

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

StL

and also for Steeple Parish

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



**The plans of the Lord stand forever.
Psalm 33:11**

OCTOBER 2024

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the November magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, Sunday 13th October
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!)

Vicar's Reflection

Psalm 33:11 The plans of the Lord stand forever

The new academic year is now a few weeks in and students are starting to get used to their new environments whether in the same school or in a new one, or in a first time at university.

I was reminded about my nephew when he went to university. First, there was the (seemingly) endless tours of universities to find the right one with the right courses. Once the university had been selected as 'first choice' then comes the wait for the offer of a place. Once all of that had been achieved the move itself starts with thoughts of 'what to take & what equipment is needed' etc. I remember my brother crawling around on the floor in university halls of residence to see if there were enough electric sockets for all the electronic equipment that my nephew would take.

The day finally arrives and we gather to say farewell to said nephew. We waved him off and, after shedding a few tears, we had several cups of tea!

We all have those difficult times of moving on from one place to another, perhaps to be nearer to family, perhaps for our jobs. Sometimes we move for convenience to have an easier lifestyle and to stop 'running around' and be closer to amenities.

We will be saying our own farewells to Jacqui as she moves on to her own parishes as their vicar and priest-in-charge. It has been a joy to serve with her in the benefice; she has brought another element and dynamic

to these parishes; assisting in bringing to fruition the Southminster Hub; establishing stronger links with the school; enhancing our morning worship and encouraging the gifts of the Holy Spirit in everyone, both young and older. So, we send her with our love and blessing to the Hill & Vale parishes, knowing that she will thrive and enable those churches to grow in the love of Jesus.

These thoughts reminded me also of the apostle Paul as he moved on from Ephesus to Jerusalem (recorded in Acts 20). This church in Ephesus had supported the ministry of Paul in prayer, with people-resources, and financially. It says in verse 22 “And now, compelled by the Holy Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem...” Paul had been there for three years preaching the ‘whole will of God’ and teaching them all to listen to the Holy Spirit and His daily guidance and wisdom.

It is God who holds the plans and by His will we make our moves; for He knows where we are needed at any particular time. Psalm 33:11 says: “the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations.” God’s plans are the ones that we are compelled to follow. Sometimes it may seem ridiculous (as Jonah would testify) but the ultimate purpose for God calling us to move on is for Him to fulfil His purpose wherever He takes us. We trust God today and for the future; listening to the leading of His Holy Spirit. Rev’d Jacqui knows in her inner being that the Hill & Vale churches are the right place for her to be for the next chapter of her ministry.

Discerning the will of God takes time and prayer, whether it is for university place, ministry place, new activity within the church, a job or location of where we should be. God will guide and God will bring His peace in our inner being. May we all continually seek the will of God through our own study and prayers and hear His voice leading us forward.

Amen.

Every blessing,

Peter

The ALPHA COURSE

Explore the meaning of life!

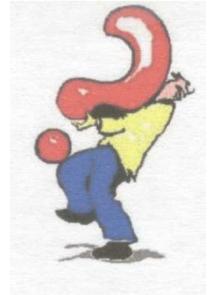
Alpha for the Autumn

The new course continues on Thursday evenings at the Vicarage.

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 sign-up sheet at the back of the church.



The Morning Slug Run!

What a year it's been for slugs, especially in our garden. Every morning at around 6am for many weeks we had what we called the "Slug run!" To date we have captured over 100 slugs of all sizes and because we won't kill them and the internet tells me that they have pain receptors, we deposited them in a safe place we thought was well way from our garden but I'm sure they came back time and time again just to taunt us! The slug haul almost ground to a halt when the hot weather came as they need moisture to survive and like dark damp conditions, so needless to say our slug run is very quiet now.

I have never been a great fan of slugs to be honest and wonder why God created them and what good do they do except eat our garden or allotment produce! On reading in the book of Genesis where Adam disobeyed God and God said to Adam "You will still be able to work the ground but because of your disobedience it will be painful toil with many weeds and thorns." Do you think God should have included the crop eating slugs in that statement?



On a positive note, I read that slugs and snails provide food for all sorts of mammals, especially hedgehogs, and birds, with thrushes in particular thriving on them, but even though slugs are relatively harmless they can carry parasites which may harm pets if digested! Many species of slugs (around 40 in the UK) are also key to breaking down decomposing material. Everything God created has a purpose but we do have to search for it at times!!

I read on the internet that at the beginning of the 1700's the word slug was first recorded as the name for the slimy, slow, shell-less gastropods. As we know slugs and snails are pretty slow moving and in our vocabulary the word sluggard is used for a habitually and lazy, slow-moving person. In Proverbs 6 v 6 it says "Go to the ant (a busy worker) you sluggard consider it's ways and be wise". The sluggard is mentioned again in other proverbs.

The slug hasn't got a very good reputation has it, but one thing I do know is that although the slug run is over for us in the garden as the mornings are chillier, I can envisage the slugs defying their slow reputation, hurrying along to our allotment where there is some juicy broccoli growing!

Brenda Sheppard

Eco Tip of the Month from A Rocha

October 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.

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.



We give thanks to God for the continued prayers for our local school. A recent OFSTED inspection rated the school as “Good” and so we congratulate the staff and head teacher for the amazing work that they are doing to improve the school. Congratulations to the Parents and children who have contributed towards the school achieving the ‘Good’ standard.

The school enters a new phase now and to that end Southminster Primary School will now be called St. Leonard’s Church of England Primary school; the new title and logo are above.

We continue to pray, and look forward to working with the school in this next academic year as it moves towards being an ‘Outstanding’ school.

Peter Begley

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.

FRIENDSHIPChris Martin

Having recently found out that a friend of mine since the early 1960s is now terminally ill, I started to think about the value of friendships. I'm so glad still to have several friends in my life that go back to school or college days, and even if we don't meet often, with the wonders of modern technology it's easy to keep in touch. In this case, despite distance, I am pleased to be able to offer at little bit of moral support at this difficult time.

Particularly since living on my own I'm very glad to see or speak to any old friends from decades ago and over the years I'm lucky enough to have made new relationships too. During the time I worked in the City I didn't know many local people other than a few commuters; since retirement I know far more. I also keep in touch with ex work colleagues and others. Sometimes close friendships have formed, sometimes just acquaintanceships and it's in the nature of things that sometimes people slip out of your life altogether after a spell of sharing your company.

I feel blessed that I'm still in touch with many, many people that I've met over the years but would add that it does take an effort to keep relationships going. Sometimes people say, "I've not heard from so-and-so for ages" and if we don't hear from people, I think it's up to us to pick up the phone or text a message. We don't have to sit and wait for them to make the move, just because we did it last time. I know many people who always respond warmly when I contact them but they rarely make the first move. Does it matter? It doesn't mean people don't want to talk to you if they haven't made the move – it usually means they've got caught up in their own lives, or maybe have health problems, but would be very pleased to hear from you. I don't think it's a matter to be "proud" about. I'd say: if you want to speak to someone you haven't heard from for a while, give them a ring, even if it's not your turn! You'll soon be able to gauge how pleased they are to hear from you.

All the best!

Sunday 6th October**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher
 Hebrews 1: 1 - 4 ; 2: 5 - 12
 Mark 10: 2 - 16
 Sidesperson

19th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Gordon Baker

11.00 Morning Worship & Holy Baptism

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

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt
 Sylvia Adams
 Brenda Sheppard
 Christine Lucas & Yvonne Thurbon
 Christine Morgan
 Gwyneth Iffland
 Kathy Carnell & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 13th October**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/President/Preacher
 Hebrews 4 : 12- end,
 Mark 10 : 17 - 31
 Sidesperson

20th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Leon Flack

11.00 FAMILY CELEBRATION (with Holy Baptism)

Leaders
 Audio-visuals
 Prayer Ministry
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Team (Karen, Jenny, Dawn)
 Christine Lucas
 Frances Hatfield & Sarah Prendergast
 Brenda Sheppard
 Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

This service will be followed by our Shared Harvest Lunch, details of which will be available near the date.

Sunday 20th October**21st Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Hebrews 5 : 1 - 10

Mark 10 : 35 - 45

Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter

Celebrant

Celebrant

Paul Lucas

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Readings as at 8 am

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter

Pauline Siggers

Frances Hatfield

Sylvia Adams & Fiona Begley

Christine Morgan

Kath Dunstan

Dee Byford & Jenni Blomfield

Sunday 27th October**Last Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher

Hebrews 7: 23 - end

Mark 10 : 46 - end

Sidesperson

Rev'd Ken / Jenny Pratt

Celebrant

Celebrant

Keith Hatfield

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Prayer Ministry

Audio-Visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Jenny Pratt / Norman Pratt

Linda Payne

Fiona Begley

Keith Hatfield & another

Sylvia Adams

Kathy Carnell

Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

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



The harvest fields have been cleared, the garden fruit has been gathered and we can look back on the good weather that helped make our Summer shows so successful. So we have lots to give thanks for at Steeple's Harvest Festival in the church at 4pm on Sunday 6th October.

We'll be decorating the church with produce, preserves and flowers on Saturday 5th. As in previous years, all the donated food will be taken the following week to either the Dengie Food Bank in Southminster or a women's refuge in Pitsea. None will be wasted.

Our Harvest Supper will follow the Festival service at 5.30pm on the same day. Unfortunately, Steeple Village Hall isn't available that evening but Michael and Jane Pudney have generously offered us the use of their charming restored barn at West Newlands and the Supper will now be a joint event between the churches of St Lawrence and Steeple. —————>

Local upcoming Events 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 ahead.

Ignite presents

The Remedy Band in Concert
with special guest, Rev Simon Law.
at Dengie Village Hall,
Saturday 30th of November.
8 pm - 10.30 pm

The evening promises to be entertaining
with music from the 50's, 60's, 70's 80's and 90's.
Including some gospel songs
and interview testimony with Julian May and Simon Law.

Tickets: £10 / Refreshments.

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,

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, or contact me by phone. 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: 12th Oct., 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.

Don't forget the **Bereavement Group**

which is still meeting weekly at Christ Church, North Street.

It is open from 10 am on Tuesdays and welcomes anyone who might benefit from having time to chat with others who may be experiencing similar life problems. Chris Martin 01621 772751

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

22nd October

Speaker Sue Lovell; AGM Guide Dogs

Competition : Dog Ornament

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.

November 2024	3	10	17	24	
December 2024	1	8	15	22	29

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.

HARVEST FAMILY CELEBRATION

at St Leonard's Church

11 am Sunday 13th October

This will be our normal Family Celebration Service
but with an extra subject.

HARVEST

After the service there will be a shared Harvest meal to
which everyone is invited.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are managing the Shoebox Collection as usual.



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	6 October	Central - North-West
w/b	13 October	Central - East
w/b	20 October	Central - South
w/b	27 October	South - West





WHO ARE WE? Mission Statement



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

Web Site www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

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)**

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