

PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER

MAGAZINE OF THE

CHURCH OF ST LEONARD



OCTOBER 2019

The things God has prepared

1 Corinthians 2 verse 9

CONTENTS

- 3 Reflection Rev'd Peter
- 5 More preparations Christmas plans
- 6 Keeping in Touch - with the Andersons Kath Dunstan
- 7 A Letter from Paul (Haworth) to the Southminsterians
- 8 Jigsaw Brenda Sheppard
- 10 Messy Church for October
- 11-13 Services with Rotas for October at St Leonard's
Southminster Community Prayer programme
- 14 Steeple Services
Althorne Church Flower Arranging Demonstration
It's not too late to join the Alpha Course
- 15 Regular Midweek activities
- 16 What's On in the Local Area : Tillingham & Dengie Services
St Paul's Cathedral Choristers in concert at Tillingham Church
- 17 Community Events
- 18 Messy Church in September report from Jacky Griffiths
- 19 Replenish Update
- 20 Extinction Rebellion information
- 21 Gillian Ward Russell Autobiography
- 22 Gillian Ward Russell Organ Recital
- 23 Who's Who
- 24 What's What

*Articles for the November magazine to
Kath Dunstan by **Sunday 13 October** at
the latest please,
New contributors welcome.*

This magazine costs 50p,
Please pay in church.
**Or pay in advance if your
magazine is delivered to you.**
Details from
Brenda Sheppard

Reflection

The things God has **prepared**. 1 Corinthians 2:9

The first day of the new school-term has been and gone for a few weeks now, however it was really great to see some new faces arriving at Southminster Primary with their new uniforms and school bags. There have been some new additions in the school staff too and we welcome them most warmly into the community of Southminster parish. We were able to host a really good 'welcome' for all of the teachers from Southminster Primary and St. Cedd's Primary in a special service held in St. Leonard's church on the first day of the academic year. This very lovely service offered the opportunity for us all to dedicate ourselves again into serving God and the children for this year. I was so pleased that not only teachers but also many of the other school staff came along as well and, along with Rev'd. Steven Poss officiating, the service really did bring the community across the east-end of the Dengie together.

In the last month I have had a new experience too. I was able to 'hitch a ride' in a huge combine harvester and then into the tractor alongside which was pulling a trailer into which the grain was deposited; an hour of amazement as we moved around the field reaping the harvest and seeing how a little seed is turned into tons of crop; a miracle before our eyes. We shall be celebrating the Harvest in church later in this month, details of which are in this magazine. During this

time of harvesting many of the farmers and farm workers gather together to help each other in harvesting the crops, using their manual labour as well as big and powerful machines to assist each other.

One other lesson that has been learnt by me over this last month has been the way the churches of the Crouch Valley have been pulling together during the absence and sickness of their priest Rev'd Sandra Manley. The church wardens, lay leaders and pastoral assistants have all taken the responsibility of maintaining a Christian presence in their communities, ensuring that the special events of the church year are kept and the focus of bringing the gospel message to their communities has been paramount. We continue to pray for Sandra in her ailment and seek God for her healing. We pray as well for Rev'd Julie Willmot as she comes to be licensed for the parishes of Purleigh, Woodham Walter and Woodham Mortimer.

Which brings me to the point of this reflection and that being "Preparation".

As the harvest is taken in, the fields are then prepared for the next crop; seed is sown and the process starts over again, but not without making sure that the ground is ready to receive the seed. The teachers have come into school a few days ahead of the new academic year to ensure that the environment is right for the young students to be able to receive teaching. The experience that the congregations have

had over the years at our churches has enabled some folk to step up and take on a responsibility within the life of the church, helping to keep the message of Jesus spreading and growing. All of the teaching and experience that we have had in our lives, when given to God, can be used for His purposes today and in the future. All of the examples of teaching in the gospels are about the way that God sees things, the way in which the kingdom of God operates. And the Kingdom of God is about abundance and plenty, wholeness and purity. God is preparing us for something in the future, there is growth occurring round and about us... are we ready to take our part? Are we ready for what God is going to do next?

However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things God has **prepared** for those who love Him – 1 Corinthians 2: 9

Peter

More preparations....!!

We shall be having a post-Christmas Dinner after a Sunday morning service on 19th January (menu and time to be confirmed soon). This will be, as last year, at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in Burnham. Prices will be similar to those last January and full details will be available in the November magazine. It was thoroughly enjoyed last year - hence the decision to repeat it.

Keeping in Touch

Some of us were able to attend a lovely 70th birthday party for Rita Anderson on Sunday 15th September (12 days after the actual birthday). We travelled to their village church, near Mildenhall, and shared in their Holy Communion service. We then enjoyed the lovely welcome of their Church family over refreshments. The sunny weather meant that we could sit in a gazebo for the food. The vicar's husband, who regularly works with Rita for Messy Church, challenged Rita with some interesting craft ideas which everyone enjoyed watching. Balloons were flying and children were excited - as usual.

In his 'retirement' Gordon is not responsible for the parish but plays an important role there and in other villages nearby. In fact, he had to leave early because he had agreed to lead a Harvest Festival service in another church. I managed to take a photograph of them both before he left. They send their greetings to everyone in Southminster and enjoyed catching up on how life is here.



Kath Dunstan

A Letter from Paul (Haworth), “to the Southminsterians”

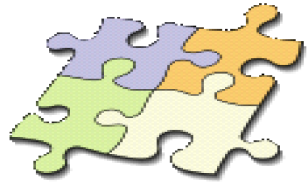
I fear I must confess that we are still unpacking boxes as we continue to settle into our new quarters in West Yorkshire. It all takes time! Everyone around us is very friendly and our local church (just around the corner) is lovely. They have just completed a re-ordering, which will help to launch Messy Church and Café Church this autumn (or ‘back end’ as we say in these parts!). We feel very much at home - the church is equipped with display screens, a mixing desk, a music group with grand piano and brass, together with a parish priest who robes for prayer book services but otherwise sports ‘smart casual’ for worship. The sermons incorporate video clips, so it looks as though I will have to up my game if I am to help out from time to time.

Following our departure, Ken wrote some very kind words for your magazine. I now know who I want to speak at my funeral service! It was a great delight to offer morning coffee to Kath and Ken as they crossed over the Pennines during the course of their summer excursions. They have our contact details, please ask them if you would like to know. We’d be delighted to welcome any of you if you happen to be passing through this neck of the woods. You have shown great kindness towards Kathrine and myself and we thank the Lord for all your joy in the Spirit. May He continue to bless you richly!



The Jigsaw

The jigsaw sat on the table, 1000 pieces all different shapes and colours all waiting to be put back together again. The jigsaw wasn't a favourite as it had lots of sea and sky and only to the trained eye could the differing hues of blue be seen and so much patience was needed to carry on and not admit defeat.



Some pieces were so similar and actually seemed to fit but not so when it came to fitting other pieces in around them. With some jigsaws, on occasions, a piece or pieces are found to be missing, dropped along the way by other users or even by ourselves, we search and search but the pieces are lost forever.

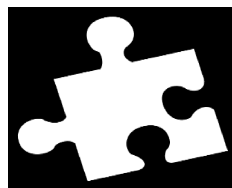
Equating this to our Christian lives, we are part of God's great jigsaw, each piece with a part to play, a space to fill with our shapes and colours, our different ways of fitting in to the pattern of life God has mapped out for us.

When we think of our human body it is a unit, though it is made up of many parts and though all its parts are many they form one body (1 Corinthians 12:12 NIV). When we accept Jesus into our lives, we become part of the body of Christ and God has

arranged the parts of the body as he wants them to be, none less important than the other.

So how do we fit in to God's great jigsaw? We could be an edge piece holding it all together, or a piece of bright colour standing out and very visible, or we can blend into the sea or sky. As with a jigsaw we need to try putting ourselves into different places to see if we fit until we come to rest in the right place.

One thing that's important is don't be the missing piece. We can get by at times with parts of our body not functioning so well but how lovely when everything works together in harmony and God can smile on us with favour.



So, just as we see lots of sea and sky in our least favourite jigsaws and wonder if we can have the patience to piece them all together, let's remember that God does not show favouritism but accepts people from every nation who fear Him and do what is right (Acts 10:34-35) and he fits us together and will continue to do so for however long it takes.

Brenda Sheppard

If you're not sure about your personal position in God's jigsaw have a chat with Brenda or with Rev'd Peter of course. You are always welcome to join a Home Group or the Alpha Course, where there are others to chat with.



Monday 7th October
Harvest

Start time is 3.45 pm

Age range aimed especially
for children at Primary School
with parent or carer

A family afternoon of fun and messiness

Future dates

Monday 4th November
Remember Me

Monday 2nd December
Snowy Christmas

ROTA REPLY SLIP YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS

Please cross out the dates when you are **not** available and return this slip to **Paul Lucas** by 13th October

December 2019 1 8 15 22 24 25 29

January 2020 5 12 19 26

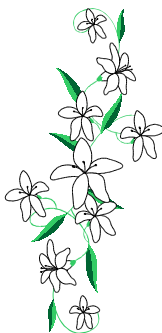
Name

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

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Our sincere thanks go to all the Flower Team members for their lovely continuing work.

Please remember that altar flowers can also be sponsored during the year in memory of a loved one or a special occasion. A couple of weeks notice of this would be appreciated and the name and donation passed to one of the churchwardens or to Kathy Pegg.



Our thanks, too, go to the team who have planted lovely flowers in the churchyard beds. **(See front cover picture.)** If you want to help in the garden speak with Bob Perry or Fiona Begley.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

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



ROTA FOR OCTOBER 2019

Date **6 October**

16th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

Col: Green

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Lamentations 1 : 1 - 6

Paul Lucas

Luke 17 : 5 - 10

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Paul Lucas

10.45 Holy Communion

Leader/Preacher/President

Rev'd Peter

Lamentations 1 : 1 - 6

Mike Bikhazi

Luke 17 : 5 - 10

Mike Bikhazi

Intercessions

Kath Dunstan

Prayer Ministry Team

Jacky Griffiths & Brenda Sheppard

Communion Assistants

Paul Lucas & Fiona Begley

Audio-Visual Operator

Christine Morgan

Sidespersons

Rosemary Cooper & David Johnson

Refreshments

Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

Transport

Christine Morgan

Date **13 October**

17th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

Col: Green

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Jeremiah 29 : 4 - 7

Paul Lucas

Luke 17 : 11 - 19

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Sheila Nicholson

10.45 Family Celebration Service & Shared Harvest Lunch

Leader/ Preacher

Rev'd Peter / Rev'd Peter & Karen Flack

Jeremiah 29 : 4 - 7

Christine Morgan

Luke 17 : 11 - 19

Christine Morgan

Intercessions

Jenny Pratt

Prayer Ministry Team

Christine Lucas & Viv Perry

Audio-Visual Operator

Sylvia Adams

Sidespersons

Mo Shakspeare & Paul Lucas

Refreshments

Maureen Smith & Sally Culff

Transport

Bob Perry

ROTA FOR OCTOBER 2019

Date **20 October**

18th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

Col: Green

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt

Jeremiah 31 : 27 - 34

Anne Wodhams

Luke 18 : 1 - 8

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Pete Adams/Anne Wodhams

10.45 Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter / Jenny Pratt

Jeremiah 31 : 27 - 34

Kath Dunstan

Luke 18 : 1 - 8

Kath Dunstan

Intercessions

Jacky Griffiths

Prayer Ministry Team

Brenda Sheppard & Fiona Begley

Communion Assistants

Sylvia Adams & Mike Bikhazi

Audio-Visual Operator

Christine Lucas

Sidespersons

Mo Shakspeare & Gwyneth Iffland

Refreshments

Bob Perry & Viv Perry

Transport

Christine Morgan

Date **27 October**

Last Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

Col: Green

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Joel 2 : 23 - end

Kathy Pegg

Luke 18 : 9 - 14

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Pete Adams/ Kathy Pegg

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher

Jacky Griffiths

Joel 2 : 23 - end

Jacky Griffiths

Luke 18 : 9 - 14

Fiona Begley

Intercessions

Sylvia Adams & Viv Perry

Prayer Ministry Team

Mike Bikhazi

Audio-Visual Operator

John Hedges & Lynda Hedges

Sidespersons

Linda Payne & Rosemary Cooper

Refreshments

Paul Lucas

Transport

19.00 Informal Worship

(Details on weekly bulletin)

OCTOBER SERVICES AT STEEPLE

Sunday	6 th	9.15 am	Family Service
Sunday	13 th	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	20 th	9.15 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	27 th	4.00 pm	Harvest Service followed by Supper in the Village Hall

ADVANCE NOTICE for ALTHORNE EVENT

On 2nd November at 2pm

there will be a

Flower Arranging Demonstration

by Shaun Keeble

at Althorne Church Hall

including Tea and Toasted Teacakes

To raise funds for the Church repair Fund

Admission £7.50

Details from 01621 744912 or 740481

It's not too late to join in!

and it's something to tell your friends about

A new **ALPHA** course
started at the Vicarage on

Thursday 26th September at 6 pm.



As usual, this will be an ideal time for people to gather and find out more about the Christian faith. There's always more to learn. Questions are welcomed and answers are shared. It is also useful as part of the preparation for Confirmation.

REGULAR MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

PCC meetings and related committee meetings
are usually on Monday evenings.

The **Music Group** meets on Fridays at 7.45 pm
& occasional Tuesdays. See Hazel Richards for details.

Bellringers meet occasionally in the tower
but we don't have our own regular team now.

Henry Club - Church Cleaning Team - meets twice a month
at 9.30 am (normally on Fridays)
October : Fridays 11th and 25th

CHURCH GROUNDS WORKING PARTY

Details of these will be in the weekly notices

Midweek Morning Prayer services (Mon., Wed. and Fri.)

8:00 am (about half an hour) in the chapel.

Tuesdays 8:30 am "Just Prayer"

and **9 am - 11.30 am**

"Common Ground" Coffee morning



HOME GROUPS

Normally they are Mondays at 10 am
and Thursdays at 7.45 pm for 8 pm

ALPHA COURSE at Vicarage on Thursdays starting at 6pm

Young people and children are always welcome.
especially at 10.45 services.

Messy Church is once a month on Mondays. See page 10.

FAMILIES are encouraged to attend the

FAMILY CELEBRATION SERVICES (this month Sunday 13th)

Weekly Bulletin information should be sent to
Christine Morgan, (See 'Who's Who' page)

Weekly bulletins and church notice boards list any other events in the Church.

What's On in the Local Area: October 2019

Arrangements in St Nicholas, Tillingham

Wednesday 2nd	9.15 am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 6th	10.00 am	Family Service
Wednesday 9th	9.15 am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 13th	10.00 am	Holy Communion celebrating Harvest
Wednesday 16th	9.15 am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 20th	10.00 am	Family Service
Wednesday 23rd	9.15 am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 27th	10.00 am	Holy Communion & Remembering the Faithful Departed
Wednesday 30th	9.15 am	Morning Prayers

October Services at St James, Dengie

October 6th	Holy Communion	8 am. Rev. Steven Poss.
October 13th	Harvest Festival & Animal Service	3 pm Rev. Steven
October 20th	Holy Communion	3 pm Rev. Steven Poss
October 27th	Evensong	3 pm Laity

St Nicholas' Church, Tillingham

Recital by the St Paul's Cathedral Choristers

Saturday 19th October at 6 pm

Tickets £15 under 16s £10

available from Sue Hanson 778141 or Moira Mee 779256

Refreshments available after the recital

in aid of the St Nicholas Organ restoration Fund

in memory of Martin Taylor

SOUTHMINSTER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Southminster W.I.

We normally meet at Southminster Memorial Hall
Tuesday 1st October Paul King : Life in a Black Suit
Competition : Favourite Joke

Memorial Hall Wishing Well Club **will meet on 8th October**

Light lunch, games & good company
and a special bit of entertainment this month:
Wendy Martin will sing songs from the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's

The SOUTHMINSTER CHATTERBOX

meets in the Memorial Hall on
Thursday mornings
from 10 am until noon.

The Bereavement Group is
there on 1st & 3rd Thursdays
and there are
Weight Management Sessions.

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

meets in the Memorial Hall
every Monday at 12.30
except bank holidays
and now **NOT** on the first
Sundays of the month.

It is important to book in on
the previous Friday by calling
Kath Savage

Little Lions Baby & Toddler Group

meets at the Memorial Hall **during term-time**
every Wednesday 10am - noon
Singing, craft, refreshments....



£2 for adult and up to 2 children, 50p per extra child.
Come and play, stay and chat; all parents & carers are welcomed.



September Report

Messy Church on 16th September was about our Community of Southminster. The children were very keen

to mix up the rich fruit cake, adding different ingredients to the bowl, and now looking forward to next Messy Church when they can taste the cake! They enjoyed all the other activities as well, experiencing different kinds of craft materials including eggshells. The meal of jacket potatoes followed by trifle was delicious! Next Messy Church is Monday 7th October.



It appears that some children find Bible stories very interesting..... even challenging....

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbour's stuff.

Here is a **Replenish Update**



from Rebecca Johnson who is back working for her charity again after the difficulties of a few months ago.

Dear Intercessors

Thank you for your prayers.

We have three Replenish clients coming to an Alpha course being run by my local parish church!! This is amazing and please pray for them that they will have peace and confidence to attend.

This is an exciting time for us as we see God moving in people's lives!! Please pray that they will feel comfortable and mix well with the other participants.

Please pray for our new befriender as she starts to work on her own. Pray that she will have discernment and wisdom to support those she is befriending.

Please pray for all our clients as they struggle with mental health problems. Please pray that God will bring them healing and wholeness.

Pray for all our befrienders as they go out to support those in need. Pray that they will have discernment and wisdom. Pray that God will give them all they need. Pray also for M who needs a breakthrough in her life. She has a history of depressive illness and has been bullied over the years because of her difficulties. Please pray that God will come in power and transform her life.

Pray for the trustees as it is time to start thinking about the annual reports. Many thanks

Rebecca

October 7th - 20th

Extinction Rebellion UK Action, central London

Although we, as part of the Chelmsford Diocese, may not be able to fully endorse all Extinction Rebellion's actions, we are being encouraged to take time in our churches to reflect on the issues we are all facing. Let's use this prayer - together or on our own - and check when the church building will be available for praying together:

We hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms
and droughts intensified by climate change

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through
courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation
to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions
and our actions as communities so that we may,
with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters
and all beings

and truthfully say
we are doing our part to care for them
and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world
with new steps toward life.

Source: <https://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/prayers-and-climate-blessings/>

GILLIAN WARD RUSSELL - autobiography

Church and concert organist, pianist, choral conductor, and musicologist, Dr GILLIAN WARD RUSSELL, has always lived in Essex and worked as a church organist in the Dioceses of Chelmsford and London, although her recital work has taken her as far afield as the USA and Europe, besides playing all over the UK including at St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Albert Hall. She has appeared on national TV and radio including an interview and recital of music by William Russell on the historic organ at St Mary's Rotherhithe; her research into this early 19th century organist gained her a PhD.

In all her performances Gillian has gained a reputation for showing the organ's versatility -- in particular its ability to create moods, to convey emotions, and to entertain. She believes in the power of music to communicate directly with her audience and uses this to great effect in all her concerts. Wherever she has played audiences have felt the power of communication through Gillian's music, and that is what she is passionate about.

Gillian believes in the importance of passing on her skills to others and she teaches organ and piano privately; she also enjoys training and conducting Maldon Choral Society. She has worked as Organs Adviser for the Diocese of Chelmsford; held the office of Chair of the Suffolk Centre of the Incorporated Society of Musicians; served as a council member for the Incorporated Association of Organists; and for 30 years she was President of the Essex Organists' Association.

Recital details overleaf

St Leonard's Church, Southminster

welcomes you

StL

StL

to an

Organ Recital

by

Gillian Ward Russell

Sunday 6th October

at 4pm

followed by light refreshments



MUSICAL PICTURES

**a programme of
descriptive organ music**



Admission £7.50 Pay at the door

Proceeds to organ fund

WHAT'S WHAT

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

THIS MONTH at St Leonard's

Everyone is welcome at all our services.

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

10:45 am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

(Prayer ministry for any needs is available during /after 10.45 services)

Light refreshments are served after the 10.45 services.

Children and Young people are always welcomed, especially for the

Family Celebration Service on October 13th

followed by shared Harvest Lunch

Informal Worship 7 pm October 27th

This month's services are listed in detail on pages 12 - 13

MESSY CHURCH is held monthly on Monday afternoons
starting at 3.45 pm (See p 10)



'LITTLE LIONS' on Wednesday mornings at the Memorial Hall is for babies /toddlers with their carers. **(during term-time only)** See p. 17

Midweek Prayer times (Mon., Wed. and Fri.) 8:00 am (about half an hour) and **Tuesdays at 8.30 am** (Just Prayer) in the chapel

followed by **COMMON GROUND** (coffee & chat)

United Service for Elderly at Southminster Residential Home
on Thursday 17th October

and at **Squeaks House** (contact Norman Pratt or Jacky Griffiths)
on Wednesday 9th October (Date t.b.c.)

Rev'd Peter visits the Residential Home and Squeaks House regularly for Holy Communion services. Details are in church.