

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



and also for Steeple Parish

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



**Newly ordained Rev'd Jacqui King
with our Vicar, Rev'd Peter,
and Bishop Guli of Chelmsford,
in Chelmsford Cathedral on September 4th.**

- 3 Reflection Rev'd Ken Dunstan
- 5 Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
Coronavirus details - even though restrictions may be lifted
- 6 What's in a Word? Brenda Sheppard
- 8 To discover the past start digging Ken Dunstan
- 10 A Franciscan Prayer for this month
- 11 Rotas (though not in detail yet),
Facebook Group (St Leonard's Together Apart) Karen Flack
- 12-13 Services in October for St Leonard's
- 14 An ancient building Chris Martin
- 16 Steeple Church News Peter Marshall
- 18 Steeple Church Rotas for September
St Leonard's Church needs your help
- 19 Dengie Food Pantry notice
Climate Change Conference (COP26)
Pray for Southminster
- 20 Foxearth Meadows Newsletter
- 22 Southminster Memorial Hall is open again
Dengie Hundred Ladies Group
- 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 November magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by
Sunday October 17th
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***

A Reflection from Ken Dunstan

In mid-September we welcomed the Reverend Jacqui King to the benefice after her ordination as Deacon. The title – job description – she has received is our Curate. Quite rightly, she described her situation as being part of her training, a process that over three or four years will culminate in her becoming a Parish Priest “somewhere”. As Jacqui put it, it’s like having passed her driving test and getting rid of her L plates, but now having P plates to remind the world that she hasn’t yet had the experience of driving in a variety of situations.

What’s in a name? At Caesarea Philippi Jesus asked the disciples two questions: “Who do people say I am?” and, “Who do YOU say I am?” Our answers will inform and to some extent direct our conduct. So what’s a Curate – just an “apprentice vicar”? Or is there more? In the 1662 Prayer Book the Prayer for the Church, “militant here in earth” includes “Bishops and Curates”, that they might properly fulfil their ministries of teaching the Faith and administering the Sacraments. Hold on a moment: what about Vicars and Rectors? They’re not mentioned!

When I ceased being a ‘Curate’ and was installed as a Parish Priest, the Bishop handed me a licence, with the words, “Receive the cure of souls, which is both mine and yours.” At that point, I became “Priest in Charge, known as Rector” of my parishes. What, me? ‘Curing’ souls? As it happens, in France the Parish Priest is called the Curé, and his deputy if he has one is called the Vicar. A title past Popes have claimed is that of “Vicar of Christ,” Christ’s Deputy until He returns. I was known as “Rector” in one appointment and “Vicar” in another.

Most vicars in England started as deputies to the Rector – Rector meant “Ruler”. Some Rectors had other roles, like the Prior of St Osyth who was Rector of Southminster. They appointed Vicars to run their parishes. When the Monasteries were closed, many Rectors were laymen, happy to collect tithes from their tenants and leave a Vicar to do the religious stuff.

So what of being a “Curate”? In TV’s “Pointless” programme, one question sometimes involves changing a single letter in a word. So “Cure” can change to “Care”. A Curate is a Caretaker. He or she is an ordained member of the Church’s team offering care for the people of the parish. Curates start as Deacons, for at least a year. The role of Deacons began when a dispute between Jewish and Gentile Christians arose over “the daily distribution”. The apostles were too busy to “wait on tables”; “preaching the word of God” was their role. Seven men were appointed, “of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom,” to deal with the Church’s charitable work (Acts 7:1-6). They were called “diakonoi” – servants. This role of pastoral care continues in the current Ordination of Deacons, with the addition of assisting the Parish Priest in preaching and teaching, leading worship and assisting with the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

We have welcomed Jacqui to our benefice. Do keep in your prayers Jacqui, her husband Mac and all their family - many of whom were able to attend Jacqui’s “Welcome” service on 12th September.

Ken

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

What's in a Word?

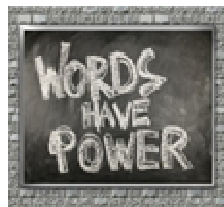
by Brenda Sheppard

Have you ever noticed the word “Selah” in the Bible especially in the Psalms? My NKJ, (New King James Bible)¹ still includes the word after some of the verses in the Psalms but the more modern versions don't. The NIV (New International Version) removed it from the Biblical text in 2011 but refers to it in some of its footnotes. “Selah” was possibly removed as it is a word of uncertain meaning but has been referred to as a musical notation that may have indicated a rest/pause. I am led to believe that in the NKJ version that the word “Selah” occurs 71 times in 39 of the Psalms!

I have recently read a book by Lana Vawser entitled “A Time to Selah”. Lana has a heart to encourage the Body of Christ and individuals in their walk with Jesus, to have a deeper intimacy with him and learning to hear His voice. In her book Lana said she was sitting in her garden and felt the Lord whisper to her “I am inviting my people back to the garden with me for a Selah moment”. The garden speaking of communing with Him and walking with Him. The Garden of Eden once a place of peace became a place of fear and hiding from God because of man's disobedience. God wants to restore us to that close fellowship with Him, causing us to rest and pause our lives often.



Words can either breathe life and hope or despondency and disappointment. So often we live based on what news headlines, doctor's reports and circumstances tell us, but during life's bombardments God is calling for His people to come away with him for a time of Selah, a time to "pause and reflect", a time to align with what he is doing and saying in these changing times. He challenges us with the words "Ready or not here I come". He comes to confront our places of comfort, to accept new challenges, to open up a whole new realm and world of possibility, expectancy and faith. Hope being restored!



We notice today that new words appear in our vocabulary and also appear in new dictionaries, words that maybe enhance (or not) our modern life. One thing we are told in the precious, unchanging Word of God in our Bibles, is that "The Words of God are flawless" (Psalm 12 v 6) and the "Word of God is alive and active." (Hebrews 4 v 12). I am reminded of a song sung by the Bee Gees group in the late 60's/70's entitled "Words" which included the following "Talk in everlasting words and dedicate them all to me and I will give you all my life. I'm here if you should call to me". God speaks even in pop songs!!!!

One thing I've learnt whilst writing this is that I need to have many more "Selah" moments to rest and pause and then move on with Our Lord in his purposes for myself and for us all for His Praise and Glory.

To discover the past ... start digging

Ken Dunstan

Burnham is home to a branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A), an organisation for those who have finished working for a living, but haven't finished learning for life. It has an Archaeological Group that in the past two years has begun to unveil a previously hidden part of Southminster's past. We can dig into the past with the aid of libraries and the collection of documents housed in the Essex Record Office. We can also do it with spade, trowel and (really!) toothbrush. This has happened in the past two years in the rediscovery of a part of Southminster Hall that nobody knew about.



The view from the air can tell us a great deal about what lurks beneath the soil. In particular, the growth of plants can vary according to the remains of

buildings. Weather, too, makes a difference. A very dry period in 2018 meant that the outline of various subterranean walls was visible in aerial photographs of Southminster Hall, suggesting a building that didn't seem to appear in any of the known records.



The newly-formed Group enlisted the help of Tim Dennis from Colchester's Archaeological Group who completed a Geophysical Survey indicating that the site might be worth exploring. With permission from Maureen and Gavin Cooper, whose home it is, the back lawn of the Hall was dug in 2020 and 2021 to expose the base of several



walls. To protect the site, the trenches are to be refilled until it is appropriate to dig further, and on 18th and 19th September this year, the Group opened the site for an Open Day.

We were conducted round the site by the Bishop of London, Richard de Belmeis, who was consecrated in 1108. He looked remarkably like Terry Cook! Besides the open trenches

there was a comprehensive selection of pictures and documents explaining all that had happened and the way in which this early medieval building, unknown to the records, had been uncovered.



The discoveries occupied much of the lawn- probably rather more than Maureen and Gavin expected, but their delight in the discovery was evident when we spoke to them. It's possible that the building was part of the Bishop's properties, since he owned Southminster. At any rate, a gap in our knowledge is being filled.

Congratulations to the U3A Archaeological Group and their consultants, and thanks to Maureen and Gavin Cooper are due. U3A members were on hand to encourage interested people to join. Meetings are held at Burnham Village Hall on the first Friday of the month at 2:30pm.

Meanwhile, whether with pen or trowel, we'll keep digging.

A Franciscan Prayer for this month...

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

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 2021	5	12	19	24	25	26
January 2022	2	9	16	23	30	

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 etc.

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

OCTOBER WORSHIP

Details of services on line and hopefully in the church.
Steeple service details are listed on pages 16-17.

Sunday 3rd October

18th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion BCP

10.45 am Family Holy Communion

Job 1 : 1; 2 : 1 - 10

Psalm 26

Mark 10 : 2 - 16

(Epistle: Hebrews 1 : 1- 4; 2: 5 -12)

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 10th October

19th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion BCP

10.45am Family Worship

Job 23: 1 - 9, 16 - end :

Psalm 22 : 1 - 15

Mark 10 : 17 - 31

(Epistle: Hebrews 4 : 12 - end)

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***It is possible that there will be a shared
Harvest Lunch in church after the 10.45 service.
Full details will be available nearer the time.***

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

See details on page 18

Sunday 17th October

20th Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion BCP

10.45am Morning Worship with Baptism

Job 38 : 1 - 7, 31 - end

Psalm 104 : 1 - 10

Mark 10 : 35 - 45

(Epistle: Hebrews 5 : 1 - 10)

God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 24th October

Last Sunday after Trinity

8 am Holy Communion BCP

10.45am Morning Worship

Job 42 : 1-6, 10 - end ;

Psalm 34 : 1 - 8

Mark 10 : 46 - end

(Epistle: Hebrews 7: 23 - end)

Almighty God, in whose service lies perfect freedom: teach us to obey you with loving hearts and steadfast wills; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 31st October

4th Sunday before Advent

8 am Holy Communion BCP

10.45 United Worship with Memorial Service

in memory of lost Church family members

Deuteronomy 6 : 1 - 9

Psalm 119 : 1 - 8

Mark 12 : 28 - 34

(Epistle: Hebrews 9 : 11 - 14)

God of glory, touch our lips with the fire of your Spirit, that we with all creation may rejoice to sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN ANCIENT BUILDING

Chris Martin

Like many of you reading this, I visited Southminster Hall this weekend and was fascinated by the archaeological dig in the grounds.

You don't have to be an ardent student of history to find yourself, when gazing down into the hand-built stone walls, almost haunted by people who lived in our village up to 1000 years ago, and worshipping at St Leonard's. Even before then, in Anglo-Saxon times, it seems there were Christians here. All this is brought to mind because it is believed that this recently discovered house was for the use of Bishops of London back in the day.

Visitors to the site were invited to take home a stone that had been excavated during the dig and as I look at mine on the kitchen window sill, and hold it in my hand, I imagine who might have held it in their hand 1000 years ago....maybe a Roman centurion as some of stones are believed to have come from the ancient Roman fort at Bradwell, or perhaps a teenage boy of the Middle Ages helping with the construction of this house.

The fact that there is still an active church in Southminster (two in fact, but I refer to the older St Leonard's) speaks well of how the various priests and vicars over the centuries have sustained the ancient beliefs and teachings of the Bible and preached them in a building that also goes back the best part of 1000 years. The doctrines have changed with time but the basic premise is still there. Everything evolves

but the belief in the scriptures remains even if the meanings may be discussed and interpretations may vary a little.

It is hard for us to imagine life in this village without gas, electricity, running water, public transport – all the things that we rely on just to live from day to day. Yet one thing that doesn't seem to have changed is the need for some people to congregate to acknowledge a higher being. What links us to this ancient, recently discovered building is the realisation that in this, the people attending St Leonard's at the time when the then Bishop was using the recently excavated house were not so different from those worshipping today.

Editorial extra comment

On the leaflet which all visitors received at this event, the following information was shared:

The building was probably a Chamber Block with brick or stone walls and a tiled roof, built for the Bishop of London in the 11th or 12th centuries. It would have served as living quarters for his steward and possibly a priest with a first floor room for sleeping, and entertaining important guests.

The Bishop had 16 manors in Essex at the time of the Domesday Book (1087) which he would have visited regularly. Southminster was an important religious centre in this part of Essex, the ending -*minster suggesting the existence of a church from Anglo-Saxon times.

The Essex Community Foundation provided grant funding which enabled professional archaeologist assistance from Archaeology South East and will fund the finds analysis and post excavation report.

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



Our Historic Vehicle Gathering on Sunday 22nd August was more successful than we had dare hope. In spite of the abysmal weather forecast, exhibitors brought out an excellent selection of interesting vehicles,



including Michael Moore's unique Mini-D. A bigger than usual number of stationary engines included the reappearance of Graham Sharple's aero engine. We were delighted to welcome a record number of visitors who

didn't seem to be put off by the weather; each time it rained, they dodged into the marquee and enjoyed the fantastic selection of cakes on offer.



The poor weather might have been a blessing in disguise because several of the visitors would have been harvesting if the sun had been shining. It was difficult weather for stall holders and our ice cream sales were well down but gate donations were our best ever. Thanks to The Eccentrics, members of Steeple PCC, the Partridge family and other dedicated helpers we raised just over £2,100 for renovation of the timber around Steeple Church belfry.

Our task in coming months is to get the belfry renovation project underway. Once our architect has gathered in quotations from potential contractors we will be able to develop a funding plan. We already have monies raised from our Vehicle Gatherings and other sources but we expect to need grant assistance from bodies which specialise in the preservation of religious buildings. Then we have to request a Faculty – the ecclesiastical equivalent of Planning consent. If we can get to that point by year end, we hope to start work in the Spring.

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

More information overleaf...



STEEPLE CHURCH ROTAS FOR OCTOBER

Sunday Prayer Rota for 9.15am services

3rd	Family Service	t.b.a.
10th	Holy Communion	Fiona Ashworth
17th	Morning Worship	t.b.a.
24th	Holy Communion	Fiona Begley
31st	10.45 United Worship at Southminster including a memorial service for lost church family members.	

Flower arranging and cleaning in church ready for each Sunday

3rd	Mrs F Begley
10th	Mrs M DeAth
17th	Mrs F Ashworth
24th	Mrs R Leech
31st	Mrs T Julien

**HELP
PLEASE**

St Leonard's Church needs to put together a rota for people who are willing to take specific roles, as always used to happen. Paul Lucas would appreciate offers from anyone who is willing to join rotas listed below, so that he doesn't have to 'fill the gaps' at a few minutes' notice..

Reading Bible at 10.45 service

Leading Intercessions at 10.45 service

Serving teas/coffees (and biscuits - even cakes) on Sundays

Clearing up after the refreshment/fellowship time

Transport to services for folk in need

PLEASE CONTACT PAUL with your offer - however small.

FOOD PANTRY

The Dengie Food Pantry, which meets every Wednesday at Christ Church is struggling, having lost the support of a major supermarket. There is a local scheme to set up applications to go on people's phones. It is called 'Bank the Food'. Details will be available soon so that people can know exactly what the Pantry needs. 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. Let's support it.

More prayer is still needed locally for global issues



A Government announcement says, “The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. Let’s play (or pray) our part!

Those of you who are part of the Facebook group, 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.



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	3 October	Central - North-West
w/b	10 October	Central - East
w/b	17 October	Central - South
w/b	24 October	South - West
w/b	31 October	Central - West

Foxearth Meadows News & Prayer Letter

Issue 12: September 2021

Dear friends,

Welcome to our early autumn edition. I begin with a reflection prompted by my radio listening:

The book of Nehemiah in the Bible begins with a crisis. Jerusalem is in a mess. The protective walls are broken down, the gates have been burned and the city is completely vulnerable. Nehemiah is in exile in the Persian city of Susa. He's grief-stricken, but he isn't paralysed by grief. I like his response. It's two-fold: prayer and practical action.

The climate and ecological crises are figuring more and more in the media. Just today before penning this, I heard on the radio about reports on the increased frequency of catastrophic weather events, and on the number of tree species threatened with extinction, plus a more chirpy report about a carbon-capture technology combining CO² with calcium and other minerals to make aggregate.

Also on the radio, I've heard people voicing their reactions to the crises; reactions which include grief and fear. Both grief and fear can paralyse, and that leads nowhere.

I hope that what we're about at Foxearth Meadows combines practical action with hope and faith in a God who listens to our prayers and cares for the cosmos.



This newsletter reflects this with information about things that have happened and things coming up, as well as prayer pointers for those who pray.

We also hope that some of our articles will help people to enjoy nature more and go deeper in their understanding. We love it when people say how much they enjoy visiting the reserve. We want people to enjoy nature – that's so often what makes people want to nurture it and defend it.

Please join us where you can in this enterprise. We welcome people (of all faiths or none) to enjoy the reserve and maybe join us in volunteering (which we hope will also be an enjoyable experience!)

Andy Jowitt

Volunteer Community Engagement Officer

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

It sounds like a cliché but it's true: we couldn't do without you.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Ken and I have known Rev'd Andy Jowitt since we joined the Diocesan Environment Group several years ago. He and his team have worked hard within A Rocha and as well as carrying out their own work they regularly encourage others. We hope that St Leonard's Church will become an eco Church in the not too distant future so perhaps a visit to Foxearth Meadows could be a valuable experience for many of us.

Kath Dunstan

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

Hooray! The Memorial Hall is now re-opening after the Covid closure!

BINGO started again on Tuesday 7th September 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 started again on Monday 13th September. Please call by the previous Friday both for all future dates to book your place. £5.00 for two courses plus tea/coffee. Ring Kath Savage on 07434 915467.

CHATTERBOX

has already started too – 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. There is no Entry Charge.

The **BEREAVEMENT GROUP** meets in a quiet corner on 1st and 3rd Thursdays as part of Chatterbox.

Other groups will be starting again shortly. 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 on 07434 915467. It's a great way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

The next meeting will be in the Southminster Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday October 26th

Speaker: Sharon Gould Card making.

Competition : A Holiday Photo



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 REMOVED WE STILL RECOMMEND THAT
APPROPRIATE CAUTIONS ARE TAKEN.**

See pages 5, 10-13 for details during this season.

**Weekly notices, covering any changes, will be available to
read on the outside church notice-board**

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**

(Our Prayer ministry for any needs will continue
even though it happens 'at a distance'.)

Children and Young people are always welcomed
especially for the **Family Celebration Services**

'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 could be made
for the Autumn period.