

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



and also for Steeple Parish

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



This picture shows the **Sid Bolan Big Band** playing at St Leonard's church on Saturday April 13th.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed their music and the event produced a good total of funds in support of the **Knightswood Day Care Centre**.

MAY 2024

Jesus said, "Love one another
as I have loved you."

John 13:34

- 3 Reflection Rev'd Ken Dunstan
- 5 Parochial Church Council Information
- 6 Time Out!! Brenda Sheppard
- 7 Christian Aid Week event. A Super Sale!
- 8 Extra Thoughts from Rev'd Ken Dunstan
- 9 **ECO** tip of the month for May (from A Rocha)
Another Christian Aid Event
- 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during May**
- 12 Steeple Church News Peter Marshall
- 13 Southminster Hub Rev'd Jacqui
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team update Brenda Sheppard
Food Pantry details (Southminster Hub ... continued)
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox
Little Lions and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas)
Prayers in church and elsewhere. Bereavement group
- 17 Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Event in Althorne and Christian Aid Week reminder
- 19 Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the June magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 12th May
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!)

Reflection

Two dozen or so years ago there was a fashion in business and some other organisations for Mission Statements. Inevitably, the Church joined in. Southminster Parish Church has a careful, but rather complicated statement. It reads, “To be a people offering praise and worship to God and serving Him by being the Good News by our words and action.” Twenty-three words. Relatively recently our website shortened it to “To serve God and the community.” Six words! My son Mark’s three parishes in Hertfordshire say, “To know Christ and make Him known.” Seven words. There’s an almost cynical proverb, five words that we must address: “Fine words butter no parsnips.” So how do we butter our parsnips?

It seems that people expect new bishops to come up with a Diocesan Plan To Get The Diocese Moving. Certainly Bishop Stephen spent a year touring the Diocese when he arrived, and later announced a way of achieving what was already part of the Diocesan Mission Statement, “to be a transforming presence in every community.” This “plan” had four components: Living Distinctively, Effective Evangelism, Serving with Accountability and Reimagining Ministry. This meant that the character and behaviour of the local church would change the wider community in which it was set. It’s interesting that when Bishop Guli arrived, she spent a year touring the Diocese before publishing her conclusions as “Travelling well together.” I’ll return to that, but let’s remember she accepted those four components of Bishop Stephen’s plan. We would do well to find ways to fulfil them.

Bishop Guli’s “plan” is, I think deliberately, a non-plan. There is no set of actions for everyone to follow. Rather, Guli

has set us free to make local decisions and then to get Diocesan support for them. But she has identified some shared values that will aid the local decision-making. Before I turn to them, let's remember that the world wide Anglican Communion that we are part of has two other bits of butter for the parsnips.

First, the words of Jesus, when asked, "which is the greatest commandment?" Rather than pick one of the over 600 in the Scriptures, He said, "Love God with everything you are, and love your neighbour the way you love yourself." Later, He added, "Loving your neighbour includes loving your enemies."

Second, the Anglican Communion asked, "What is the Church for? What does God command?" and summarised what we are sent to do as Five "Marks of Mission." Briefly, these are, Tell people about Jesus; Teach/Train new disciples; Tend those in need; Transform unjust structures and Treasure God's Creation.

These actions, Bishop Guli believes, will depend upon the values we share. This month, I'll name them. Later, we can look at them more closely. The first is, Awareness of grace. We recognise God's provision for the Church's needs and live thankfully. Valuing the small, the vulnerable and the marginal. The world longs for growth and success. We can rejoice at growth, but remember that, as EF Schumacher wrote, "Small is beautiful." God values the small and fragile as much as the big and robust. Focussing outwards. It's easy to let care for the church and its unity replace care for God's world and its need of the Gospel. Sustaining healthy rhythms. Jesus offers life in all its fulness. That balances leisure,

recreation, prayer and service. It includes supporting one another, “sometimes carrying those who are struggling most.” Kindness, mutual respect, gentleness and humility. These flow from Jesus’ “New Commandment” that we should love one another as He has loved us. (John 13:34) Being generously collaborative We need one another and we need to work together. Differences can help! Together we are the Body of Christ. Being faithful, creative, courageous and open to the unexpected and surprising. Our traditions are valuable. But one of them is our recognition that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth. She is the God of surprises!

Well, there’s the list. There are copies of “Travelling well together” in church. However we read it, do pray for these Diocesan values to be properly explored and held. As I say at The Peace: “In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us therefore pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.” Amen? Amen!!

Rev’d Ken

Parochial Church Council Information

This issue of the magazine will go to print before the Annual Meeting of the Church Electoral Roll so the results will not be available until next month.

Please be aware that the list of names of people on page 19 may need to be revised.

Please pray for our clergy, licensed lay ministers and all the people who agree to take on valuable duties.

TIME OUT!!

In one of my daily readings in March I read this following excerpt which made me smile and with permission from ‘UCB Word For Today’ I would like to share it with you.

“An old, tired looking dog wandered into a woman’s garden. She could tell from looking at him that he had a good home. He followed her inside, down the hall, and promptly fell asleep. Two hours later, he went to the door and she let him out. The next day he came back, resumed his position, and napped for a couple of hours. This went on for a week. Curious, the woman pinned this note to his collar: ‘Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.’ The next day the dog showed up with a note that read: ‘He lives at home with ten children – apparently, he needs some quiet time. Can I come with him tomorrow?’



What a lovely story, I found it really amusing but reminded me to think of those people who get very little respite from being in a caring role or a very demanding work pattern. One of the lovely sayings of Jesus in the Bible in Matthew 11:28 is “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest”. Jesus understands as He often used to take himself off to quiet places to pray and recoup his energy, a brief respite from the constant demands of his ministry.

We recognise that it isn’t always possible to get away from demanding circumstances but on the other hand sometimes people have too much quiet and feel alone and long for some company or to be able to escape four walls.

Let's remember to factor in to our lives some 'Time Out' this may take the form of some solitude to sit quietly and pray, read or even catch up on some rest like the dog in the story. Let's find whichever way works best for us personally and let's not forget those who may need a 'bolthole' at times which we may be able to provide.

Brenda Sheppard

**If you have any
SUPERfluous items
in your home, how about
bringing them to the church for
SALE on
SATURDAY 18th MAY
from 11am until 3pm.**

All proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

**If your items are not sold you will be asked
to retrieve them after the
sale has closed.**



Some Extra Thoughts from Ken Dunstan

I am always aware of the Anglican Communion's five-item summary of what God calls and sends the Church to do in the world. The list is called the Five Marks of Mission. The Fifth Mark says that God commands us to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth." That's committee-speak for "This is God's world and he wants us to care for it properly." Our new Bishop of Bradwell, The Right Reverend Adam Atkinson, was consecrated as Bishop on 29 September. During the service, Bishop Adam received his Bishop's pectoral cross. The cross, worn on the chest, declares a bishop's ministry. Bishop Adam's cross is unique. It's made from fully recycled materials by East London jewellery maker, Jay Keshani, who specialises in handcrafted pieces using recycled single-use plastic. Bishop Adam's cross, a mix of dark green and jade-like colours, was made from approximately 15 waste plastic bottle tops.

Speaking about his cross, Bishop Adam said: "The pectoral cross is a wonderful piece of equipment for me. It not only looks and feels beautiful and intriguing, but, being repurposed waste plastic, reflects an important theme and passion for many of us relating to the natural environment

and caring for God's creation." Something discarded as waste reworked in the service of God to be something beautiful is also a symbol of grace and what we can be through Jesus. Bishop Adam added, "I hope this simple pectoral cross will spark conversations about how we can protect the natural environment, take responsibility for our actions and waste, but also provoke us to think about the gospel." Bishop Adam's cross is a mark, not only of his mission, but also of ours.

Eco tip of the month from A Rocha: May

Say no to the mower. Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals. Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space - sign up to take part in "Churches Count on Nature"

(8-16 June 2024)

at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churchescount-on-nature-faqs/.

CHRISTIAN AID EVENT: Thursday 16th May
As "Chatterbox" comes to its end, at about 12pm
do join us for a "Soup and a Roll"
at the Memorial Hall until about 1.30pm
and please be as generous as possible.

Sunday 5th May

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Acts 10 : 44 - end
John 15 : 9 - 17
Sidesperson

6th Sunday of Easter

Rev'd Jacqui & Norman Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 Holy Communion

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

& PCC Commissioning

Rev'd Jacqui & Norman Pratt
Gwyneth Iffland
Brenda Sheppard
Keith Hatfield & Yvonne Thurbon
Christine Morgan
Gwyneth Iffland
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

Thursday 9th May

19.00 Rev'd Peter

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

Ascension Day

Sunday 12th May

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Acts 1 : 15 - 17, 21-end
John 17 : 6 - 19
Sidesperson

7th Sunday of Easter

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION

Leaders
Audio-visuals
Prayer Ministry
Sidesperson

Theme: Alpha 1

Rev'd Jacqui & team
Christine Lucas
Sarah Prendergast & Sylvia Adams
Kathy Carnell

Sunday 19th May

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher

Acts 2 : 1 - 21

John 15 : 26 - 27

Sidesperson

Day of Pentecost

Rev'd Peter / Rev'd Jacqui

Celebrant

Celebrant

Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Rev'd Jacqui

Kath Dunstan

Fiona Begley

Christine Lucas & another

Christine Morgan

Brenda Sheppard

Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

Sunday 26th May

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher

Isaiah 6 : 1 - 8

John 3 : 1 - 17

Sidesperson

Trinity Sunday

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt

Celebrant

Celebrant

Keith Hatfield

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/ Jenny Pratt

Pauline Siggers

Rupert Killick

Fiona Begley & Frances Hatfield

Sylvia Adams

Kath Dunstan

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 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

Steeple Church held its Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday 23rd April. After appointing our Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council members the Trustees Report and Financial Report for 2023 were approved. The Parish Share forwarded to the Diocese increased by 9% but was only two thirds of the amount requested.

We achieved our objective of getting the refurbished church gates installed in time for Easter. They are mounted slightly higher than before so now open without dragging in the gravel. The job is not quite finished because we now need to rebuild the pillars on either side.

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,

Southminster Hub

The last meeting on 11th March for voluntary groups, local agencies and church folk was well attended. It allowed people to hear what we've been up to and see around the building. The next stage of getting the Hub up and running is to form the proposed management committee, and we will meet for the first time on Thursday, 16th May, 12 pm to 2pm.

Clear-up Day: The Brownie and Guide leaders and Food Pantry volunteers have been doing a fantastic job tidying up the space, which looks much better than it did. However, there's more to do: sort through things, throw some things away, decide if broken chairs can be fixed and do a number of other tasks. We're having a clear-up day on Saturday, 1st June, from 10am–4pm and have sorted a skip, so we now need hands to help fill it. Your help is crucial in making our community hub a better place, so please do come along, even if it's just for an hour. Let us know if you are coming, and what you can help with so we can work out what jobs we can do that day and how many cold drinks we'll need to supply!

Celebration Event: We are celebrating the official signing of the ecumenical agreement between Christ Church URC and St Leonard's Church at on Sunday, June 30th, at 11am with an all-age joint act of worship at Christ Church on North Street. This is a momentous occasion for our community, and we want everyone to be a part of it, so save the date.

Using the Space: One hope is to get a drop-in up and running on Wednesday mornings; if this is something you think you would be interested in helping with or coming along to, then please let us know. We are hoping to have a community garden and may already have some help with this, which is exciting. In terms of cost, community groups joining the Hub (i.e. not simply running your own event or

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 . 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.

Southminster Hub (continued from page13)

club but seeing your involvement as part of the bigger picture to support people in the local community) will incur no charge for using the premises. However, if you can get funding to help with running costs then please do – we need to find funds somewhere!

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you at Southminster Hub soon, either on the Clear-up Day, at the Celebration Service or before then.

Rev'd Anne Sardeson
anne.sardeson@maldonurc.org.uk

Rev'd Jacqui King
revjacquiking@gmail.com

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. News of the Craft Morning will come soon.

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on 28th May

Brian Carline : Blood, Sweat & Tears

Competition: Carrot Cake

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 2024	7	14	21	28
August 2024	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.

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.

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. Don't forget all the local farmers who are struggling with effects of recent weather problems. And also remember people who have become unemployed for various reasons - and the people who are trying to help them.

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

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

On Saturday 11th May
at Althorne St Andrew's Church Hall
From 10am to 4pm
You are invited to view
Photographs Old and New
of Althorne, Latchingdon and Mayland.
Entry admission £5
Refreshments available
This is to raise funds for the church repairs.

Don't Forget
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
starts on Sunday 12th May
There will be several ways for people to contribute to
the Christian Aid Fund.
There will not be a house-to-house collection but
Collection buckets/boxes will be available in church
and in various public places.
For details of actual events see page 7 (**16th May**)
and page 9 (**18th May**)

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	5 May	Central - South
w/b	12 May	South - West
w/b	19 May	Central - West
w/b	26 May	North - 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

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.



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

Everyone is welcome to join.
Details on board.

The course details (this time based on the New Testament book of Ephesians) will be on the notice board and at the back of church.