

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

**StL**



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



**NOVEMBER 2024**

Jesus said,  
“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you,  
pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:27-28)

- 3 November Reflection ..... Rev'd Ken Dunstan
- 5 Farewell Jacqui ..... Kath Dunstan
- 6 Our Grief Journey ..... Brenda Sheppard
- 7 **ECO** tip of the month for November (from A Rocha)  
Wycliffe Bible Translators ..... News update
- 8 St Leonard: our church's saint ..... Ken Dunstan
- 9 Alpha Course for the New Year
- 10-11 **Services at St. Leonard's during November**
- 12 Steeple Church News ..... Peter Marshall
- 13 Details of a Concert in November
- 14 Henry Cleaning Team update ..... Brenda Sheppard  
Saturday Club Details and Southminster Hub Update
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme including Chatterbox,  
Little Lions and Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas) & Prayers in church,
- 17 Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted  
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 More local concerts (Althorne and Dengie)  
Christmas Shoeboxes and Toy Service details  
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

***NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:***

*Articles for the December  
magazine should be with  
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,  
**Sunday 17th November**  
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!)

## **A November Reflection**

**Rev. Ken**

No sun - no moon!  
No morn - no noon -  
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.  
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member -  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -  
November!

*Thomas Hood*

Thomas Hood's famous poem is grimly pessimistic. An unknown author claimed, "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go." Others have rejoiced in the colours of autumn leaves which as they fall, "they fly, they wander and take their time on this, their only chance to soar." Summer is definitely over and by the end of the month we'll be in winter. So what can we make of November?

More than most, November is the month of remembering, starting with All Saints' Day on the first, and All Souls on the second. As people nowadays spend small fortunes on all things frightening, ghastly and horrific for Hallowe'en on 31<sup>st</sup> October, let's remind ourselves that the name really means the "Eve of All Hallows," the day before All Saints, just as Christmas Eve is the day before Christmas Day.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, praise God for those whose faith built the Church and changed the world, sometimes at the cost of their lives.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, All Souls Day, thank God for those we have loved and lost.

Four days later, on 6<sup>th</sup> November the Church remembers our own patron, St Leonard (see page 8).

Despite having just celebrated All Saints Day, the Church of England remembers the Saints and Martyrs of England on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but the chief object of remembering is, this year, the 10<sup>th</sup>, as we remember how on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the guns of the First World War fell silent. Alas, the peace lasted only 21 years, partly because the “winning” side exacted revenge rather than following Jesus’ command, “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:27-28) That’s difficult almost to the point of impossibility – as Jesus acknowledged, but it was echoed in the words of Martin Luther King Jr, who said in 1963, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” Whether or not this was acknowledged, the treatment of Germany after the Second World War was markedly different and our former foes are our opponents only in football matches.

Throughout the month we have a countdown to two things. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Christ the King. Jesus fled up a mountain to avoid being “made” a king. When Pontius Pilate said to Him, “So you are a king, then,” He replied “My kingdom is not of this world.” November ends with the challenge that Christ the King offers, to live the values of the Kingdom of God that Jesus inaugurated, not only by his teaching and healing, but on the cross-shaped throne on which he died.

The second thing, this year, is actually on 1<sup>st</sup> December, Advent Sunday, when we turn from remembering to anticipating. Advent bids us to look forward, not only to celebrating Jesus’ first coming as a human baby, but also to his coming to rule hearts, minds and conduct.

No, Thomas Hood. November isn’t so bad!

Every blessing,

Ken

---

### **Farewell Jacqui.**

It was great to be able to share, with so many Southminster and Steeple people, the launch of Jacqui’s ministry in South Woodham Ferrers on Monday 14th November. The service was really good and Bishop Adam gave some important advice to her in his sermon. Particularly, he said “God who began a good work in you, Jacqui, will be faithful and will complete it.” There was a challenge to everyone present, too, even those who feel unworthy. “Jesus doesn’t want you because of what you’ve got; Jesus wants YOU and will give you Himself.

Kath

# Our Grief Journey

One thing that is a certainty in our lives is that we will encounter grief. We will all experience loss at some time albeit in differing circumstances, and we have to learn and manage to overcome the obstacles we may come up against as we navigate our way through. Most of us want to run away from grief but we know deep down that we need to face it and often need help to do just that.

There is no right or wrong way to grieve and even though there can be differing stages we may go through like shock, denial, anger, fear or guilt. We must remember that every person's grief experience is unique to them.

We read recently about an insight into the difference between grief and mourning. It said that grief is the inward process that involves our thoughts and feelings after a loss, and mourning is the outward process that is shown in our expression of grief the: 'Grief other people see' and it may be misconstrued that people have got over a loss very quickly if they don't outwardly show it but inwardly hurt deeply.

At St. Leonard's we are holding an 8-week Bereavement Course beginning on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of November from 7-8pm where people can come and be with others on their journey, no matter how new or far along that is. For some of us it's good to know at sad and difficult times that we aren't alone and can journey together and share memories and points of need.



2 Corinthians 1 v 3 – 4 says “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God”

If you would like to come along to the course in November please contact Jenny

Or Brenda

---

## Eco Tip of the Month from A Rocha

### November 2024

Clean bird feeders to prevent diseases spreading to winter migrants. Install a nest box well before breeding season to provide a cosy retreat for small birds during cold winter nights. Prepare to support more birds next year, with more tips at [arocha.org.uk/give-abird-a-home](http://arocha.org.uk/give-abird-a-home).

As you observe the local birds reflect on this verse, ‘I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.’ Psalm 50:11.

---

**Wycliffe  
Bible  
Translators**

The latest news from Steve and Johanna Pillinger has arrived and is at the back of the church for your attention. Please give thanks for the completion of the Mitto translation and typesetting, the new ways Johanna can live and work, and good health for the whole family seeking their way ahead with God. Please pray for the printing of the Mitto NT in Korea to go smoothly and for its impact there. Pray for a way forward to produce a revised Rendille Dictionary, and for daughter Jen in her new Wycliffe South Africa work.

## St Leonard, our church's saint

We know a little of Leonard, much legend. He was a Frank, born in the late 5<sup>th</sup> century. Legend says he was a courtier to King Clovis, the first Frankish king in France. They were both converted to Christ in 496 by St Remy. Leonard became a hermit in the forest East of Limoges, where he gathered several disciples. His prayers were seen as causing miraculous healings of women in labour and the release of prisoners. Leonard is the patron saint of both groups. He died in 559AD and is celebrated on 6 November.



*St Leonard's Tomb 2004*

church. Many pilgrims came to honour him. A fancy goods shop next to the church has a plaque labelled "The Legend of St Leonard". It encourages women seeking pregnancy to touch the shackles on Leonard's tomb, and leave the Saint to ensure success.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Century "*Life of St Leonard*" says he welcomed freed prisoners, giving them shelter and work so

An 11<sup>th</sup>  
Century legend  
says he founded  
a monastery in  
Noblat, a village  
20 kilometres  
from Limoges. It  
was renamed  
St Léonard-de-  
Noblat. Leonard  
is buried in the



they had a new start in life. There are 177 churches in England dedicated to this French hermit, a man of prayer who refused riches and served his local community. Quite a good example!

Ken Dunstan

---

## **The ALPHA COURSE**

Explore the meaning of life!

### **Alpha for the New Year**

The new course will continue on Thursday evenings at the Vicarage, but not until January 2025, following consultation with the original people who supported and attended it.

The evening starts with a meal together followed by a short talk and discussion in a small group.

No experience necessary; come as you are and get to know others while learning about the Christian faith.

The evening starts at 6.30 pm

There is a new sign-up sheet at the back of the church.



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.

## Sunday 3rd November

## All Saints Day Shoebox Sunday



### 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher  
Hebrews 9: 11 - 14  
Mark 12: 28 - 34  
Sidesperson

Rev'd Ken / Brenda Sheppard  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Gordon Baker

---

### 11.00 Morning Worship for **SHOEBOX SUNDAY**

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

Norman Pratt / Brenda Sheppard  
Gwyneth Iffland  
Fiona Begley  
Christine Lucas & Yvonne Thurbon  
Christine Morgan  
Gwyneth Iffland  
Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

---

### 4.00 pm Memorial Service

Leaders

Jenny Pratt & Brenda Sheppard

---

## Sunday 10th November

### 08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher  
Hebrews 9 : 24 - end  
Mark 1 : 14 - 20  
Sidesperson

### Remembrance Sunday

Rev'd Peter/Jenny Pratt  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Paul Lucas

---

### 10.00 Remembrance Service

Leaders  
Readings  
Intercessions  
Audio-visuals  
Sidesperson  
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt  
t.b.a.  
t.b.a.  
Christine Lucas  
Gordon Baker & Kathy Carnell  
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

## **Sunday 17th November**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
Hebrews 10 : 11 - 14  
Mark 13 : 1 - 8  
Sidesperson

## **2nd Sunday before Advent**

Rev'd Ken / Brenda Sheppard  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Leon Flack

---

### **11.00 Family Celebration**

Leader/Preacher	Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn
Prayer Ministry	Sarah Prendergast & Frances Hatfield
Audio-Visuals	Christine Morgan
Sidesperson	Brenda Sheppard
Refreshments	Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

---

## **Sunday 24th November**

### **08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher  
Revelation 1 : 4b - 8  
John 18 : 33 - 37  
Sidesperson

## **Christ the King**

Rev'd Peter  
Celebrant  
Celebrant  
Keith Hatfield

---

### **11.00 Morning Worship & TOY SERVICE**

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
Readings as above	Linda Payne
Intercessions	Brenda Sheppard
Prayer Ministry	Sylvia & Fiona Begley
Audio-Visuals	Sylvia Adams
Sidesperson	Kath Dunstan
Refreshments	Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

Be ready for the Christingle Service on Dec. 1st  
and "Light up a Life" on Dec. 4th

## 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's Harvest Festival on Sunday 6th October was attended by almost seventy people, including around 11 children with their families. That's more than three times the number coming to a typical Sunday service so we were really pleased to see so many new faces. The church had been beautifully decorated with fresh flowers, produce and other goods, with more goods donated during the service.

The displays were short-lived because on the Tuesday following, all the canned and packeted goods went to the Dengie Food Bank and all the fresh produce was taken to a women's refuge in Pitsea. All were gratefully received.

Our wonderful home-cooked 2 hot-courses Harvest Supper followed the Festival service the same evening and was much enjoyed and appreciated by us all. We were grateful to Michael and Jane Pudney for letting

us hold the Supper in their charming barn at West Newlands. Sharing the event with friends from the Church of St Lawrence really did make it all the more enjoyable.

Now we must plan for Remembrance Sunday. This year has marked the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “D Day” and, by November 1944, our forebears were quietly confident of clearing the Nazis out of Western Europe. Our service will be at 10.30 am.

**Steeple Church contacts:**

Rev'd Canon Peter Begley, Vicar, 01621 772 300  
Rhona Leech, Churchwarden and PCC Secretary,  
Teresa Julien, Assistant Churchwarden,  
Fiona Ashworth, Assistant Churchwarden,  
Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer and Verger,

**An upcoming Event for your diaries:**

**Concert in St Leonard's Church**  
**by**  
**EVERY VOICE SINGS**  
**on**  
**Saturday 16th November at 5 pm**

More details will be available nearer to the date.

Do try to join us for this.

## Henry Church Cleaning Club 2024

The cleaning continues on in the Church! We are blessed to be part of a really faithful team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits. We have also been blessed by the addition of two new members who are a great asset and do a great job as do the faithful members who have been cleaning for many years. 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. You will be made very welcome.



### **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.

**2024 dates:** 16th Nov., 7th Dec.

The day after every Saturday Club is our Family Celebration in the church at 11 am where there will be an opportunity for the children to share anything they have created at the club.

**Southminster Community Hub** The work goes on at the URC church building in North Street. Quotes are being sought for necessary renovations. A Community development worker has been appointed to guide local organisations, e.g. Citizens Advice and Food Pantry, to assist where there are every day living needs.

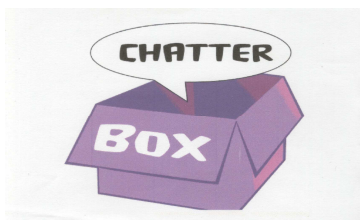
## **SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL**

**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!

---



**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. Monthly Saturday Club has started.

---

### **DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP**

**Tuesday 26th November**

**Jane and Janet Flower Arranging**

**Competition : Photo of my garden**

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243

## **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.

December 2024	1	8	15	22	24	25	29
January 2025	5	12	19	26			

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

Let us all continue to pray to our loving Father  
in these very difficult times.

For family members - near and far - and neighbours  
For people suffering loneliness, illness and/or bereavement  
For people making decisions about treatment  
For hospital staff, carers, front-line workers including teachers  
For people suffering financially because of unemployment....  
And let us remember "Father, your will be done."  
We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.



## 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.

**ALTHORNE**  
**Christmas Bazaar,**  
 Saturday 30th November,  
 11 am until 3 pm  
 in Althorne Church Hall  
 in aid of the  
 church repairs fund  
 Various items for sale  
 (books, puzzles, gifts,  
 Christmas decorations),  
 Refreshments, raffle, tombola,  
 competitions.

**The Remedy Band**  
 in Concert with  
 special guest, Rev Simon Law.  
 at **Dengie Village Hall,**  
**Saturday 30th November.**  
 8 pm - 10.30 pm  
 Music from the 50's to the 90's  
 with some gospel songs and  
 Interview testimony with  
 Julian May & Simon Law.  
 Tickets £10 / Refreshments

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We are managing the Shoebox Collection as usual.

We hope you are already involved.

Details are available in church - as are the boxes ready to fill.

The boxes should be returned to the church by 3rd November  
 when there will be a **SHOEBOX SERVICE**.

We also want to encourage people to give toys or toiletries for  
 the women and their children in the **Refuge**. This has been  
 greatly appreciated in the past. Your offerings should be given  
 to church members or returned to the church by Sunday 24th  
 November, when there will be a **TOY SERVICE**

---

## PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b      3 November Central - West  
 w/b      10 November North - East  
 w/b      17 November Central - North-West  
 w/b      24 November 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 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.



Everyone is  
welcome to join.  
Details on board.

**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.