not call the equipped, but He equips those He calls." Another lovely quote from the Bible is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Let's not assume that anyone with their eyes closed during a sermon is asleep which may be a bit worrying for the preacher, but assume they are listening, cutting out all distractions from the environment around them and are totally relaxed and receptive! That's my theory anyway!!!!!!

Brenda Sheppard

Local events and some in other places

Tillingham Flower Festival

May 1st (12pm - 4pm) & 2nd (11am- 4pm)

at Tillingham Parish Church

Tickets £10 for Sunday's Cream Tea and

Harmony Choir Concert from

Steven Green 779500 & Jean Thorogood 778077

The Chelmsford and District Welsh Society

The Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir

with Elin Manahan Thomas Soprano

Soloist at the opening of the Paralympics in 2012

Soloist at the Royal wedding in 2018

She will be singing at

Chelmsford Cathedral

on Saturday June 11th 2022

Tickets at £17.50 available from Arthur Williams,

3 Englefields, Tillingham. Tel. 01621 778711

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Activities.

Full details will be available from Southminster Parish Council, but already plans have been agreed to have a special service on Sunday (Pentecost) when the school choir will join us to sing. After the service, we will walk to Jubilee Wood for the official opening, then make our way back to King George IV playing fields for a 'picnic in the park' with music and entertainment during the afternoon.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held in church on 24th April after the service. Because at time of going to print there is no official information that can be publically available, please be patient (if you were unable to attend) and be ready to hear the results of the meeting in the June magazine.

Church Bell Peal report

It was good to be able to remember appropriately our friend, the late Allan Pye. He had been bell-captain here for many years (among his many other roles) so the local Bell-ringers managed to provide this peal on Saturday 23rd April. It had been postponed from its original date because of the effects of the pandemic, but its value was still appreciated.

CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

Everyone who attended the concert provided at 2 pm by the Remedy Acoustic Band on Saturday 9th April agreed that it was very enjoyable, so we are grateful to the Band for their efforts, and to contributors also. The amount of money raised for Ukraine was over £600.

NEW CHURCH FLAG FLYING



The new English flag has now been raised in time for St George's Day, so we thank the workers for all their efforts.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB - "WONDER ZONE"

Plans are in progress for this year's Club. (Details from Jenny Pratt.) It will run from Monday 22nd to Friday 29th July with a special Sunday Service on 31st July.

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.

July 2022	3	10	17	24	31
August 2022	7	14	21	28	

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

We, as a team, had great fun cleaning up after the Christmas trees had been taken out of the Church on 6th 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

MAY WORSHIP

Sunday 1st May

3rd Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard
Acts 9 : 1 - 20	Celebrant
John 21 : 1 - 19	Celebrant
Sidesman/Communion Assistant	t.b.a.

10.45 Family Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter/Norman
Readings as above	Christine Morgan
Intercessions	Kath Dunstan
Audio-visuals	Sylvia Adams
Sidesperson & Refreshments	t.b.a.

Sunday 8th May

4th Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
Acts 9 : 19 - 36 end	Paul Lucas
John 10 : 22 - 30	Celebrant
Sidesman/Communion Assistant	Paul Lucas

10.45 Family Celebration

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

Sunday 15th May

5th Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui
Acts 11 : 1 - 18	Rev'd Peter
John 13 : 31 - 35	Celebrant
Sidesman/Communion Assistant	Pete Adams

Sunday 15th May

5th Sunday of Easter

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/ preacher

Readings as at 8am

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson & Refreshments

Rev'ds Jacqui & Peter

Linda Payne

Jenny Pratt

Christine Lucas

t.b.a.

Sunday 22nd May

Rogation Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

Acts 16 : 9 - 15

John 14 : 23 - 29

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui

Celebrant

Celebrant

Pete Adams

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/President/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui

Christine Lucas

Rev'd Jacqui

Christine Morgan

Thursday 26th May

Ascension Day

20.00 Evening Service

Jenny Pratt & Rev'd Peter

Readings

Acts 1: 1 - 11 & Luke 24: 44 - end

Sunday 29th May

7th Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

Acts 16 : 16 - 34

John 20 : 19 - end

Sidesman/Communion Assistant

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Celebrant

Celebrant

t.b.a.

10.45 United Worship

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'ds Jacqui & Ken

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 weekly on the church website. (See p24)



The Steeple Church belfry timber renovation project has moved one step closer. Members of the Parochial Church Council, assisted by their architect Hilary Brightman, achieved the 7th April deadline for submitting all the many documents required for the Faculty Application. That meant it was on the agenda for the 19th April meeting of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) - effectively the planning authority for church buildings. Given that we are simply replacing decaying timber on a like-for-like basis the whole process may seem overly bureaucratic but is required because Steeple Church is a listed building and all repair work must be done to high standards.

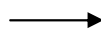
We'll hear shortly whether the DAC has queries or reservations about any aspects of the project but we know they'll require a bat survey before any work can commence. Bats certainly roost around the eaves of the church but we don't think they will be disturbed by the work now proposed although we can't be certain until the scaffolding is in place later in the summer. If the experts think otherwise it could delay the project, as happened last year at another local church.

Once the DAC is satisfied, there will be a short public consultation period before we get formal approval to go ahead. While that's going on, we'll be booking a slot with our chosen contractor, Bakers of Danbury. We'll also be seeking some financial support from organizations that make grants towards preserving listed rural churches. Fortunately, we have enough funds in hand to get the work started, thanks to substantial bequests and donations received during 2021 and early 2022 as well as our successful fund-raising activities last year. Everyone is feeling the affects of current inflation and Steeple Church is no different. That's one reason why it's important to get the renovation project completed as soon as possible.

The Quinquennial (once every five years) Inspection of Steeple Church will probably be done this year and will inevitably throw up a list of overdue repairs, most of which will have to wait until the belfry timber project is completed. The current users of Steeple Church have an obligation to keep it in good enough repair to remain available for future generations. That's why our major fund-raising activities are so important.

Wheels & Paws at Elmwood Equestrian, Burnham-on-Crouch, 10th July will combine a Historic Vehicle Gathering and a dog show because there are so many dog-owners likely to be coming.

Once again, Steeple Church is partnering with the churches at Althorne and Creeksea. We are grateful to Pat Charlton for organising the dog show, The Eccentrics for managing the vehicle gathering and Elmwood for allowing us use of the excellent site.



The Steeple Historic Gathering at Grange Farm on 21st August will closely follow the format of previous years and we hope other local organizations will take the opportunity to promote their activities.

Meanwhile, don't forget the United Service for our parishes at St Leonard's on Sunday 29th May at 10.45.

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

This was created as a way to keep in touch, encourage and support each other during the difficult time of lock-downs. Since then we have shared songs, daily devotions, prayers, church services, Bible studies, Alpha courses etc.

At the present time each weekday looks like this;

6am Daily Devotion including a worship song
11.30am Family Time (Tuesday and Thursday)
including
Little Lions' singing time, Veggie Tales movies,
virtual Sunday School etc.
3pm Bible Study / Reflection
8pm Prayer

Saturday is a quiet day and on Sunday we post the church service and weekly bulletin.

We welcome others to share encouraging posts on the page too.

Karen Flack

If you are part of the Facebook group, you will have regular updates from the Diocesan Group "Greening the Church". Taking on board that information is helpful in these times where our environmental concerns are growing because of global warming etc. Your responses for this magazine will be very welcome.

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

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

LUNCH CLUB continues on Mondays (but not 1st of month). Please call by the previous Friday to book your place. £5.00 for 2 courses plus tea/coffee. Ring Jan on 07742 002389

CHATTERBOX

meets on Thursday mornings 10am-12 noon. Everybody is welcome – come along for a chat, activities if you would like to join them and a cuppa and a biscuit for £1.00. No entry charge.

The **BEREAVEMENT GROUP** meets in a quiet corner of the hall as part of Chatterbox.

There are other groups too. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer to help us in running this valuable community organisation, please call Jan (above).
It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

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

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on May 24th

Brian Carline :The 40s and 50s

Competition: An item of Royal Memorabilia

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

Joy's Jottings, Easter 2022

Thank You, Lord, that with umpteen falls last year
I never broke a bone.

Thank You, Lord, that I have been fall-free this year.

Thank You, Lord, that though Stefan,
Tara and their three boys all caught Covid,
they have recovered reasonably well.

Thank You, Lord, for providing enough that
I don't have to choose between heating or eating
(as some, sadly are having to do).

Thank You, Lord, that we can now again sing
Your praises without wearing masks.

Thank You, Lord, for the beauty of bursting springtime.

Thank You, Lord, for the life-saving death
and resurrection of Jesus.

Thank You, Lord, for Your unending steadfast love.

Background information from Kath Dunstan

Who is Joy?

She is a friend I have known since we met at university in 1960. We went our separate ways after college but her story is relevant today. She married Fredi Tobler and together they worked with Wycliffe Bible Translators to produce in the Karipuna language (Brazil) the Gospel of Mark. On another date Joy came to speak about their work at the parish church of Widford, near Chelmsford, who supported Wycliffe.

How many steps? by Joy Tobler

How many steps to Gethsemane?

Dread-full, agonizing steps

Which he had trod with face set

On His father's pre-eternal purpose.

How many steps to Golgotha?

Bloodied, tortured steps

Which He trod willingly

To His destiny on the cross.

How many steps to exit the tomb?

Joyful, peace-imparting steps

Which He trod on scarred, revived feet

To accompany two friends to Emmaus.

How many steps to return from heaven?

Glorious world-straddling steps

Which he will tread as King

Coming for us, His Bride!

It was great to catch up about their family (mentioned in the jotting) and on what they had done. This prompted us to suggest that our Church should support Wycliffe financially. Obviously, this happened, and St Leonard's Church continues to support them - although the Toblers are not involved now. We have the Pillingers instead and our relationship with them has grown over the years too. Keeping up with families from the past is a real blessing, even though visiting has been difficult during the recent pandemic times.



Christian Aid Week will be

May 15th - 21st.

We shall not be having a house-to-house collection again this year, but there will be envelopes available for everyone to donate funds appropriately.

Envelopes will be in church, in the Memorial Hall, in the school and in various local Shops. Please ensure that people know they are available and that 'filled' envelopes can be returned to the church whenever the building is open, but particularly by Sunday 22nd May at the latest.

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

Come along for **"SOUP AND A ROLL"**

at 12.30 pm

All proceeds will be for Christian Aid.

Kath Dunstan

Southminster Operatic & Choral Society Concert

will be held at St Leonard's Church on

Saturday 21st May at 3 pm and 7.30 pm

SOCS sing songs from the Broadway shows.

KNIGHTSWOOD: Me, Myself and I

This is a new active support group caring for those living with dementia, which was officially opened on 12th April. Small groups are being set up so that dementia-trained carers can engage well with clients during motivating activities such as, painting, baking, puzzles and many more. Booking is essential but actual times are: **Mon. Wed. & Fri. 10am-3.30pm** at the Day Care Centre, Asheldham Hall Farm. See their website: www.knightswoodcare.co.uk

Resounding Rocks and Sparkling Seas

Ken Dunstan

On my way to a completely different article, I tripped over the script of a dialogue between Jesus and Peter, written by the Rev'd John L. Bell of the Iona Community. (He also writes stunningly good hymns and thought-provoking talks). This in turn reminded me of trying to teach "You shall go out with joy" to Year Six pupils at Southminster School. We got to the line that says, "the trees of the field shall clap their hands." A boy snorted, "That's stupid. Trees don't have hands." Neither do they.

In John Bell's sketch, Jesus faced the same attitude from Peter. As someone concerned for the future of our natural world (as well as the future of the great-grandchildren I hope to see) I recommend John's version of Jesus' reply:

"[Never forget that] God made the whole world for his glory, and that every creature, in its own way, is meant to worship him.

That's why the bird sings,
and the tide ebbs and flows
and the rocks resound,
and the fields get dressed in bright colours
and the valleys laugh and sing..

... learn to respect the worship which earth offers.

Because if –for any reason – one species of bird no longer sings,
one lake of water no longer sparkles,
one forest of trees no longer claps his hands,
God will want to know why, Peter.

Ecology is doxology.

To care for the earth is to preserve its praise."

FOSCOS

Friends Of Southminster Community Open Spaces

**need some help to continue
their wonderful work locally.**

More regular members are needed,
but occasional helpers are really appreciated too.

Please join the working party at
Orchard Meadows
to tidy up the fruit trees
on

Friday 6th May at 10.30 am

Just bring along your secateurs
and enjoy the company too.

If you need more information
Contact Paula and Ken Neall
01621 773243



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	1 May	North - East
w/b	8 May	Central - North-West
w/b	15 May	Central - East
w/b	22 May	Central - South
w/b	29 May	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 the Church Office at 772300
or safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

See pages 12-13 for details during this season.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer 1662)

10:45 am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

Steeple Services similarly continue at **9.15am**

Children and Young people are always welcomed
especially for the **Family Celebration Services.**

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Monday. Wednesday & Friday at 8 am Morning Prayer

Tuesday at 8.30 am Just Prayers

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



Everyone is
welcome to join.
Details on board.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS will meet in the church

Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 8 pm

Details will be on the notice boards.