

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



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



**MAY 2025**  
**John 8 :12**  
**Jesus said**  
**“I am the Light**  
**of the world.”**

- 3 May Reflection .....Jenny Pratt
- 4 News for the World ..... Death of Pope Francis
- 5 Community Hub
- 6 Investing 2025 ..... Brenda Sheppard
- 7 Prayer Ministry available ..... Annual Meeting coming up
- 8 Travelling well? .....Ken Dunstan
- 9 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during May**
- 12 Steeple Church News ..... Peter Marshall
- 13 Some diary notes ..... including Holiday Club details
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team update .....Brenda Sheppard
- Saturday Club Details and Little Lions too
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox,  
and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas), Christian Aid Week notice
- 17 How to keep in touch with the church regularly.  
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Remedy Band concert details  
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

We are grateful for the wonderful flower arrangements that have been in church over the Easter season. The ladies who produced them deserve special thanks. There was not room to show them all on the magazine cover, but we hope you have seen them yourself, live!

***NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:***

*Articles for the June magazine  
should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
Sunday 18th 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 for May - John 8 : 1 - 11**

**Jenny Pratt**

“Hey Jude, quick, come on, there’s gonna be trouble in the Temple Courts. A woman has been caught in adultery and I think they’re gonna stone her. Look, I’ve picked out a really large heavy stone. I’m sure you can find one just as good. There they are, just about ready to go f’rit. The Pharisees are there and all the Teachers of the Law. Huh, she doesn’t stand a chance!

Oh look, that Jesus fella is there as well. I’ve heard that he’s supposed to know everything. He’s been going on about loving one another and forgiving people. Well he can’t be forgiving this woman, she’s been caught in the act. And in the Law commanded by Moses, we have to stone such women. I don’t think this Jesus bloke can get out of this one, he’ll have to condemn her!

He’s writing something on the ground, I can’t quite see what it says. Move out of the way idiot. Who said you could come to this stoning; you haven’t even got a decent stone!

Well they keep asking Jesus for an answer and yep, he’s straightening up at last. He’s saying, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Bets on for who will throw first. I bet 5 shekels it will be Benaiah, he’s a really good Pharisee. Go Ben go! What’s he waiting for? Come on, throw it. I’ve got money on you!

Oh no, he's dropped the stone on the ground. Don't worry Ben, you can pick it up again. No... why is he walking away? You forgot to throw the stone Ben! All the old men are walking away. Nah, they've got no guts. Outta the way, I'll show you some real guts.

Well woman, you didn't reckon on ME did you.

Jesus is writing on the ground again.

I look at the woman's eyes and suddenly the stone feels so, so heavy in my hand.

So heavy I can no longer grasp it.

It falls to the ground as I remember all those things I have done wrong.

As I turn away.....

---

## **NEWS FOR THE WORLD**

**On Easter Monday it was announced by the Vatican Pope Francis has died at 7.30 am today, aged 88.**

**He had continued in his papal role despite recent health problems and he had even presided at the Easter Sunday Service (with support from colleagues).**

He will be remembered for his regular promotion of Christian life being based on fidelity, courage and universal love, especially for the poorest and most marginalised people. As the Archbishop of York (formerly Bishop of Chelmsford) said in his response: "These universal Christian values are shared by the Church of England."

# NEW COMMUNITY HUB COMING SOON!

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new community hub coming soon to Christ Church URC Southminster. The Hive will feature:

- LuLu's Café, run by young adults with special needs
- A community garden project
- Community and social events
- Workshops and courses
- Advice and support services

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. Look out for updates and join us at our grand opening event this summer!

communityworker.dengieurcs@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook @thehiveURC



YOUR BUZZING COMMUNITY HUB

Things that might be of interest to you are:

LuLu's Cafe project that will be at the new hub in Southminster

The Community in a Cup events that are currently running out of the URC in Burnham but will also run out of Southminster once we are open.

The Social supermarket that runs out of both URCs

---

## **DON'T FORGET** the local **FOOD PANTRY**

which has been running for several years and still meets at the URC building every Wednesday morning.

Contributions can be placed in advance in the bin at the back of our church. Details are available there.

# INVESTING 2025

**Brenda Sheppard**

What is the first thought or word that comes to most of us when we see or hear the word Investing. It probably is money. We are constantly reminded of new investment ideas or saving plans which give us updated rates of interest, a good return. It's good to invest our money in a sensible way if we are able to, but how much do we invest in people? Do we only invest in those people from which we get a good return?



Just as there are many differing ways of investing, be it in monetary terms or in jewellery or precious metals, there are also many different ways of investing in people it could be:

- Professional development - aiding growth within a company

- Job role and leadership – encouraging obvious skills

- Physical health – caring, coming alongside.

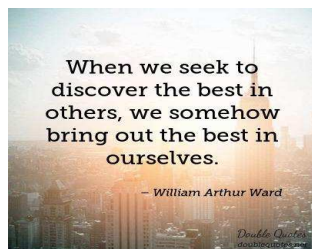
- Spiritual growth – teaching and discipling

- Personal goals – helping people attain their dreams.

We, as a church, periodically run Alpha Courses which always start with a meal giving people time to chat and relax and get to know each other better before a time of learning. A time to invest in learning more about our faith.

2 Thess v 7-12 tells us that Paul, Silas and Timothy and his companions lived and worked among the Thessalonians, sharing their lives with them, not trying to please people but to please God by their examples. They invested time, energy and love whilst preaching the Gospel to them.

So how long do we invest our time with people? It is not a fixed time process it depends on the nature of the relationship and their goals. But it must be done with genuine care and compassion for the duration of the relationship and with a view to helping people to be more independent and have more control and to attain a greater goal in their lives.



Whilst investing our lives to help others we shouldn't expect anything in return as we would expect a return from monetary investments, but one thing for sure it is always so rewarding when a new, long-lasting friendship is formed which is worth everything!

Brenda Sheppard

---

### **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. Pre-service prayer occurs too, so feel free to join them with your supporting prayers or your urgent requests.

---

### **Our Annual Parochial Council Meeting will be held after the 11am service on Sunday 4th May.**

Everyone is welcome, but the only people who are allowed to vote are those who have registered in early April to be members of the Church of St Leonard, Southminster.

## Travelling well?

**Ken Dunstan**

Bishop Guli gave us a challenge once she had explored the diocese and taken our collective temperature. She didn't intend imposing a "top-down" policy with specified activities. Rather, we should learn to "travel well together" with local initiatives getting Diocesan support.

She recognises that the journey is part of our faith. Jesus worked on the move and the early church, certainly through St Paul, who travelled tirelessly sharing the Gospel.

We echoed this on Good Friday as we carried a cross in procession from Christ Church to the Parish Church as a reminder to Southminster of the killing of Jesus.

Others travel because they have to. They may be fleeing flood or drought; they may be, and increasingly are, fleeing persecution or the violence of war. They seek the basics of living and seek safety. Who wouldn't?

However, some politicians see gain in using these people as scapegoats. Margaret Thatcher once spoke of our being "swamped" by immigrants. Donald Trump has



*Photo by Melanie Coull*



described their coming as an “invasion.” It’s true that many cross the channel in inadequate small boats, overcrowded by the criminals who have charged extortionate fees, at risk of dying in Europe’s busiest shipping lane. Why do they come? Why are Britain’s leaders so hostile to them? The United Nations High Commission for Refugees, which I support, sent me this poem by Khaled Hosseini, written to commemorate 2 year-old Alan Kurdi, who drowned in the Mediterranean in 2015.

Afghans and Somalis  
and Iraqis and Eritreans and Syrians  
All of us impatient for sunrise,  
all of us in dread of it.  
All of us in search of home.  
I have heard it said we are the uninvited.  
We are the unwelcome.  
We should take our misfortune elsewhere.  
But I hear your mother’s voice over the tide,  
and she whispers in my ear,  
“Oh, but if they saw, my darling,  
Even half of what you have.  
If only they saw.  
They would say kinder things, surely.”

*An extract from Sea Prayer*

Let us travel towards loving our neighbours, our enemies and one another, as Jesus, himself a refugee in Egypt, commanded.

## **Sunday 4th May**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Acts 9: 1 - 20  
John 21 : 1 - 19  
Sidesperson

## **3rd Sunday of Easter**

Rev'd Peter /Brenda Sheppard  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Gordon Baker

---

### **11.00 Holy Communion**

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

Rev'd Peter /Brenda Sheppard  
Kath Dunstan  
Fiona Begley  
Christine Lucas & Sylvia Adams  
Christine Morgan  
Gordon Baker  
Paul Lucas & Kathy Carnell

### **After this service : the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

---

## **Sunday 11th May**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher  
Acts 9 : 36 - end  
John 10 : 22 - 30  
Sidesperson

## **4th Sunday of Easter**

Rev'd Ken Dunstan  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Keith Hatfield

---

### **11.00 Family Celebration**

Leaders  
Prayer Ministry  
Audio-visuals  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn  
Fiona Begley + Frances Hatfield  
Christine Morgan  
Kathy Carnell  
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

---

### **16.00 The Remedy Band concert in church (See p18)**

<b>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK</b> is from 11th May to 17th May .
--

**Sunday 18th May****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Acts 11 : 1 - 18

John 13 : 31 - 35

Sidesperson

**5th Sunday of Easter**

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt

Celebrant

Celebrant

Leon Flack

---

**11.00 Morning Worship**

Leader/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt

Linda Payne

Brenda Sheppard

Yvonne Thurbon &amp; Keith Hatfield

Sylvia Adams

Brenda Sheppard

Dee Byford &amp; Frances Hatfield

---

**Sunday 25th May****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Acts 16 : 9 - 15 &amp; John 14 : 23 - 29

Sidesperson

**6th Sunday of Easter**

Rev'd Peter

Celebrant

Paul Lucas

---

**11.00 Morning Worship**

Leader/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter

Christine Morgan

Frances Hatfield

Sarah Prendergast &amp; another

Christine Lucas

Paul Lucas

Christine Lucas &amp; Sandra Billingham

---

**Thursday 29th May :ASCENSION DAY ..(See page 13)**

# 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 Family Service on third Sunday 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](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)



Steeple held its Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the church on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

We were delighted that Fiona Ashworth agreed to become our Church Warden, supported by Rhona Leech and Teresa Julien as Assistant Wardens. The Parochial Church Council was also strengthened by the addition of two new members.

As Spring fades into Summer, we must turn our attention to preparations for our two big 'fund raising' activities. The first of these will be Wheels Hooves and Paws to be held at Elmwood Equestrian Centre, Burnham-on-Crouch on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, thanks to Anne Hull. This event is jointly organised by the three PCC's of Althorne, Creeksea and Steeple, with any surpluses shared. As well as horse and dog related competitions there will be plenty of interesting vehicles to see, refreshments to enjoy and a variety of stalls to browse.

Just five weeks later, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August, we will again be holding Steeple Historic Gathering on the Grange Farm meadow.

## **FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Thursday 29th May is ASCENSION DAY**

There will be a Holy Communion Service  
at St Leonard's Church at 7.30 pm

#### **Steeple Church contacts:**

Rev'd Canon Peter Begley, Vicar, 01621 772 300

Fiona Ashworth, Churchwarden,

Rhona Leech, Assistant Churchwarden

and PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Assistant Churchwarden,

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

## **Holiday Club 2025**

This special 3-Day event for children will be held in  
St Leonard's church on Tuesday 19th August  
Wednesday 20th August and Thursday 21st August.

This year's Club is **“DIARY OF A DISCIPLE”**

Registration forms will be in the local school by 1st July  
following full details being on posters in early June.

The celebration service to end the Week will be on  
Sunday 24th August.

# Henry Church Cleaning Club 2025



The cleaning continues on in the Church and we are blessed to be part of a really faithful team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits as some of us are slowing down a bit!!

We meet fortnightly on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am. If you could spare just a little time during those 2 hours or even if you could come monthly it would be a great help.

If you would like to give it a try and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me directly.

## **SATURDAY CLUB**

for Primary School children

Saturday morning (monthly) in church

9.30 am - 11.30 am

£1 per child

Children can join in craft, music, games etc. or just spend time chatting with their friends.

As usual, the day after Saturday Club is our Family Celebration in the church at 11 am.



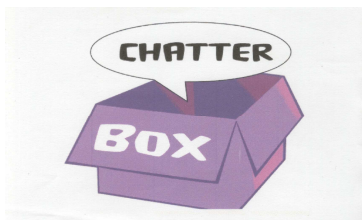
**LITTLE LIONS'** usually meet on Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall but this is **during term-time only**. It is for babies, toddlers & their carers. The families join the main services, especially the Family Celebrations every second Sunday.

## **SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL**

**LUNCH CLUB** meets on most Mondays.  
If you would like any information please phone  
Dave Christie 07775 758118.

---

### **Fancy a chat?**



At the Memorial Hall  
10.00 - 12.00 Thursday mornings

As well as chatting there's tea, coffee, biscuits (and sometimes cake) jigsaws, crafts, newspapers, board games - and chatting isn't compulsory!

---

### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

**Tuesday 27th May**

**Rev'd Keith Lovell : Sea Shanties**

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

Lots of books are available on the shelves at the back of church for you to borrow and enjoy, and then - of course - return. If you have books that you don't need any more, speak with Christine Lucas about donating them to church.

## 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.

June 2025	1	8	15	22	29
July 2025	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.**



This year's **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** is Sunday 11th May until Saturday 17th May.

Opportunities for everyone to contribute financially will be clear via posters and church notices. There will be no door-to-door collection but envelopes for your gifts will be available in church and other places.

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.



**Who are we?**

**We are part of God's Family --- the Church.**

**Everyone is invited to be part of this family.**

To keep aware of what is happening, and to participate on line with services, log into the website

<https://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk/>

Also, we have a WhatsApp group entitled

"Together Apart Our Church". Lots of people are involved in this.

These links have been greatly appreciated by regular Church family members and also by people who have not, to date, attended our church services. It is good to 'allow' God to point us in possible new directions and then to respond.

**God has a plan .... with hope for future.**

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

### **A notice about our offerings to God.**

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

Barclays Bank

Sort code: **20.54.30**

A/c No. **80825107**

A/c Name: Southminster Parochial Church Council.

**For Steeple use:** Sort code: **20.54.30**

A/c No. **60842494**

A/c Name: Steeple Parochial Church Council.

**St Leonard's Church**  
will be hosting a concert by  
**THE REMEDY BAND**

On Sunday 11th May

At 4 pm

Following a "Tea and Cake" time from 2pm

Joint entrance will cost £10 per person

As usual, financial contributions collected at the  
concert will be sent to charities.

Possible recipients this year will be

**Help for Heroes**

since the day remembers VE Day

and **Christian Aid**

Since this will be the first day of  
**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.**

Other local charities which may be on the list  
include the **Knightswood Day Care Centre.**

Full information will be available on posters in  
advance and on detail in church.

---

**PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:**

w/b	4 May	Central - North-West
w/b	11 May	Central - East
w/b	18 May	Central - South
w/b	25 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](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**Contact:** [vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**Telephone** 01621 772300

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 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)**

Details of the actual programme are available in church and  
on the notice boards.