

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

StL



and also for Steeple Parish

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

It's Harvest Time



**They broke bread in their homes and
ate together with glad and sincere
hearts, praising God.**

Acts 2:46

OCTOBER 2026

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*I hope you will receive this issue
before 30th September. Our
deliverers always make an effort
to do this.*

*Articles for the November
magazine should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 18th October*

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!)

If you receive this printed
version please tell your
deliverer whether you
want to continue from
January 2027.

Reflection from Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Half-way through September Norman and Jenny opened a six-session course on “The Acts of the Apostles”. Our opening meeting skipped past St Luke’s description of the Holy Spirit’s coming at Pentecost in wind and fire, the Apostles being filled with the Spirit and given the gift of speaking in languages they’d never learned. The people in Jerusalem, including devout Jews from fifteen different places, were able to hear St Peter proclaiming Jesus – crucified but raised from death – as the only one who can offer true salvation from the prison of sin (Acts 4:12). Quite likely, many spoke a smattering of Greek or a little Latin – enough to “get by” but not enough to feel at home in the language.

Some decades ago one of Kath’s university friends spoke at a meeting in Chelmsford about her work in Brazil with the Karipuna people. Joy introduced us to her work as a partner in Wycliffe Bible Translators. Most of the Karipuna could “get by” in Brazilian Portuguese as well as I can in French. But they have their own language, the one they use at home. Joy’s purpose was to learn the language and use it to give the Karipuna the Gospel in their own language, what Wycliffe call “their heart

language.” That’s what the Apostles did. Southminster Parish Church has supported Wycliffe’s work for many years, particularly in the work of Steve and Johanna Pillinger, who have been with Wycliffe for forty years. They worked in Kenya with the nomadic Rendille tribe and now live in South Africa. Steve typesets the notes from translation teams for publication so various language groups can have their own scriptures. Do continue in prayer for the work of Wycliffe and for Steve and Johanna.

We in this country have become increasingly secularised. In the 2021 Census for England and Wales 46% of responses claimed to be Christian. More than half claimed either– the second-biggest response –to be of “no religion” or of a different faith. Happily, over the last four years church attendance in England has increased. Let’s thank God for that. But let’s also pray for the Holy Spirit once more to direct our tongues and our eyes so that we know what to say, when and how to say it and to whom. English can become the language of our souls as well as our secular hearts.

Blessings,
Ken

It's Harvest Lunch Time

Sunday 11th October 2026

Immediately Following 11am Service

Please join us for food and fellowship

See illustration on front cover

Food contributions are welcome

**Sign-Up sheets can be found inside the church
on the table to the right on entry.**

**Alternatively, call Kathy Carnell on 07894 749702
to sign-up
and to get further information.**

New Bible Study Programme in the church chapel

A six week Bible Study looking at “change” in the
Book of Acts.

Mondays at 10am and Thursdays at 8 pm

14th and 17th Sept Understanding the change

21st and 24th Sept The nature of the change

28th Sept and 1st Oct. Your change

5th and 8th Oct Change in your community

12th and 15th Oct The Sound of change

19th and 22nd Oct. To be decided

For more information contact Norman/Jenny Pratt

If Music be the Food of Love

by Brenda Sheppard



Shakespeare, as you know, wrote some really good one-liners and the opening line of “Twelfth Night” was: “If Music be the Food of Love play on” The opening character Orsino compares love to an appetite and music to food. He wants to gorge himself on music so much that he gets sick of it and cures his painful longing for love as he is pining for Countess Olivia who refuses his advances so he is really struggling with unrequited love.

I don’t confess to understand much of Shakespeare’s work, although I remember studying “A Midsummer Nights Dream” for English O Level and I believe His work is still on the curriculum today! My sister and I used to go to “Shakespeare in the Park” on Maldon Promenade years ago to their outside performances and I confess to not understanding much of it and Angela, my sister, must have been so fed up with me asking what was going on!!!!

So, is Music the Food of Love? I think so don’t you. Music feeds our souls, reaches deep into our emotions; it reduces stress and sparks memories and it transcends feelings.

It also Nourishes and strengthens the feeling of love. Music is God given and a wonderful gift for us.

I understand that music is really good for people who suffer from dementia. It offers powerful, emotional and behavioural benefits, it calms agitation and triggers memories. I watched a frail elderly lady in a Care Home on Facebook recently and the song “Dancing Queen” by Abba came on and she gradually got up from her chair and stood swaying to the music and then singing the words she remembered. It was so moving and lovely to watch.

I believe that Music is a love gift from God. We are so blessed in St. Leonards’ to have such gifted musicians on the piano, the organ and guitars and in the family services the children join in with their own musical instruments! Such joyful times.

So, thankyou William Shakespeare for your very insightful one-liner and if we believe that Music is truly the “Food of Love” may it continue to play on!!!

Brenda Sheppard

The Hive

Southminster URC Community Hub

The Hive situated in the URC Church in North Street continues to thrive with free community activities happening every day of the week alongside private Hire groups. The activities include: Art Classes, Citizens Advice, Dengie foodbank, MIND Welcome Café, Cooking courses, Community in a Cup (Bi-monthly), a Social Supermarket and Lulu's Café. So, it is indeed, a real Hive of activity!



Alongside the indoor activities is the communal garden which has 6 volunteers caring for it and the garden provides fresh produce in season for both the Foodbank and Lulu's Café.

Karis Galliano, the Community Development Worker for the Hive works closely with the local community, Parish, District and County Councils and a wide range of agencies and community partners including GP practices and schools. Karis attends regular meetings building new partnerships, and she is always looking to seek to develop initiatives to benefit our community. A very busy, very friendly and approachable and also a very efficient lady!

We, at St. Leonard's, are on the joint management committee of The Hive and Rev'd Peter and myself currently attend meetings throughout the year and have input and assist with projects where we can.

The URC Church continues to be a place of worship and looks to have a certain amount of services throughout the year so starting from September this year a mid-week service will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12.30pm – 1.30pm initially for a year.

Holiday Club – oh yes it is!

This year we tried a change of format. We ran the holiday club on two consecutive August Thursdays (20th and 27th) from 9.00am to 3.00pm. We all brought our own packed lunch.

And boy did we have fun! We had 24 children on the 20th and 25 on the 27th.

Our theme was Kingdom Builders and we explored what the Kingdom of God might be like, who was the King of the Kingdom and how to get to the Kingdom.

There were loads of crafts and games. I think the favourite game was the relay and building the tallest tower with boxes.

The Club ended with a celebration Service on Sunday followed by a community barbecue. We all went home happy, well fed and exhausted. Thank you to all the many helpers, you were amazing. Thanks also to all the children for being so well behaved and enthusiastic.

We look forward to seeing you again next year.
Oh yes we will!

Love **Jenny**

Contact details for any of the activities at the Hive are:

Karis Galliano on 07840 530519 (work mobile)

Email: communityworker.dengieurcs@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/karis.galliano.7 Community Development Worker page

www.facebook.com/thehiveURC/ The Hive Community Hub page

Details are also on the notice board at the back of St. Leonard's Church or available from myself or Rev'd Peter.

Brenda Sheppard

Sunday 4th October

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

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

18th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 Family Holy Communion

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

Rev'd Peter/ Brenda Sheppard
Kath Dunstan
Fiona Begley
Frances Hatfield & Kathy Carnell
Christine Morgan
Kath Dunstan
Sarah and Ray

Sunday 11th October

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

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

19th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Leon Flack

11.00 Family Celebration and Harvest Lunch

Leaders
Prayer Ministry
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Team: Karen, Jenny, Dawn
Yvonne Thurbon & Sylvia Adams
Christine Lucas
Brenda Sheppard
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 18 th October 20th Sunday after Trinity
08.00 Ante-Communion BCP

President/Preacher
I Thessalonians 1 : 1-10
Matthew 22 : 15 - 22
Sidesperson

Norman Pratt/Jenny Pratt
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as above
Intercessions
Audio-visuals
Prayer ministry
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Norman Pratt/Jenny Pratt
Gwyneth Iffland
Frances Hatfield
Christine Morgan
Fiona Begley & Jenni Blomfield
Gwyneth Iffland
Christine Lucas & Sarah Bradford

Sunday 25th October

Last Sunday of Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/Preacher
I Thessalonians 2 : 1 - 8
Matthew 22 : 34 - end
Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter
Celebrant
Celebrant
Keith Hatfield

10.15 Café Church Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
Readings as at 8 am
Intercessions
Prayer Ministry
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Peter
Linda Payne
Brenda Sheppard
Christine Luacs & Sarah Prendergast
Sylvia Adams
Kathy Carnell
Jenni Blomfield & Dee Byford

Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised

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.



Steeple Church contacts:

Rev'd Canon Peter Begley, Vicar, 01621 772 300

Fiona Ashworth, Churchwarden,

Rhona Leech, Assistant Churchwarden
& PCC Secretary

Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

Steeple's October Services in brief

(Service titles and leaders only)

4th 09.15 Family Service Rev'd Peter

11th 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Check whether this will happen, because of... ..

16.00 Harvest Festival Service

18th 09.15 Family Service Norman Pratt / Jenny Pratt

25th 09.15 Holy Communion Rev'd Peter

Do read the item opposite which will tell you about a very important October service to celebrate Harvest.

Steeple Historic Vehicle Gathering in Grange Farm meadow on Sunday 23rd August was a great success, with plenty of interesting exhibits, excellent refreshments and more visitors than ever before. Enough was raised to pay for our annual insurance and the heating bills for most of the coming winter.

Steeple is surrounded by farm land and many people enjoy growing fruit and vegetables in their garden so it's not surprising that the **Harvest Festival** service is one of the best attended each year. This year it will be at **4pm on Sunday 11th October**. The church will have been decorated with fresh produce and provisions on the Saturday and more can be brought forward during the Service. In the following days, donated goods will be shared between the Dengie Food Bank and a woman's refuge at Pitsea.

After the Service, we'll move to the barn at West Newlands where Steeple Church and St Lawrence Church will hold a joint **Harvest Supper at 5.30pm**. Even if you missed the Service, please come along to catch up with your friends and neighbours. If you are new to Steeple, this is a great opportunity to make new friends. If you need transport to West Newlands, please contact one of the people listed opposite who'll be pleased to give you a lift.

Let's all pray for the farmers at this busy time of year, especially as they have been having to cope with the hot and dry weather.

POSSIBLE ROTA DETAILS: YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS

We can worship regularly in church as usual, 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 2026	1	8	15	22	29
December 2026	6	13	20	25	27

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFIL YOUR DUTY YOU SHOULD CHANGE WITH SOMEONE AND INFORM THE WARDENS OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

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.

As usual, the day after Saturday Club is our
Family Celebration in the church at 11 am.

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.

There are books for all ages and with varied contents, so even if you don't see yourself as a reader, you can enjoy them.

Who are we?

We are part of God's Family --- the Church.

Everyone is invited to be part of this family.

To keep aware of what is happening, and to participate on line with services, log into the website

<https://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk/>

Also, we have a WhatsApp group entitled

“Together Apart Our Church”. Lots of people are involved in this.

These links have been greatly appreciated by regular Church family members and also by people who have not, to date, attended our church services. It is good 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.

Henry Church Cleaning Club 2026



The cleaning continues on in the Church and we are blessed to be part of a really faithful team but there is always plenty of room for new recruits as some of us are slowing down a bit!! We meet fortnightly on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am. If you could spare just a little time during those 2 hours or even if you could come monthly it would be a great help.

October dates are: Fri. 9th & 23rd

If you would like to give it a try and would like a rota please speak to me, Brenda Sheppard, or contact me .

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

For the National Church - particularly because of
International political problems and on-going wars
Also devastation following wild fires
and other results of climate change to be dealt with

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 everyone affected by the School holidays

For local farmers and all their workers in the Summer months

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.

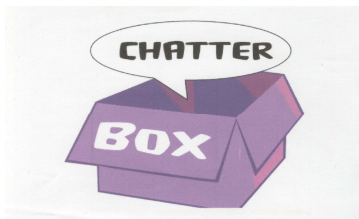
SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB may be able to start again on 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!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

Tuesday 27th October

Steve Lester

Auctioneer

stevelesterwork@gmail.com

'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 every second Sunday.

AN IMPORTANT SPECIAL EVENT

SID BOLAN BIG BAND CONCERT

Will be held at Southminster church

On SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

At 7.30 pm

**THIS CONCERT INCLUDES MUSIC OF
GLENN MILLER, COUNT BASIE,
FRANK SINATRA, MICHAEL BUBLE AND
MANY OTHERS**

TICKETS ARE £10.00

**Tickets will be in church, & from Kath Dunstan
and possibly some local shops.**

*Many people have enjoyed these concerts in the past,
so we hope they will come again and bring other
friends to share the evening.*

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b 4 October
w/b 11 October
w/b 18 October
w/b 25 October

Central – South
South - West
Central -West
North - 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

Contact: vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Telephone 01621 772300

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

10.15 am (approx.) Café Church begins on 4th Sundays

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.



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

Details of the actual programme are available in church
and on the notice boards. (See page 5)