

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



Steve and Johanna Pillinger are grateful for our prayer support.
(see more on pages 8 and 9)

SEPTEMBER 2020

In this new 'normal'

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
the old has gone, the new is here.

2 Corinthians 5 : 17

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We're back again with our printed magazine, even if it is a bit smaller than usual. Please bear with us as we adjust to the new situations we have to cope with.

Please pray for our Vicar the Rev. Canon Peter Begley, who, as Area Dean, has had to deal with many extra tasks during the Lockdown period. We are grateful to him and his wife Fiona for coping so well - and so cheerfully.

NOTE
FROM THE EDITOR:
Articles for the October magazine by Sunday Sept. 13th please, to Kath Dunstan. New contributors will be welcome.

Reflection

It has been harvest time around us, although this year harvest has carried on without people noticing too much. On one of my journeys out I noticed a new combine harvester moving up and down the fields, and these days some combines are directed by satellite to gain the most efficient cut - and in straight lines! The onboard computer can tell the driver whether the grain is moist - and measure the moisture content - or dry, and will measure the grain as it separates it from the head of the stalk and weighs it as it is loaded. Fantastic pieces of machinery to use and to gather - far more efficient than ever before. It seems that the old ways were not as productive as the new methods, hardly any grain is missed and it is harvested at the peak of its fruitfulness.

The contrast with the old ways of gathering and hand sorting ready for the grain to be extracted seem such a labour-intensive method that would be very expensive to achieve these days in order to be cost effective. Sometimes the new ways are better than the old.

We could say that about technology too, as over these past few months we have needed new ways of communicating the gospel to those around us, and we have been truly blessed by some of our parishioners pioneering ways to use social media to the best effect; and this best effect reaches a wider context than the villages we serve.

When we finally get back to a routine in the churches, whether here or across the country, we will have new ways and new technologies to start getting used to; of using and adapting for our context. Church is not going to be the same in the future. We must adapt, accept and appreciate new things, and try to view them with a positive eye by seeing the new ways they can take us ahead, reach new people...remember the huge difference the colour programmes made to the previous black and white?

When I look at scripture, God is always taking things forward into new areas, new ways of life, and new ways to worship Him. Psalm 98; says; "Sing to the LORD a **new** song,..."

Our God is a creative God who has made us in His image to be creative, in order to express our praise of Him, indeed, He has made us new in order to bring Him praise and glory. God never puts his Holy Spirit into 'old wineskins' but makes us new in order to fill us with His Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5: 17 says

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here."

In the previous chapter 2 Corinthians 4: 15

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

How wonderful is that?! We are getting constant updates from our Father in heaven! Being renewed keeps us in step with who and what the Father is

wanting us to be and do, functioning in the church in a way that He intends. God always takes His people into new places, for new experiences both of Him and for the people around us, but never casting out entirely the older ways which He used to teach us.

Our diocese for some time has promoted “Fresh Expressions” of church, encouraging churches to find alternative ways to bring community together in order that the gospel may be demonstrated and explained. We have the ideal opportunity in the next few months and years to use our new technology and resources to harvest more people for the Kingdom of God.

Peter

Something very special

We are due to be having a **deanery confirmation service** in October. The venue and time have not yet been decided but we will publicise it as appropriate.

The **important thing** is:

If you feel that being confirmed will be right for you you will need to tell Rev'd Peter **NOW** so he can make the necessary arrangements in good time.

If you're not sure but have questions you'd like to ask, then please speak with Rev'd Peter about that. Obviously a chat with other Church officers could provide a starting point for your possible plans. Do it NOW!

Clouds

I was prompted to write about clouds after I read in a daily newspaper of people telling of seeing loved ones faces or pet animals who had recently died visible in the clouds. One lady had seen her mother's face, another her dog. I must admit if I look at clouds for a time I can make shapes or faces or symbols but I haven't personally seen a loved one. I really find clouds fascinating and have to be careful when driving to keep my eyes on the road!!!

So, what is a cloud? Clouds are a mass of water vapour in the sky floating in the atmosphere. They are made up of condensed water droplets evaporated from the ground below, for example, from bodies of water, plants, and other forms of moisture. Clouds are white because sunlight which is white light passes through the water droplets. When we see grey clouds, it means there is less light passing through with black clouds being much denser with moisture and means rain.



There are many references in the Bible to clouds often associated with God's presence and protection. Exodus 13 v 21 tells of God going ahead of the Israelites on the way to the promised land in a pillar of cloud to guide them during the day and a pillar of fire by night and neither left its place in front of them.

God is portrayed on many occasions as enclosed in clouds as His glory was too much to look on with human

eyes. Moses often met with God in a cloud and Exodus 34 v 34 talks about the radiant face of Moses after meeting with God and how Moses put a veil over his face so the Israelites would not see the fading away of the radiance but would continue to honour Moses as the one who represented God.

We sometimes use clouds as descriptions of how we feel:

On cloud nine means to be blissfully happy,

Under a cloud means out of favour or suspected of having done wrong.

A black cloud can mean gloom, oppression or depression.

Acts 1 v 9 tells us that Jesus was taken into heaven at his resurrection and a cloud hid him from the sight of the apostles.

We also read in Matthew 24 v 30 about Jesus coming again and that “All the nations of the earth will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory”. Singer/songwriter Robin Mark in his song “Days of Elijah” writes “Behold He comes, riding on a cloud, shining like the sun at the trumpet call”



How amazing that it will be our beloved Jesus seen not in the clouds but visible on the clouds, Jesus coming back in all His Majesty and Glory. What a sight to behold!

Brenda Sheppard

Steve & Johanna Pillinger write:

**Wycliffe
Bible
Translators**

South Africa is not exempt from the challenges presented by the Covid 19 pandemic, and in fact has the highest number of diagnosed infections in Africa. The epicenter is now the province of Gauteng, which includes the capital, Pretoria, and the economic powerhouse of Johannesburg. The government has had the very hard job of balancing the needs of the poorest and the economy, with the need for lockdown regulations. Currently we are at an intermediate level in which there are strict regulations for businesses, there is virtually no air traffic, and people are urged to take personal responsibility in following the now well-established precautions. Masks are obligatory at all times outside the interior of one's own house.

We ourselves are staying well, and keeping our social contacts to a minimum. We are not allowed to go to the Wycliffe office, though they have reopened it with small groups working in shifts.

Typesetting and Repository

Steve: I have been kept busy with remote typesetting jobs for translation projects in Tanzania, working by email and internet. (This was already how I worked before Covid-19, so it's been business as usual.) The **Pimbwe Gospel of Luke** is now almost complete, and I'll be starting soon on another Gospel of Luke for the **Bende** people. (No, delightful as that sounds, it's not "Bendy", but "Bendeh"!) Later this year I'm also down to typeset the **Nyiha NT**.

I've learnt something new during the checking of my typeset version of Pimbwe Luke: I had placed a narrow picture next to the text it belonged to (as I would normally do in a New Testament or Bible), which meant that the caption below the picture was alongside the main scripture text. One of the Tanzanian checkers pointed out that they try to avoid that in

initial publications like this, because newly-literate people like the Pimbwe have not yet learned to distinguish all the elements on a printed page, so they would read the picture caption as part of the main text! That had never occurred to me, which shows there's always something new to learn! Usually by the time a full New Testament is published the community has become familiar with these things, so it's no longer an issue.

My work with the **Maps & Illustrations Repository** has also continued in the background. Recently I and my colleagues at our publishing headquarters in the States discovered several old sets of excellent scripture pictures that had somehow remained in hiding for many years. So we now have some intensive sleuthing to do to discover the copyright requirements before adding them to the online repository. Meet Steve Pillinger, Private Investigator!

Johanna: I seem to suffer from the same disability as many artists: not easily satisfied with the results! I had to stop my lessons at an art school, which closed during lockdown, and turned instead to the internet, various books I have, and just practising! As practice I did some illustrations for Steve's trilogy*, then turned to portraiture in pencil. For Wycliffe South Africa I hope to do five portraits of women from various cultural backgrounds, which will be published as cards for promotional purposes. I've now sought the assistance of an artist who is an outstanding black & white portrait specialist, trained by a master in this art in the far east. Johannesburg, like any cosmopolitan city, is full of interesting people!

* Steve's trilogy of Christian fiction books called "**The Mindruler**" is available for purchase through Amazon. Look for "Pillinger Mindrulers" He has worked on these for about 20 years so it's good to see them completed.

Latest news about churches reopening

Sadly, because of all the regulations during the Coronavirus pandemic, churches will still be closed for normal public meetings, but occasionally open for private prayer with limited numbers and with specific sanitisation arrangements. Reopening churches will continue during September following further advice for those shielded.

If you would like specific prayer, please contact the vicar., preferably by email but otherwise on 01621 772300

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.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

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



We pray also for students and children starting a new year.

POSSIBLE ROTA DETAILS: YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS

We don't know when we shall be able to start worshipping in church again, but, in order to be well-prepared, please let Paul Lucas know if you cannot be available on any of the following dates.

December 2020	6	13	20	24	25	27
January 2021	3	10	17	24	31	

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

FLOWER ARRANGING

Kathy Pegg will be informing people if and when the regular Flower Arranging is to re-start. At the moment, just keep enjoying the lovely outdoors and keep your gardens in order (if you are able). Thank God that despite the pandemic there are good things around us and we should thank Him for creation.

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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Details of the September services which will happen on-line and in our Southminster and Steeple church buildings (with appropriate sanitisation arrangements being managed of course) are listed here - on pages 12 - 13 so please use them so that we can all be involved in worship together; in church or at home, at this continuing difficult time. The set readings of the day and the special prayer (the collect) are shown. If there are any changes they will be shown on the outside church notice-board.

Sunday 6th September 13th Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion: 8am BCP & 10.45am
(Steeple Morning Worship 9.15am)

Ezekiel 33 : 7 - 11

Matthew 18 : 15 - 20

Almighty God, you search us and know us may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 13th September 14th Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion 8am BCP & at Steeple 9.15am
Morning Worship 10.45am

Genesis 50 : 15 - 21

Matthew 18 : 21 - 35

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 20th September 15th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion: 8am BCP & 10.45 am

(Steeple Morning Worship 9.15am)

Jonah 3 : 10 - 4 end

Matthew 20 : 1 - 16

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 27th September 16th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion: 8am & Morning Worship 10.45am

Steeple Holy Communion 9.15am

Ezekiel 18 : 1 - 4, 25 - end

Matthew 21 : 23 - 32

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. LEONARD'S REGULAR MIDWEEK EVENTS

HENRY CLUB (Church Cleaning)

Our team is hoping to meet fortnightly 'as usual' so that means we'll be busy at 9.15 am on **Fridays 11th & 25th September**.

If you have any questions or offers to help please contact Brenda Sheppard who is 'in charge' while Jacky is unavailable.

The **Music Group** normally meets in church on Fridays at 7.45 pm & occasional Wednesdays, but singing in services is not allowed yet.

Morning Prayer on Mon., Tues, Wed. & Fri. has been suspended but information will be on the notice-board if there is a change.

We are still praying!

Bradwell-Tillingham-Dengie and St Lawrence Churches

If our Churches are still closed for public worship our church services will be 'Joint Benefice Services' and will be online at; <https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/sunday-services/>

If restrictions are removed and public worship is permitted please see <https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/> for church services and times for Bradwell, Tillingham, St Lawrence and Dengie.

This website has been adapted to cover all the churches in Bradwell, Tillingham, St Lawrence and Dengie over this coronavirus pandemic period.

SOUTHMINSTER APCM

Due to Covid-19, this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place later than usual and will be held in church following the 10.45am service on Sunday 4th October.

We will begin with the election of two churchwardens although wardens and ex officio posts will remain until January 2021.

Everyone from the parish is welcome to attend and vote.

We shall then proceed with the Church Council part of the meeting. Again everyone is welcome but only registered members of the church, i.e. those on the electoral roll are able to comment and/or vote.

There will be a booklet available in church 4 weeks before the meeting where various reports will be printed for people to read in advance of the meeting. If you are unable to collect yours from the church it can be delivered to you. Contact secretary Sylvia Adams or warden Paul Lucas.

REMINDER about a journey of discovery for you.

The COURSE IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES

is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith with others. The course runs over two years, is open to anyone over the age of 16 and is based on weekly meetings in local groups.

This year we will be running the first term of all face to face groups entirely via ZOOM, with the hope of moving back to local face to face groups in January 2021 if it is safe to do so and in accordance with government guidelines.

If you are new to ZOOM, *do not be discouraged*, we are offering a short training session on how to use ZOOM, followed by the CCS Taster/Introductory event on 5th September starting at 10.30am

To register your interest in either or both events and receive an easy click on link invitation, email Diane Hardy dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org or call her on 01245 294449

Is it difficult for you to commit to a regular weekly meeting?

WHY NOT TRY THE ONLINE VERSION?

group learning when and where it suits you,

Further details available at

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/ccs

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT - SHARE IT INSTEAD

Chris Martin

Don't you just love a bargain? "Two-for-ones", or "BOGOFs" as they're known? There's something attractive about saving money without having to go without anything. There's even a satisfaction about cutting open "empty" tubes of toothpaste, cosmetic creams and sun lotions to get out one or two more days' use. It feels we are doing something really worthwhile if we boil up the bones of a chicken for stock and make soup from it. That's a free lunch – somebody should have told Maggie Thatcher!

Extra food from "BOGOFs" or "3-for-2"s could be donated to the food pantry. Extra toiletries could be put in the Christmas Shoe Boxes. We could invite somebody to share that huge pan of chicken soup if we really don't need it in the freezer.

If you were clever enough to do the calculation of how much actual money you saved by cutting tubes and plastic bottles to make things last longer for a year, your maths is better than mine but it wouldn't be much. Maybe 50p in a year??? Mostly the satisfaction is knowing you have had the most out of whatever you have had – that nothing has been wasted. That's really the point.

I've gone from "we" to "you" here because I have no idea of the savings from that practice, because to me, the attraction of it is that it avoids waste. I can't bear waste. Sometimes I take it a bit too far: I've spent out on suet, dried fruit and brown sugar before now just to make bread pudding out of a few slices of leftover bread rather than throw it away. At other times, the birds get the bread! What is REALLY at the back of my subconscious, I believe, is that it is wrong to waste when so

many people in the world are so needy. In fact it would probably be wrong to waste even if there were NO needy people. If we are fortunate enough to have sufficient and then there's something left over even if it's only from being super-frugal, then we're blessed indeed.

There's an immeasurable pleasure in sharing anyway - in a different way from cash charity-giving. That's why we all enjoy having a cuppa or a meal with friends. So it's great to give away what we don't need, to donate what we can afford and share what we have with others anyway.

At this time of the wretched virus, which seems to be going on and on, we all feel a bit down from time to time but it's amazing how uplifting a bit of sharing can be.

Following on from this, Ken Dunstan writes

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." (John 6:11-12)

The remnants of the lakeside feast were the undistributed surplus once all had had enough. Jesus embodies the generosity of God, which is expressed in the Law of Moses: "*When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest... **Leave them for the poor and the foreigner.***" (Leviticus 19:9-10) Earth provides enough for everyone. The problems are the sin of Genesis 3 – refusing to accept limits – and the distribution system that means marketing encourages over-buying. Meanwhile, "*About 821 million people in the world today are undernourished. While the poor suffer the consequences of an environment degraded by intensive agriculture – water pollution, degraded soil, climate change – the rich are never satisfied*". (The Jubilee Centre, Cambridge) The Kingdom of God is marked by generosity and abundance. Only in sinful humanity are hoarding and scarcity accepted as normal.



**Love never fails.
In times of crisis, love unites us all.**

In the context of the regular newsletter, with thanks for what we as a Church, have done to support Christian Aid in the past, here are some details of their current work. Responses to their requests will be appreciated and then discussed by the Parochial Church Council.

Kath Dunstan

Some communities face crises every day. They lack health-care, clean water, nutritious food or a safe place to call home. Disasters such as coronavirus compound the crises they already face.

Will your Church come together this autumn to help your global neighbours still facing crisis?

Some of the globe's most vulnerable communities are joining forces with their neighbours e.g. the farming community in Nicaragua (the second poorest country in Latin America) whose coffee farms are in crisis because of climate change. With your support, their community is coming together to share tools and knowledge, and urgently protect their livelihoods. United, they can make the urgent changes (cocoa-farming now) to help their family farms last for generations. This autumn, we need your help so that more communities around the world can come together like this to overcome the crisis of poverty. Just as we did when crisis arrived on our doorsteps this year, neighbourly love helped us through. You picked up the phone; you dropped off food; you showed your neighbours that they were not alone. Staying behind closed doors has opened us up to what we can achieve together. Even in the darkest moments, love gave us hope. And your love could give hope to people in crisis all round the world.

Will you help more of your neighbours today?

There are many things your church could do to make a difference and raise money for people like those in Nicaragua. Whether you host an outdoor service and collection, an on-line quiz or re-schedule your Christian Aid Week events - make your own mark this autumn! You can find all the resources to support you at **caid.org.uk/neighbours**

Autumn is known for a time of sharing. As we celebrate Harvest, we want to be at the centre of all your activities. We will be hosting a Global Neighbours service, but why not consider holding your own?

Neighbourly love is powerful and can change the world. Love never fails. Whether you are near or far, you can take part and make a difference.

Below is a prayer which you can share with a neighbour who is lonely because of shielding.

Loving God,
Come now and make us
into a global neighbourhood,
looking out for each other
through struggle and crisis,
reaching out to strangers
who become sisters and brothers,
shape us into a caring community,
strengthening each other
through every challenge,
standing together
until justice comes for all.
In your name we pray.

Christian Aid/Wendy Lloyd



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

NORMAL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS A BIT DIFFERENT.

See page 10 and pages 12-13 for some details.

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

Sunday Services - will continue on-line, but with opportunities for a limited number of people to meet in the church.

(See pages 12-14 for details of special days and readings)

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**



MESSY CHURCH is monthly on Mondays at 3.45 pm in church. The next one will be publicised as soon as it is allowed to happen.

‘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 obviously not gathering at the moment.