

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



and also for Steeple Parish

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



**For one believes with the heart
and so is justified,**

Romans 10 : 10

OCTOBER 2023

- 3 Reflection Rev'd Peter Begley
- 6 BAH! HUMBUG Brenda Sheppard
- 8 Working Together Brenda Sheppard
- 9 Chatterbox (some details about this weekly event)
- 10 **Services at St. Leonard's during October**
- 12 Steeple Church News Peter Marshall
- 13 Farm to Fame A family remembering their Father
- 14 Bereavement Group (changes explained) Chris Martin
- Steeple Church Contact details
- 15 Southminster Memorial Hall programme.
Dengie Hundred Ladies' Group information
- Details of the final service of October. (5th Sunday)**
- 16 Rotas (Paul Lucas) and some Facebook details
- 17 Coronavirus details - even though restrictions have been lifted
Notice about how to contribute offerings to our two churches
- 18 Advance notice about other local events
Prayer for Southminster
- 19 Who's Who at St Leonard's Church
- 20 Who are we?

Summer time ends Saturday
28th October. Remember to
put your clocks back.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the November
magazine should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 15th October
New contributors are welcome.*

To cover our costs we
have to charge for this
magazine. This is now
80p per issue or £3 for
Every 4 months paid in
advance. There may be
changes ahead, so we
have removed the
annual subscription.

Vicar's Reflection

The Vicarage garden takes a lot of care to be productive and fruitful, and I am grateful for the hard work and care that Fiona puts in (with help from Barry). There are occasions when only two pairs of hands will do the job, so the other day we were outside tying up the dahlias which seem to have multiplied madly this year. Some of these stems are now nearly six feet tall and very productive – we have managed to cut several hundred blooms this year, many of which have appeared on TV (in the background of the online sermon!). While we were tying the dahlias to support them, Fiona commented that at the end of the day they will be cut back to their root (tuber) and they will come again next year; and the year after, bringing their joyful colours to the garden once again. The 'season' of the dahlia flower is ever-changing – yet it remains a dahlia.

During the season between Petertide and Michaelmas (June – October) ordinations take place; firstly for the deacons, usually at the Cathedral, then for the Priests – usually in a parish church. It is now a whole year since Rev'd Jacqui was ordained priest and we celebrate with her this milestone but, for some, like Julia MacGregor and Jordan Palmer, their journey as deacon and priest respectively is just beginning. Julia will serve as deacon in the parishes of Heybridge,

Langford and Maldon All Saints and Jordan to serve as priest in the same three parishes. It is wonderful to celebrate with them on their ordination days (Jordan Palmer will be ordained priest on Saturday 30th September; please pray for him) and we look forward to seeing both their ministries flourish and become very fruitful and productive for God.

This is also a time for licences to be renewed, for those who receive permission from the bishop to serve in our parishes and in our deanery.

So, whatever do dahlias and ordinations have in common?? Well, it seems to me that God purposes these things to occur, that He knows what he has created a dahlia for and He knows too that purpose for which He has created us. The difference is that we have free will in order to change and/or divert that purpose. However, when we come to give our lives to God, when we surrender our self-will to conform with His will, God's purposes become sure, become clear, and our growth and fruitfulness is *because* He ensures that it *will* occur. When we surrender our will to God, we are made Holy through justification by God :

[Justification is the gracious act of God by which He declares a sinner righteous only through faith in Jesus, when He pardons our sin] so, again : When we surrender our

will to God, we are made Holy through justification by God and we cannot change that: we are made Holy *because* He is Holy – we just need to learn how we can BE Holy in our everyday. We are also forgiven – totally, 100% – and we need to adjust our thinking so that we live as forgiven people who are no longer under condemnation. Our purpose now is to please God and reflect His goodness in the world. There will be seasons when we flourish and are able to show the world the beauty of that which God has made us to be, and there will too be seasons of quietness as we re-energise ready for the next season – much like the dahlia.

So, my reflection is: please don't worry that you may be going through a time of quietness; perhaps out of sight and resting, for God has another season planned, during which you will flourish. We are *still* Justified, we are *still* Holy, we are *still* forgiven – we have not changed into something else, we are *still* God's own possession, doing His will in His world. As sure as the dahlia will bloom again, **so will we** if we rest in God and *allow* Him to use us in the right season. Amen.

Blessings,

Peter

BAH! HUMBUG

I don't know if it's just me being a "bah humbug" but does the word "Hero" seem to be applied to almost any achievement a person has accomplished in the world today. I always understood that a Hero is a person who has achieved a special feat against many odds; A person admired for their courage, brave deeds, heroic act or sacrificial act to help another; or a person who has performed outstanding achievements.

The word "Hero" seems to be used a lot these days especially in the sporting world. We often hear that a football team are called heroes for achieving a great win or even if they don't! The word hero in this area and other areas of sport is used a lot and not taking away their great sporting talents and achievements and the great entertainment value, is the word "Hero" aptly used?

There are so many unsung heroes in the world, people who give so much of themselves sacrificially; people who have committed acts of bravery or have achieved great things and they rarely get recognised.

We have been preaching in St. Leonard's for many Sundays on Heroes of Faith from July through to October. Men and women who lived incredible lives trusting God and willing to live for God even when faced with very difficult situations. Jacqui wrote about them in our September magazine in her Curate's Reflection.

The heroes we have heard about are: Daniel, David, Deborah, Elijah, Joseph, Esther, Noah, Julian of Norwich, St. Francis of Assisi, Amos, Nehemiah, Mary the mother of Jesus, and lastly Jonah (whom we shall hear about in October). Men and women who achieved so much against overwhelming odds at times in doing God's work.

So, for many feats achieved in the world is the word "Hero" used in the right context? So many people rightly deserve recognition, but thinking of people especially in the sporting world, not taking away their superb achievements, would the words "Talented and Gifted" be a better form of praise?

I know there are so many "Heroes" in this world, people dedicating their lives to help others. We may never hear of them but God knows who they are and may they be truly blessed in all that they do and sacrifice for the good of others.



Brenda Sheppard

Editor's comment: Let's pray for the possible heroes who can support people suffering from the recent world-wide tragedies, e.g. floods, earthquakes and hurricanes.

Pray too for the people who have lost family, homes and everything. If God's answer to your prayer is "Do **this!**", even if it will be difficult, trust Him and **do it**.

Working Together

“Many hands make light work”

As a Church there are always tasks to do within and without in especially an older church building. Our building at St. Leonard's needs quite a lot of upkeep at the moment. We are making sure it is watertight and repairing crumbling interior plaster as well as many more tasks to upkeep it in a good, safe, condition. There are also many other tasks to do like cleaning the interior which the Henry Club which meets once a fortnight carries out and will always welcome new members to grow the team. The Church Garden is another large task. The Community Payback team do a great job when they can come but in between those times a team of gardeners would be welcome to make sure the garden looks inviting and loved. Always jobs to do but if we work together the load is shared and God's house is well cared for.

I have focussed more on maintenance tasks but there are other important teams functioning within the church which were mentioned in the August magazine. If you would like to join a team do speak to a church member who will point you in the right direction. You don't have to be a regular churchgoer to help out but be assured you will be made very welcome.

Henry Ford once quoted:

“Coming together is a beginning,
Sharing together is progress,
And working together is success”

Brenda Sheppard

CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox continues to grow in numbers of people who like to come along every Thursday to the Memorial Hall from 10am to 12 noon. It is a time of meeting new people; a time out of daily routines to sit and chat and enjoy a cuppa or two and unlimited biscuits all for £1.



For those creative people there is a Craft table and for jigsaw lovers there are usually 2 jigsaws on the go which prove really popular. There is adult colouring which is really relaxing and cards and dominoes etc. Some people just like to sit and chat. We have also acquired a new laptop computer and help is available for anyone hoping to learn new skills.

We had a great response to our jigsaw appeal and have a good stock but we can always accommodate more.



The ones completed then go over to the Charity Shop.

Any enquiries to: Norman
or: Brenda



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.

Sunday 1st October

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
1 Corinthians 9 : 6 - 15
Luke 12 : 16 - 26
Sidesperson

17th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION

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

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui
Sylvia Adams
Kath Dunstan
Brenda Sheppard & Sarah Prendergast
Christine Morgan
Gwyneth Iffland
Eira Hagger & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 8th October

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Philippians 3 : 4b - 14
Matthew 21 : 33 - end
Sidesperson

18th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Family Celebration for HARVEST

Leaders
Audio-visuals
Prayer Ministry
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack
Sylvia Adams
Fiona Begley & Frances Hatfield
Nigel Winger
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

This service will be followed by a **HARVEST LUNCH**.

Necessary details will be available in church.

Sunday 15th October**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

President/Preacher
 Philippians 4 : 1-9
 Matthew 22 : 1 -14
 Sidesperson

19th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Jacqui/Jenny Pratt
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher
 Readings as above
 Intercessions
 Audio-visuals
 Prayer Ministry
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Norman & Jenny Pratt
 Christine Morgan
 Brenda Sheppard
 Christine Morgan
 Christine Lucas & Yvonne Thurbon
 Sylvia Adams
 t.b.a.

Sunday 22nd October**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher
 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10
 Matthew 22 : 15 - 22
 Sidesperson

20th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Jacqui/Norman Pratt
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Pete Adams

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
 Readings
 Intercessions
 Prayer Ministry
 Audio-Visuals
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui/Norman Pratt
 Linda Payne
 Fiona Begley
 Sylvia Adams & Keith Hatfield
 Christine Lucas
 Paul Lucas
 Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER (details on page15)
--

Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on the church door. We have Morning Prayer with activities for children on the first and third Sunday each month, and Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays.



An on-line service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on

www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Steeple Church joined with with Althorne and Creeksea churches in running the successful Wheels Hooves and Paws event at Elmwood Equestrian, Burnham at the end of July. Each partner church has now received almost £1100 as their share of the net profit.

Our second major fund-raising event, the Steeple Gathering on 20th August, raised a similar amount. The number and variety of vehicles and engines on display was the best ever but we were slightly disappointed that fewer of the general public came to admire them. Perhaps that was due to clashing with the women's football final.

Steeple Parochial Church Council has thanked The Eccentrics group for organising the vehicle displays and laying out the fields at both events. They were also grateful for vital help provided by several local people in preparing the new Steeple Gathering site and deploying advertising.

Now we look forward to Sunday 1st October when we hope to fill Steeple Church for our Harvest Festival at 4pm followed by Harvest Supper in Steeple Village Hall at 5.30pm.

Details of our Church Contacts are now over on page 14. —————>

FARM TO FAME

This very hard-working farmhand worked all through the Second World War on the land: thrashing and ploughing with steam traction engines. Ploughing involved two ploughing engines, one at each end of the field with the plough (nearly always an 8 furrow) in between, pulled by a wire hawser which wound under the engines on a drum. He was in a reserved occupation to keep the nation fed. Little did he know in later life still working on the farm he would be in the same league as Harold Wilson even Prince Phillip.

His name was Basil. He was also a staunch member of St Leonard's Church - cutting the grass in the church grounds, winding the clock every week which needed old pennies and half pennies to keep it accurate. He loved to ring the bells on Sunday mornings.

Our youngest sister, Sandra was a friend of a sculptor, Paul Carey, who as a part of his apprenticeship had to produce a life like figure in wax. He had met Basil a couple of times and asked if he could choose him as his model. He also said that he had very strong features and face. Paul took over 150 photographs and with slide rules and callipers measured every furrow and angle. Basil went to London to be matched with eye colour and hair from an enormous collection. Basil went on to be shown at Madame Tussaud's in Baker Street London in 1976. He leaned against the railings of the upper gallery, gazing down at people walking round the exhibition. Basil was in Madame Tussaud's for 11 years and Mr Paul Carey qualified!!

This story is of our lovely loving Dad BASIL RAVEN.

**Maureen Smith, Susan Smith, Sally Culff, Sandra Rust
née Raven aka the RAVEN CLUB.**

Luke 12: verse 24: Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn, yet God feeds them.
And how much more valuable you are than birds!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

After 8 years or so I have decided I will no longer be running the Bereavement Group and am writing to the bereaved who have attended, those who have kindly supported the group and Rupert Killick for kindly letting us use the hall at Christchurch as well as the CAB Receptionist (Anthea!) for sharing the space with us.

I hope those of you who have lost somebody and come along have found it helpful and many thanks to those others of you who have been so ready with your support to help its success.

Numbers have dropped to the point where I feel that this group is no longer viable and I would suggest that if anybody wants to continue to attend a group, you try the one at Burnham on Crouch that meets in the Baptist Church on Tuesday afternoons. I believe there's also a group at St. Nicholas Church in Tillingham.

I am quite happy to meet with each and every one of you separately at my house if ever you feel like a chat - whether re bereavement or anything else. I hope we have become friends. You're all most welcome - one at a time!

Very best wishes to you all and I hope to see you in the near future.

Chris Martin

Steeple Church contacts

Rev'd Canon Peter Begley, Vicar 01621 772 300
Rhona Leech, Churchwarden & PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Churchwarden,
Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB meets on Mondays.

Back after Summer Break

If you would like any information please phone

Dave Christie 07775 758118.

CHATTERBOX (See page 9)

meets on Thursday mornings 10 am-12 noon.

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on 24th October

For the AGM

and with Community Singing with the Ukulele Group

Competition: the Prettiest Plate

MORE SUNDAY WORSHIP DETAILS (following page11)

Sunday 29th October

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher

Thessalonians 2 : 1 - 8

Matthew 22 : 34 - end

Sidesperson

Last Sunday after Trinity

Rev'ds Peter and Jacqui

Celebrant

Celebrant

Pete Adams

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Readings

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'ds Peter and Jacqui

Rupert Killick

Gwyneth Iffland

t.b.a.

Christine Morgan

Kathy Carnell

t.b.a.

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 2023	3	10	17	24	25	31
January 2024	7	14	21	28		

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

I prayerfully decided to start the "Together Apart" facebook group at the beginning of the first lockdown and posted on the page at least 6 days of each week. 3 years on lockdowns now seem to be long behind us and the interaction with the group is now minimal so after a lot of thought and prayer it was decided that I would no longer post on this group daily.

The group will remain open and I will occasionally post things that I think may be of interest. Please feel free to post on there too.

Thanks to all those who have interacted over the past three years.

Karen Flack

CORONAVIRUS 2022

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.

SOME NEARBY EVENTS to consider.

The MALDON SALVATION ARMY's 140th Anniversary

Will be celebrated at the URC, Market Hill Maldon

With the LONDON CENTRAL FELLOWSHIP BAND

Saturday 7th October at 7 pm

Tickets £7 Concessions £3

Mail Salvation Army, 12 Wantz Rd Maldon CM9 5DE

Or phone 01621 840088

Or see Maldon@salvationarmy.org.uk

Join us for a jolly
CRAFT-A-NOON
On Saturday 7 October
12 - 4 pm
at Althorne Church Hall
Hand-crafted items for sale
Buy gifts
Refreshments
All in aid of
the Church Repair Fund.

It is **HARVEST TIME**
So note the special services
at Steeple 1st October at 4pm
followed by
Harvest Meal in the hall at 5.30
Booking details in church
And
at Southminster on 8th October
at 11 am followed by Harvest
Lunch. (bring and share)
Advance booking/helping
details in church.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b 1 October Central - East
w/b 8 October Central - South
w/b 15 October South - West
w/b 22 October Central - West
w/b 29 October North - East *Summer time ends*





WHO ARE WE? Mission Statement



"To be a people offering praise and worship to God and serving him by being the Good News by our words and actions"

Web Site www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Contact: vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

If you wish to contact the Church regarding a Safeguarding issue
please contact us by telephone on 07745 688845
or via safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

See pages 10-11 for details during this season.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer 1662)

11.00 am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

Steeple Services similarly continue at **9.15am**

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Monday. Wednesday & Friday at 8 am Morning Prayer

Tuesday at 8.30 am Just Prayer

'LITTLE LIONS' usually meet on Wednesday mornings
In the Memorial Hall but this is **during term-time only.**
It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.



Everyone is
welcome to join.
Details on board.

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

The new course details will be on the notice
board and at the back of church.