

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

**StL**



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



This arrangement was constructed by the Easter congregation.

**MAY 2023**

**If God is for us, no-one and nothing  
is against us.                      Romans 8:31**

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To cover our costs we have to charge for this magazine. This is now **80p per issue** or £3 for Every 4 months paid in advance - next **now** in May. There may be changes ahead, so we have removed the annual subscription.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**  
*Articles for the June magazine  
should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
**Sunday 14th May**  
New contributors are welcome.*

## Reflection: Travelling Well Together

Ken Dunstan

When Bishop Stephen Cottrell arrived as Bishop of Chelmsford, he made a tour of the diocese, asking questions. A year later he announced a Diocesan Strategy. It proposed that we should be “a *transforming presence* in every community.” It asked that we should Live distinctively, Evangelise effectively, Serve with accountability and Reimagine ministry.

When Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani arrived as Bishop of Chelmsford, **she** made a tour of the diocese, asking questions. A year later **she** announced a Diocesan Strategy. There the similarity ends. She accepted the four priorities of “Transforming Presence”, but shifted her emphasis from “what we are to **do** as a diocese,” but rather, “how, guided by shared values, we are to **live**.” This means, discerning locally, in our very diverse Diocese what it means to be God’s people.

On Shrove Tuesday, Professor Jane Williams from St Mellitus College, Chelmsford, addressed the annual Clergy Study Day on “Living from Grace”, a key part of the shared values that Bishop Guli had described. The Bishop had arrived at them by several months of consultation and prayer, coloured by her experiences as a Christian in Iran when Iran became an Islamic Republic that tried to extinguish the small Christian presence which had previously lived in harmony with its Muslim neighbours. Churches were closed, schools and hospitals were confiscated, financial assets were frozen, foreign missionaries were called home or forced to leave.

Some Iranian Christian leaders were assaulted or murdered, including Bishop Guli's father and brother. Forty years on, the Anglican Church in Iran is tiny. There is no infrastructure, leadership is "scant" and baptism is illegal. Persecution continues. And yet, the Church is still there. Bishop Guli says, "They are there. They are present and they are faithful. And while they remain they speak of God's love and faithfulness and they witness to the miracle of life in Jesus Christ. In doing so they offer hope for all of us." Despite everything, "the Holy Spirit has been active in Iran." The Anglican Church in Iran is, slowly, growing. So Bishop Guli's approach is to let local churches discern how to build on what is good from the past, how to live, how to travel with support from the Diocese for local initiatives, rather than "top-down" Diocese-wide initiatives. Bishop Guli says, "When given space to breathe, the Holy Spirit works through our fragility, brokenness and failures." Just as in Iran.

So we can travel, guided by the Spirit, believing that travelling well matters more than knowing a fixed destination.

So what of those seven "shared values"? Dr Williams suggested that the first and seventh are foundational. They are: first, "awareness of grace", and seventh, "openness to the unexpected and surprising." Jesus demonstrated God's grace. He transformed the lives of people with a poor record like Zacchaeus the greedy tax collector and Peter, who had denied even knowing Jesus. We can rely on God's loving grace for us, which is unconditional. There are no qualifications to let us earn it. And we must be open to divine surprises and look for the Holy Spirit's work in them.

That's enough for now. The other five values are to be found in the twelve-page booklet, "Travelling Well Together" to be found at the church, or obtainable from the Vicar, Canon Peter Begley. Now where did I put my walking boots...?

**Ken**

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## **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, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

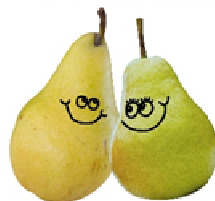
**Peter**

## How are you travelling?

I expect most of us each day meet people who say “How are you?” “Or how’s it going?” I love the Australian version of this greeting which is “How are you travelling?”

The Chelmsford Diocese issued a booklet in March called “Travelling Well Together” introduced by Bishop Guli the Bishop of Chelmsford. She speaks of how we are the body of Christ and as such how we travel well together into the future. She outlines how we need one another and use our God given gifts in the world. We are called to build on all that has been good about the past and to leave behind those things that may hinder us on our journey onwards.

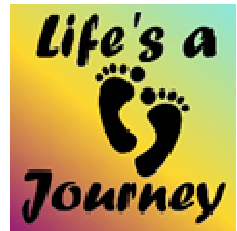
She emphasises the importance of travelling together and to discern how best to serve our own community. We see in Mark 6:7 that Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs, two by two, emphasising how we need to share ministry and have that necessary support and not try to do everything alone.



We, in Southminster, are in the process of forming a Community Hub in the URC Church building. This is being formed with different organisations in the area to provide resources to help others in different ways. This planning is ongoing and this is a new way for the URC Church building to be used and it is stressed that it is still a worshipping church and the new purpose for it is underpinned with prayer and good management. Working together for the good of the community in this area is the aim.

I thought of that lovely song we sing called “One more step” speaking of Jesus being with us on our journey. The first verse says “One more step along the world I go and from the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you”

We are all on an earthly journey from birth to death, a journey of discovery, a journey full of ups and downs, sadness and joy, a journey of continuously learning and all with God by our side guiding us as we journey home to be with him for ever.



So, “How are you travelling?” There is another song that comes to my mind by Michael Card, which says “There is a joy in the journey, there’s a light we can love on the way”. Some times in our journey home to heaven we can become weary and despondent but let’s keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the light of the world, who lights up our path and with his loving help, leads us on.

**Brenda Sheppard**

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## **Farewell and Thank you**

We are sad to have to say Goodbye to John and Lorraine Holliday of LJ Print who will be retiring in a few days time. They have been caring for us for many years and efficiently producing all the printed materials we have needed at the Church. Obviously we hope that their retirement and house move will prove beneficial for them but we shall miss them.



**14th - 20th May 2023**  
**Help dreams come**

Since we do not carry out door-to-door collections any more, the best way for local people to give money towards Christian Aid's work is to use the envelopes which will be available in various places. There will certainly be many at the back of church and there should be lots in our regular friendly shops, in the Memorial Hall and the school. Obviously people can donate on line **via [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)** . Details of what is going on through this charity will be on notice-boards inside and outside church.

If you would like to hold a fund-raising event of any kind please make your suggestions to the Vicar or other church staff so that some assistance might be available. Such events can be in public places or in private homes. The most important thing is to pray and seek God's guidance first.

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## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

You will be aware that this meeting was held on Sunday 23rd April after the morning service. It was reasonably well-supported (although some folk had had family commitments which were unavoidable). There was a general atmosphere of THANKS to officers for their consistent hard work and HOPE for members of the PCC and the Church in general as we move forward as a Christian community to share God's word among all our friends and families and to have a plan which will enable more folk to join our 'family'. Further PCC meetings will be in late May. Any information for publicity will be available as soon as possible. Please keep praying about this.



**SOCS**  
**Southminster Operatic & Choral Society**

**70th Anniversary Concert**  
**Southminster Memorial Hall**  
**Saturday 20th May**

2.30 pm £8  
7.30 pm £10  
Under 5s free  
5s to 12s £5  
Tickets on the door.

**Free Holiday Club 2023**

**GO BANANAS**

**at St.Leonard's Church Southminster**  
**Tuesday 22nd August to Thursday 24th August**

**Celebration Service on Sunday 27th August**  
**followed by Family Barbecue**

**Open to Primary age children**  
**residents of Southminster and Steeple**  
**and the schools of Southminster & St. Mary's Burnham**

**Registration and booking forms from Tuesday 30th May -**

**Available from - school, church and online**

**Places limited - book early to save disappointment.**

**For more information contact Jenny**

# MEANINGFUL POSSESSIONS

**Chris Martin**

Recently I have been thinking that if my mobility worsens very much I might have to think about moving to a bungalow or a flat, and the dread of having to clear out unwanted belongings is almost enough to make me forget the idea altogether. As it is, I've put it on the back burner whilst trying to work out whether to make the move while I'm reasonably fit or wait till I break a limb and wish I'd done it before. I hasten to add, for anybody else going through the same thought processes, that I think falling down the stairs is not the most likely event that could cause an accident at this time of life. Because of being aware of the danger of a flight of stairs, we tend to be extra careful going up and down them and therefore less likely to take a tumble. I think it's more likely that we can slip in the bathroom or trip over the threshold leaving or entering the house. So moving to a property that might appear to be safer is possibly not the answer to the problem, as a bungalow or flat is probably just as full of hazards as where we are now.

So having cheered you up with those thoughts, my next concern is "what to get rid of?" Even though I'm by no means a hoarder, when I started to look through my possessions, clothes, files and everything else around the house, I began to realise how much "stuff" one can accumulate in sixty years – for that is how long I've been in this house.

What could be got rid of? Boxes and bags full of packs of photographs? Black and white pictures of my parents' wedding in 1940? Or of holidays with my grandmother in the 1950s? Or of my late brother as a child? Old CDs that never get played? Books that were either enjoyed or are waiting to be read? Clothes that have been in a wardrobe or a drawer for 30 years? My children's old school books?? My grandchildren's art from when they were toddlers? Home made Christmas cards they made as toddlers? Ornaments! Who needs ornaments these days? But....they are memories of the past, or gifts from somebody dear who is perhaps no longer in my life. My wedding presents...my parents' wedding presents...my in-laws' possessions... there are so many "precious" items (for sentimental not financial reasons). Far too many to pack away and take anywhere, and I can't bring myself to part with any of them.

Every time I see filmed reports of refugees fleeing with barely one suitcase full of their life's belongings, I feel so sorry that they would have had to leave behind so many meaningful items. How lucky I am to have all my memories stashed around me.

And it looks like I'll just stay put till something happens whereby I feel I HAVE to leave...



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**Just an 'appropriate' smiley statement....**



Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

## **Sunday 7th May**

## **5th Sunday of Easter**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Genesis 8: 1-19 Acts 7: 55-end  
John 14: 1 – 14  
Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter/Rev'd Jacqui  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Gordon Baker

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### **11.00 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	t.b.a.

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## **Sunday 14th May CHRISTIAN AID WEEK starts (Easter 6)**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Genesis 8:20 - 9:7 Acts 17:22-31	Celebrant
John 14:15-21	Celebrant
Sidesperson	Paul Lucas

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### **11.00 Family Celebration**

Leaders	Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack
Readings & Prayers	Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny & Karen
Audio-visuals	Christine Morgan
Prayer Ministry	Sylvia Adams & Frances Hatfield
Sidesperson	Leon Flack
Refreshments	Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

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## **Thursday 18th May ASCENSION DAY**

**8.00 pm SERVICE IN CHAPEL** Rev'd Jacqui/ Brenda Sheppard  
Acts 1: 1 – 11; Ephesians 1: 15 – end; Luke 24: 44 - end

## **Sunday 21st May**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

President/Preacher  
Ezekiel 36:24-28, Acts 1: 6-14  
John 17:1 - 11  
Sidesperson

## **7th Sunday of Easter**

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Leon Flack

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### **11.00 Family Service**

Leader/preacher  
Readings as above  
Intercessions  
Audio-visuals  
Prayer Ministry  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui  
Pauline Siggers  
Brenda Sheppard  
Christine Lucas  
Fiona Begley & Yvonne Thorburn  
Nigel Winger  
Eira Hagger & Frances Hatfield

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## **Sunday 28th May**

### **DAY OF PENTECOST - Whit Sunday**



### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
Numbers 11: 24-30; Acts 2: 1-21  
John 20:19 - 23  
Sidesperson

Rev'ds Jacqui & Peter  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Pete Adams

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### **11.00 Morning Worship**

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

Rev'ds Jacqui & Peter  
Linda Payne  
Gwyneth Iffland  
Keith Hatfield & Sarah Prendergast  
Christine Morgan  
Brenda Sheppard  
Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

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

Steeple's Annual Parish Meeting in March confirmed the reappointment of Churchwardens Rhona Leech and Teresa Julien. Rhona also agreed to continue as PCC Secretary and well as being principal organist, with Teresa taking major roles in fund-raising projects.

The PCC is completed by Rev'd Jacqui King, Fiona Ashworth, Fiona Begley and Treasurer Peter Marshall, who is also Roll Officer and informal vergger. Anthony Williams stood down from the PCC because he can seldom attend meetings but remains a vital resource when the PCC starts to address repairs highlighted in the recent Quinquennial Report.

Although Steeple Church has met all its financial commitments for twelve consecutive years, the PCC has reluctantly accepted that it cannot meet this

year's sharply increased Parish Share demand. It hopes to achieve two thirds of the requested amount but even that is proving difficult.

Most established organisations suffer from steadily increasing age profiles but not Steeple Church. Several long serving members of our community have passed on in the last couple of years but their numbers have been more than balanced by many more children joining us recently.

It's now not unusual for "under 16's" to represent one third of the congregation. They only take limited part in the services but thanks to Rev'd Jacqui their "art work" explores religious themes which are helping to establish sound foundations for the lives ahead of them. Hopefully, some of them will be bringing their own children to Steeple Church in decades to come.

Key Contacts: Rhona Leech, Churchwarden and PCC Secretary,  
Teresa Julien, Churchwarden,  
Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer, Roll Officer and Verger



**Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that  
you pull out when in trouble,  
but it is a "steering wheel" that  
directs the right path throughout.**

**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. A recent “chair exercise” session proved very popular and it may return again soon. Watch out for details.

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

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## **The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group**

I prayerfully decided to start the "Together Apart" facebook group at the beginning of the first lockdown and posted on the page at least 6 days of each week. 3 years on lockdowns now seem to be long behind us and the interaction with the group is now minimal so after a lot of thought and prayer it was decided that I would no longer post on this group daily.

The group will remain open and I will occasionally post things that I think may be of interest. Please feel free to post on there too.

Thanks to all those who have interacted over the past three years.

**Karen Flack**



## **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.

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!

### **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

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

### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

will meet in the hall on **May 23rd**

*Speaker: Paul Rogers "German Occupation of the Channel Islands"*

*Competition – 3 Jam Tarts*

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.

# **Waifs, strays and other children in need**

**Ken Dunstan**

In 1881, Edward Rudolf, a civil servant, ran a Sunday School with his brother Robert. One day, two boys failed to attend, and Edward later found them begging in the streets. Their father had died and their mother could not feed them and their five younger siblings. Edward could not find a Church of England children's home for them. Having settled them in a suitable place, Edward decided to start a society that would house others like the two brothers. It took a while, but in time the 'Church of England Central Home for Waifs and Strays' was born.

Nine years later, it had thirty five homes and changed its name, first in 1893 to the 'Church of England Incorporated Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays,' then in 1946 to the 'Church of England Children's Society,' now known informally as the Children's Society, still a Church of England organisation working to fulfil the Fourth Mark of Mission, challenging injustice and trying to put things right for children. The Society no longer keeps residential homes, but works with young people in need in local communities, co-operating with Local Authorities and the Youth Justice sector.

Some children are runaways, sleeping rough and in danger from abuse; particularly girls. Now a new challenge has arrived, that of refugees. The Society says, "Too often,

when young asylum seekers arrive in the UK unaccompanied, they are left to fend for themselves. They feel alone. They may have escaped conflict. They might not speak the language. On top of this, they have to navigate a confusing immigration process.” Gaining asylum can take several years and often means telling their story several times to a variety of officials and busy social workers, reliving the trauma that made them flee their homeland.

The Children’s Society now works with a group called the ‘Youth-Led Commission for Separated Children.’ Simply put, they want each child arriving unaccompanied to have a legal guardian who can accompany them in their quest for asylum, deal with officials and more. Ever since my first-ever Christingle service over three decades ago I have supported the Society. I think their current initiative, which includes useful myth-busting to counteract the lies told about asylum seekers, is really worth supporting, not least, financially. You can find out more on the Children’s Society website at <https://childrenssociety.org.uk>. There is a link to the Society’s work with young refugees.

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### **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.

**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 2023	2	9	16	23	30
August 2023	6	13	20	27	

**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 Club details**



First of all I want to say a big thankyou to all the team who help at Henry Club which of course is named after one of our trusty vacuum cleaners!! We meet once a fortnight on a Friday from 9am – 11am and helpers do as much as they are able. We, as a church, have also been very grateful for the Community Payback people for keeping the grounds of the church clean and tidy. So many ways to be part of a cleaning team inside and out. If you feel you would like to help with the interior cleaning at any time please contact me even if you can only come every now and then it would be great to have you onboard and for you to be comfortable in the task or tasks you would prefer to do.

**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.

# Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

The church services will have special content, and bunting will be up. After the 11am service we are all invited to join the celebrations at the Memorial Field (below).



## PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

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





## 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 us by telephone on 07745 688845  
or via [safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](mailto: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.



Everyone is  
welcome to join.  
Details on board.

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

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