

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

StL



and also for Steeple Parish

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



Southminster Harvest gifts

See also Steeple details (p 14-15) & special article (p 20)

NOVEMBER 2021

Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up. Galatians 6 v 9

- 3 Vicar's Reflection Rev'd Canon Peter Begley
- 5 Some wise and challenging words from Archbishop Stephen
- 6 Respect Brenda Sheppard
- 8 A Creation-friendly Church Ken Dunstan
- 10 Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
Coronavirus details - even though restrictions may be lifted
- 11 Rotas (though not in detail yet),
Facebook Group (St Leonard's Together Apart) Karen Flack
- 12-13 Services and events in November for St Leonard's
- 14 Steeple Church News Peter Marshall
- 16 Steeple Church Rotas for November
Food Pantry details
- 17 Neighbouring Events on 20th November (Tillingham and Althorne)
Pray for Southminster
- 18 The state of the world Chris Martin
- 19 Personal recollections of Sir David Amess Ken Dunstan
- 20 How does your garden grow? Kathy Pegg
- 21 Memorial Hall details including Dengie Hundred Ladies Group
- 22 What's On this month and onwards
- 23 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 24 Who are we? ... Details of our 'normal' Church family life.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the December magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by
Sunday November 14th
New contributors are welcome.*

If you have picked up your magazine from the back of church please consider having it regularly. At 50p per issue it is good value but we'd like to know in advance so we can print the right number of copies each month. ***Kath***

Vicar's Reflection

We really enjoyed our trip 'up north' during September to the Yorkshire Dales staying in a very lovely cottage in a tiny hamlet just outside the small market-town of Hawes. Every morning we could see, from the bedroom window, blue skies clear to the other side of Wensleydale across the river and right up towards the next dale. Then, in the evenings, the sunsets we viewed from the courtyard garden, over the dry-stone walls towards the hills, were just astonishing. We have visited this part of Yorkshire many times in the past, staying in various cottages and walking or touring the numerous other dales and admiring its soft beauty. On one occasion Fiona and I walked up and over Buckden Pike, and at the peak there is a war memorial dedicated to five young Polish airmen who died when their Wellington Bomber crashed on Buckden Pike during a snowstorm in 1942. While we stood there looking in quiet thought at the memorial, we could hear a sound approaching us that we couldn't make out: it was a low buzzing getting much louder and we thought it might be a microlite or something similar, but it actually turned out to be a very large bumble-bee making its way along to the huge beds of heather on the hill. We were astounded that it was so quiet on the top of the hill that we could hear a bumble-bee flying toward us. We sat down to enjoy the panorama – along with a cup of tea from the flask, just watching and listening to the quiet (if you can do such a thing!).

Although we were unable to do very much walking this time, we still enjoyed the many quiet moments parked on the 'tops' amongst the heather and sheep, looking in jaw-dropped silence at the wonder and utterly glorious mauve, green, brown and gold colours of the hills in the setting of the sun or, on

another day, in the bright light of the morning sun against a 360-degrees clear blue sky. It was truly astounding... breath-taking, even. It made me think on the words in the book of Job when God finally answers Job in chapter 38: God says “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Who determined its measurements? To what were its foundations fastened? Through the next 3 chapters God describes how he created out of love and made a beautiful place for us to dwell with all the other creatures. Deep questions that God asks yet we have no answer, but we are still allowed to be part of it and share the delight in it, with God.

Holidays are the times that we step back from “the usual” and spend some time in a different environment to refresh our souls and rest our minds. A holiday is allowing ourselves to see God from another angle where we step back to look without comment or opinion. That can be done in a back garden, on the beach, upon a hill, on a sea-wall, walking through a field – just taking a few moments to allow our cluttered minds filled with all our thoughts, to halt and rest; to consider and see God in the beauty or raw-ness of creation.

When we give ourselves permission to rest awhile, we are able to see more, hear more, smell more; to have a few moments which create good memories to be stored in our minds for those times that we need comfort and peace. My dear, late, father-in-law used to call them his “mental videos” which he would dwell on and replay during nights when he couldn’t sleep.

These thoughts reminded me of the poem by W.H. Davies



“What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.”

Take a few moments today, to quieten ourselves, to ponder, and dwell in the moment, with God and set ourselves determinedly to ‘see His handiwork’ ... to ‘hear’ Him. He is there.

Every blessing...

Peter

SOME WISE (AND CHALLENGING) WORDS

Stephen Cottrell, former Bishop of Chelmsford and now Archbishop of York, gave a lecture at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London recently. In it he addressed the fears of some that the Church of England is moving away from the Parish system that dates back over a thousand years. This snippet, below, is worth our thoughts and prayers.

Ken Dunstan

“I, too, want to save the parish. But the best way to save the parish is to grow the Church. And the best way to grow the Church is to proclaim the gospel. And the best way to proclaim the gospel is to so live your life in Christ that the beauty and radiance that we see in Christ shines in our lives and makes a difference in the world; it is the pursuit of holiness and the transparent, transformative indwelling of Christ that will save the parish.”

Respect

Mark 9 v 33-35 tells us about the disciples arguing on their way to Capernaum. Jesus asked them, “What were you arguing about?” but they kept quiet because on the way they were arguing about who was the greatest among them. Jesus said in Matthew 23 v12: “The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted”.



This led me on to think about respect, especially on how we view or compare ourselves to other people and not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought. One definition of respect being: “Due regard for the feelings, wishes or rights of others”. A group of us went through a course in September called “Living in Love and Faith”, a course on Christian teaching, dealing with the sensitive and complex questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. This caused us to look at differing life experiences to our own, it also caused us to look at our own maybe fixed mindset on how people should be.

There are so many ways of showing respect. How many of us remember standing for the National Anthem at the end of a cinema showing and how many of us tried to escape it!! How many of us as children had to call friends of the family Aunty or Uncle? How many of us stood when a teacher came into the classroom in our secondary schools? I wonder if any church congregations now stand when the Vicar or Priest enters the church from the vestry to begin the service? I can remember all of these examples but the one I really love from Scripture, especially as I am now of a certain age, is in Leviticus 19:32 where The Lord said to Moses “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say:

Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord”.

We now have resumed our practice of standing for the Gospel reading in church. I am led to believe the reason for this is that the Gospels are records of the words and teachings of Jesus speaking directly to us, so out of respect and reverence for the very Word of Christ, the Word Himself, we stand just as we would stand for any royalty who entered a room.

1 Thessalonians 5 v 12-13 says “Now we ask you brothers and sisters to acknowledge (and respect) those who work hard among you who care for you in the Lord, and who reprimand you, hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work”. Let us not be a stumbling block to others but to listen and not to always think we know best! Romans 14 v 9 says “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification (spiritual building up of individual Christians and of the church).

We see in our society the respect for our world in the climate change talks and actions. Obviously we can do so much more and look for ways as individuals and collectively to do so.

We know life changes constantly and we show respect in differing ways to maybe my younger years. Some changed for the better some maybe not so! Whichever opinion or standpoint we are coming from let us remember to listen, not to exalt ourselves above others and to show respect for others’ opinions and agree amicably to differ when circumstances dictate.



Brenda Sheppard

We learned in October that H.M. the Queen is irritated because those responsible for dealing with the changing climates of the world “talk, but don’t do.” Over the last three decades, awareness of global heating and its human causes has both grown and been denied.

Nature has done what climate science predicted. In 2010, average global temperatures had reached 0.8°Celsius above pre-industrial levels. They are now 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels. It is highly unlikely that we will hold the rise to the 1.5°C level hoped for at the Paris Climate Conference in 2015. What are the impacts of these decimal-point rises? In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported the difference between 1.5 degrees of warming and two degrees. That half-degree difference will have a huge impact on the world: twice the species loss of vertebrates and plants; 2.6 times more people exposed to severe heat; six more centimetres of sea level rise. Current trends suggest that a 3°C rise is more likely.

We are seeing those effects already. Since 1998, the UK has seen six of the ten wettest years on record. In the UK, the top 10 warmest years have all occurred since 2002. Droughts have caused record-breaking wildfires in several countries. Ice fields and glaciers are shrinking, and sea levels are rising. Storm-led floods have become more frequent. Those worst affected are already poor and have done least to pollute the atmosphere with “greenhouse” gases. Can we do anything?

Each year, the Conference of Parties (all the world’s countries) meets to discuss the latest science and decide what to do. Cop26 is in Glasgow this month. It may be as crucial as Cop21 in Paris which made it a legal requirement to attempt to limit global temperature rise to 2°C. While the politicians wrangle, we can do much ourselves. Do pray for this important conference.

The Church of England set up its ‘Shrinking the Footprint’ scheme in 2006. Care for the environment is *mandated* by the Fifth Mark of Mission, ‘**striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth**’. It is “a Gospel imperative” – a necessary part of discipleship. It also involves aspects of the other four Marks:

- The Good News of the Kingdom we are to proclaim includes the redemption of ‘all things’ (Col 1:20). (Mark1)
- The teaching of new believers should include communicating the need to care for God’s Creation.(Mark2)
- Human needs we are to address include the needs of the many people caught up every day in the effects of environmental degradation. (Mark3)

Unjust structures include the promotion of consumerism, the dominance of economic growth at any price, the accumulation of disproportionate resources by a few. (Mark4)

We can cut our Carbon Footprint in lots of ways. A good guide for this is included in the EcoChurch scheme, which guides registered churches in all aspects of sustainable discipleship. Southminster PCC has considered registration. More later.

EcoChurch asks about our worship, preaching and teaching – how much do other life forms in God’s world feature in this? It asks about our buildings – do we use energy efficiently? Our land – particularly how nature-friendly our churchyard is. Our community engagement – how far we co-operate with others (like, perhaps, FOSCOS). Our lifestyles – how far the church can assist its members to live in a more sustainable (and Gospel centred!) way in the choices they make.

Nobody tells us what to do. EcoChurch simply asks the questions and provides advice where needed as we seek more ethically and ecologically sound answers. Let’s get on board.

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 2021

We are pleased that restrictions have been lifted but we still need to be sensible and follow the guidelines.

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.

January 2022 2 9 16 23 30

February 2022 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.

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

began on 20th March 2020, just a few days before we went into lockdown. The group was created as a way to keep in touch, encourage and support each other during this difficult time. Since then we have shared songs, daily devotions, prayers, church services, Bible studies, Alpha courses

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.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP & EVENTS

Southminster services on line & hopefully in the church.

Saturday 6th November

St Leonard's Day

Leonard was a 6th Century Hermit in central France and was designated Patron Saint of prisoners and of women giving birth. His tomb near Limoges became an important pilgrimage centre in the 12th century.

Sunday 7th November

3rd Sunday before Advent

8 am Holy Communion BCP

10.45 am Family Holy Communion

4 pm Memorial Service (remembering lost loved-ones)

Jonah 3 : 1,-,5, 10

Psalm 62: 5 - end

Mark 1 : 14 - 20

(Epistle: Hebrews 9: 24 - end)

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive us in new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday 13th November

QUIZ NIGHT

6.30 pm in church with appropriate safety of course

Details will be available in posters. Look out for them.

Sunday 14th November

2nd Sunday before Advent

8 am Holy Communion BCP REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.00 am Remembrance Service in church

Daniel 12 : 1 - 3

Psalm 16

Mark 13 : 1 - 8

(Epistle: Hebrews 10 : 11-14, 19-25)

God our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

STEEPLE SERVICES ARE LISTED ON PAGE 16

Sunday 21st November

Sunday next before Advent

8 am Holy Communion BCP

CHRIST THE KING

10.45am Family Worship with collection of

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

so they will be ready to begin their long journeys.

Daniel 7 : 9 - 10, 13 - 14

Psalm 93

John 18 : 33 - 37

(Epistle: Revelation 1 : 4b - 8)

God, the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

Sunday 28th November

First Sunday of Advent

8 am Holy Communion BCP

10.45am Morning Worship

Jeremiah 33 : 14 - 16

Psalm 25 : 1 - 9

Luke 21 : 25 - 36

(Epistle: 1 Thess. 3 : 9 - end)

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Details will be available on posters.

At 4 pm the Southminster Christmas Lights

will be switched on and there will be outside
Carol Singing, particularly to include children.

ADVANCE NOTICE Wednesday 1st December

Light up a Life service in church at 7 pm

Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on church door. It's 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 each week on



www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Steeple Church was decorated with glorious flowers and even a sheaf of wheat for our traditional Harvest Festival at the end of September. A wide selection of produce and groceries, brought in by members of the congregation, were on display throughout the building as an expression of our gratitude for God's bounty.

A couple of days later, we took the canned and packeted goods to the Dengie Food Pantry at Southminster. Following our practice of recent years, all the fresh fruit and vegetables were taken to a women's refuge near Pitsea. Aware of this, Steeple Parish Council and the Steeple Community Group gave us several bags of toiletries and other non-food items to take to the women's refuge. As you would expect, the ladies were delighted to receive everything we brought.

The Harvest Service was followed by our Harvest Supper in Steeple Village Hall. We changed the format this year, in recognition of on-going social distancing recommendations. Instead of queuing for a choice of hot dishes served from the kitchen counter, diners found a selection of cheeses, pickles, a salad, bread rolls and

butter laid out on each table. Before people could tuck into their “ploughman’s”, a quiche was delivered to their table and the supper was nicely completed with a choice of trifle or apple pie and cream. As usual, the good selection of prizes offered in the raffle tempted people to buy lots of tickets.

We are immensely grateful to those people who provided, prepared and served the food and to those who donated raffle prizes. Although fewer people came to the Supper this year than two years ago, it generated a surplus of just over £200. Most people seemed happy with the new format so it may well be continued.

After the joys of our Harvest celebrations, November’s Remembrance Sunday brings a different kind of thanksgiving. Our service at Steeple will start at 10.30 instead of 9.15 so that the ‘silence’ can be timed for 11.00.

Our
offer-
ing
for
the
Food
Pantry

Thank
you
every-
one.



STEEPLE CHURCH ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday Prayer Rota for 9.15am services

7th	Family Service	Teresa Julien
14th 10.30	Remembrance Sunday	service
21st	Morning Worship	Fiona Begley
28th	Holy Communion	t.b.a.

Flower arranging and cleaning in church ready for each Sunday

7th	Mrs F Begley
14th	Mrs M DeAth
21st	Mrs F Ashworth
28th	Mrs R Leech

As usual,

To arrange a

**Wedding, Blessing, Baptism or Funeral
please contact Rev'd Canon Peter Begley
01621 772 300**

vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

The Vicarage, Burnham Road, Southminster, CM0 7ES

FOOD PANTRY

It is good that both churches have supported The Dengie Food Pantry with Harvest gifts (see front cover). The Pantry meets at Christ Church every Wednesday and is struggling, because of the various financial and food shortages being experienced by so many people. The local needs each week are listed next to a donation bin at the back of church in full view of the congregation so we can't miss it.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS NEEDING SUPPORT

First St Nicholas Church ART EXHIBITION

St Nicholas Church, Tillingham

**on
Saturday 20th November**

10.00 am to 4.30 pm

Teas, Coffees and Cakes available.

All proceeds to St Nicholas Friends for the organ refurbishment

**Enquiries to exhibit contact
Pam Burton 01621 779575**

ALTHORNE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

at

Althorne Church Hall

on

Saturday 20th November

11.00am to 3.00 pm

Gifts Bric-a-Brac Books

Competitions Raffle Jigsaws

Teas, coffees, rolls, cakes etc.

in aid of Church Funds



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

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

The State of the World Chris Martin

Once again I was sitting here wondering what to write about today when the news came over the radio of the death of Sir David Amess.

It is not my intention to discuss politics here, but I am sure everyone's heart goes out to the family and friends of Sir David, an MP in our fairly local area.

What worries me about this event nearly as much as the horror of it having happened at all, and obviously for no good reason, is that it happened in a church.

Whatever happened to Sanctuary? Remember Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* – practically living in the church as it was his only place of safety? These days we wouldn't be giving this title to a story of a man with spinal problems. That's too politically incorrect and that's fine – respect to all. We'd choose better words because in some ways we are growing better as people and becoming more sensitive to others. And we tend to help disabled people rather than disown them as in that horrible story. But what happened to the sanctuary that should have kept Sir David safe?

To commit one of the worst of crimes – sins - in a place of spiritual worship, where people go to communicate with their God and to try to find calm in their souls and find fellowship with people around them, seems to be the lowest of acts. This news is only just airing as I write so we don't know anything about the mental health of the killer but it is so sad that just as, as a species, we start to find ourselves as decent people in our improving treatment of each other, suddenly something happens to demonstrate that it is still possible for terrible things to happen unexpectedly, undeservedly, and with no apparent good reason.

Our children are, apparently suffering from mental health problems because like us they are worrying about the state of the planet with its Global Warming and wondering if we will cope with it, never-ending wars and wondering if they will ever end, and still trying to learn and attain good exam results in order to work in a world of which they will soon be in charge. What a burden is falling onto their young shoulders! Crimes like today's often have a political root to them.

Friends – it seems to be that for us here it's a question of most of us taking one day at a time while the young, strong and brave stand up and start to bring the planet back to some kind of viability. We older ones can do little else than look out of the window and appreciate the blue sky and the nature that we have around this village and remember our Small Blessings as mentioned last month...let's be thankful for whatever good health we have, whatever family and friends we have around us, and for the fact that we are not in a war-torn country or a poverty-stricken country. As we approach Christmas it's the time to remember we ARE fortunate compared to others and to help as much as we can. I know St Leonard's has a number of projects around Christmastime to which we can donate.

Let's remember David Amess and all the others like him who have given their lives trying to better the lives of those around them. RIP.

Some personal thoughts about the late Sir David Amess

Ken Dunstan

Around fourteen years ago I was invited to deputise for a Southend clergyman in saying grace for a Pensioners' Dinner. At the table I found myself sandwiched between the two Southend MPs, Teddy Taylor and David Amess. I knew of David only from seeing him perform on TV and on that brief encounter I wasn't impressed. The man I met that day was altogether better. He was friendly, articulate and very ready to proclaim himself a Christian. I liked him!

I'll not pontificate on the reasons for his murder, other than to recognise that over the centuries, European countries have been guilty of much injustice in mainly-Muslim lands. The aftermath of broken promises doesn't excuse terrorist murders, but it does highlight the need for Christians to live the faith. Pray for the young man accused of David's murder, who has been seduced by violent extremism, that he may be enlightened and repent of his sin. Pray, too, for those who must deal with the case, that decisions are made out of justice, not out of any sense of revenge.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Kathy Pegg

Before the Harvest Service at St Leonard's on the 17th October, I'd been praying for ideas and inspiration for the church decorations and eventually two Scriptures came to my mind. The first was Galatians 5:22-23 : 'But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control; against such things there is no law.' Fruits of the Spirit, I thought, well that would certainly seem to link into the theme of food and Harvest, spiritual blessings that could be gathered into oneself and also shared out to others. The second Scripture was Psalm 34:8 'Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!'. Ah ha, I thought, I can see a food link here! Sometimes we can be reluctant to try unfamiliar foods, but just think how we could miss out on delicious new flavours that become new favourites. How much more should we open our minds and hearts to get a fresh 'taste' of God.

And that is how, at the Harvest Service, there came to be a 'tree' in the church doorway with rainbow-coloured 'Spiritual fruits' hanging on it.

A few days later I had this thought: although I'm no gardener I can see how easily unchecked weeds will overpower the cherished plants and choke the flowers and fruit. It came to me that the fruits of the Spirit so carefully planted in our hearts by the Father can just as easily be withered if neglected. For each 'fruit' there is a blight, a weed or disease that will diminish the fullness of the fruit's harvest or destroy it completely



if not rooted out. The blight that destroys Love is Hatred. Joy is withered by Despair, Peace is choked by Anxiety, Patience by Impatience, Kindness blighted by Malice, Goodness/Generosity by Selfishness, Faithfulness is choked by Distrust and Disbelief, Gentleness by Anger and Self-control is overpowered by Wilfulness.

Maybe forewarned is forearmed in the nurturing and fruitfulness of this harvest and so I mean to be diligent in the cultivation of my spiritual fruits... and in nipping the negative weeds in the bud!

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

BINGO continues monthly on first Tuesdays at 7pm for 7.30pm. If you are interested, please just come along or you may ring **Kath Savage on 07434 915467** for more details.

LUNCH CLUB continues on Mondays (but not first of month). Please call by the previous Friday to book your place. £5.00 for two courses plus tea/coffee. Ring Kath Savage

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 on 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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 or text Kath Savage. It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet at 7.30 pm on Tuesday November 23rd

Speaker: Michael Farley Good King Hal.

Competition : Wildlife Ornament

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

COMING UP THIS MONTH AND ONWARDS

Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes are available in church and other places listed below. Please study the leaflet and fill the box appropriately, ready for it to be received in the church service on Sunday 21st November. Collect a box and leaflet from 14a Burnham Road or from Chapman's Stores, Southminster Butcher & the Memorial Hall (on Lunch Club Mondays & Chatterbox on Thursdays).



The **LIGHT UP A LIFE** service will happen on Wednesday 1st December at 7 pm outside the church as usual. It will be prepared by and for the Farleigh Hospice and will be an opportunity to thank the Lord and the Hospice staff for all they do for people in such difficult circumstances.

We hope to be able to receive our normal collection of Christmas gifts at the **TOY SERVICE** on 5th December. As usual, you are asked to choose toys (new and safe) for the children and toiletries for the parents. These will be taken to the Women's Refuge where they will be appreciated as usual.

The church Christmas trees will arrive on 6th December to be decorated ready for the **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** on 11th December at 2 pm which promises to be great fun for children and their families because there will be Santa's Grotto. Details will be available soon, especially for the following: Children's events include Little Lions Party, Christingles (also at Steeple) and Christmas Eve Crib Service 4pm

Full details of all the Christmas services and gatherings will be published in good time - and should be appropriately listed in a Church Christmas Card which will be delivered to every home in Southminster and Steeple. Please pray that the 'delivery volunteer team' will be fit and well enough to carry out the task as usual.



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

NORMAL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS STILL A BIT DIFFERENT BECAUSE
ALTHOUGH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN REDUCED WE STILL
RECOMMEND THAT APPROPRIATE CAUTIONS ARE TAKEN.

See pages 10-13 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.



Home Groups are still not gathering but plans are in progress
for future gatherings/courses.