

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



and also for Steeple Parish

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

Follow Jesus
Overcome fear
Resist temptation
Tell your story
You are loved

SEPTEMBER 2022

**Whether this takes 40 days or 40 years, or.....
we can respond as Peter did.**

Jesus said to Peter “Tend my sheep”.

John 21 v 16

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the October magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 18th September
New contributors are welcome.*

To cover our costs we have to charge for this magazine. This is now **80p per issue** or £9 for a whole year paid in advance.

Vicar's Reflection

This month I would like to start by thanking each of you in the parish that have contributed to the wonderful and generous gifts that Fiona and I received for our fortieth Wedding Anniversary. We have been bowled over by your love expressed in the cards and messages that you have sent and given. Thank you so much – we receive them in the Godly love in which they were given.

As Fiona and I move into our forty first year of marriage, it made me think of other 'forties' that we know, or have discovered. I have read that there are forty spaces on a Monopoly board giving a forty to one chance of going to jail or receiving free parking. W.D. 40 got its name (Water Displacement 40) on the fortieth attempt. Forty is the number of winks we have for a nap.

The word 'quarantine' is derived from Italian *Quaranta giorni* meaning forty days; which in this case was for ships arriving in port that may have journeyed from a country with Bubonic Plague, and so were quarantined for forty days.

Forty is the number of weeks in a normal human pregnancy, and forty appears in the bible as a long period of time, 40 days in the wilderness; or forty years!

Our first Biblical forty is found in Genesis as Noah endured the forty days and nights of rain. Moses went up a mountain and spent forty days in the cloud. David was king for forty years as was Solomon, as an example of priest/king rule.

Whenever we read the Bible and it has ‘forty’ it means for a long period of time. Yet at the end of that period of time came blessing: in dry land, in relationship with God and the commandments of how to live. Forty also symbolises liberty in a promised land or freedom from the constant temptation of sin. Each is a blessing, and my thoughts go to those who are going through tough times that seem a long time. However, as we remain faithful to God, He will bring us through and into a new place with Him to enjoy a newer experience of Him.

It was not quite forty years ago that I received a prophetic word that has stayed with me for many years; it was a scripture from the gospel of John. Jesus speaks to Peter and asks “Do you love me?” and Jesus asks three times. As Jesus asks for the third time Peter replies “Lord you know all things; you know that I love you.” and Jesus replies “Feed my sheep” This last phrase has stayed with me a very long time and I now realise God's purpose in these words.

I wonder what God has said to you in the past, a very long time ago, that has stuck with you. It may be that you have been praying something in particular for a long time and have not yet seen an answer; Well please be assured that God will bring us to a new place in our relationship with Him; it could take forty days, it could take forty seconds, but what it will take is faithful prayer and a single focus on God who delivers us.

Blessings,

Peter

What a wonderful world we live in and we certainly had a wonderful time in **Holiday Club** this year.



It was called
Wonder Zone
and we
explored the
different
wonderful
things God has
created in this
and other
worlds.

We had an average of 22 children every day divided into three groups. We had different experiments every day and some of them actually worked. Each child was awarded a pair of bug-eyed glasses.

God is good, all the time!

Watch out for the date of the next meeting to review this year's club and what's next ...

Jenny Pratt



The Outcast

What does it feel like to be an outcast? Have we ever felt left out, made to feel different or unimportant? Have we ever been rejected by certain people groups? I'm sure some of us can identify with feeling left out and lost in certain situations.

In today's society, we, too, can be outcast if we refuse to do what everyone else does. We can be rejected if we don't fit in with the majority in our way of living, if we have few interpersonal skills or language difficulties or we can be very shy and seen as stand offish.



Today who would consider themselves outcasts? Could it be the person in a wheelchair denied access to certain public places; refugees fleeing from war or persecution; people with learning or physical difficulties; those bullied? The list goes on.

We, as Christians, are called to be different, when we accept Jesus into our lives, we are called to be Holy in all we do and often get ridiculed for it. We accept that we are not perfect and make mistakes like anyone else, but we thank God every day that we can come to Him for forgiveness for anything we feel is not pleasing to Him. We also thank God that He gives us the grace to forgive anyone in turn who upsets us.

Jesus, too, was not accepted by some people, especially the Pharisees or Teachers of the law. These men, full of self-importance, wanted rid of Jesus who went against what they considered as lawful. For example, in their eyes, Jesus had the

audacity to heal on the Sabbath and to eat with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus also dared to touch a man with leprosy and heal him and He cast out the demons from a demon possessed man who had been outcast for a very long time.

The teachers of the law questioned the disciples as they attended a banquet at Levi the tax collector's house. They asked "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" It was Jesus who answered them, He said: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance, the spiritually sick" (Luke 5 27-32)

Jesus cared deeply for the marginalised, He made a point of seeking them out and going against society's socially acceptable rules of the time. He attracted people wherever He went. Psalm 147v3 says "He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." He loved and accepted people.



Thank God that Jesus came for each one of us. He looks for people's hearts to be changed and for people to live godly lives that they may bring glory to God the Father and draw other people to Him. We may be criticised and made to feel outcasts at times but our mission is to go and make disciples for Jesus and we live to please Him alone.

Brenda Sheppard

The Demise of the Printing Industry and My Part in it. Harry Payne.

Section 2. I began last month highlighting how easy it is now, to produce printed sheets. No training required just possession of a computer and printer. Type away and almost everything is done for you, even spelling, although be wary, sometimes the computer changes your choice of word. Never trust them.

I continue my story now, just after I left school. Fourteen when I left. I had just celebrated my Fifteenth Birthday, no job to go to, just a desire to be a printer. Whilst the education system at the time helped you to find employment, Printing was considered a trade very difficult to enter at the time, because of union restrictions. The answer to my enquiry was.... No Prospects!

I began my 'love affair' with printing back in the days when Printing was still considered a craft industry. You needed an indentured apprenticeship to become a recognised Printing Craftsman. This training could last five or seven years, mainly five. Apprenticeships were valued. And yes, it could take all of that time to learn the very specialised skills and intricacies needed to produce a printed sheet of acceptable and consistent quality. For the purpose of this account of the Printing Industry, there were basically two skilled sides in the trade, Compositors (i.e. self styled Gentlemen of the Press) and Machine Minders, those who produced the printed sheets, no airs and graces amongst the minders. What happened to the printed sheets depended on what they were being produced for. A printed sheet can range from a small business card or gummed label right up to 32 or 64 pages of a book (on a sheet 30 inches x 40 inches or larger) with everything in between. General Printing by the way, is not to be confused with Newspaper Printing, that was almost a different industry. I started work at Croydon Press, a small printing company with around sixteen employees situated in Forest Gate East London in 1955. The company already had two Indentured Apprentices. I was told I could become a print boy, but not an apprentice, as they had their allowable quota. One in the composing room the other already in

the machine room. In past times printer boys would have been called Printers Devils. I was almost that, but didn't mind. I was told I would have my own machine to work on, it was an antiquated hand fed platen, but modified to be electrically driven. Whilst in their employment, I never had the opportunity to progress beyond that machine. My first job, I would have to master the hand feeding of the blank sheets into the machine, then taking the printed sheet out and replace a fresh blank one for the next printing cycle. If you missed putting a blank sheet in, the print would go onto the platen. This would mess up the next 6-7 sheets unless you stopped the press and dusted French Chalk on the wet image. Earnings? I would be paid two pounds ten shillings, the equivalent of £2.50 a week. The adult machine minders in the print room would show me the ropes and I was to do their bidding, and match the printing quality they demanded. I was 'over the moon' at my prospects. I was to become a printer. I had compiled a list of Printers from a telephone directory and had been cycling around to my listed Printers, enquiring after job prospects. Cycling down Katherine Road in Forest Gate, I had seen a notice in their window, Lad Wanted! The printers was around 40 minutes cycle ride from home. I had left school a few weeks earlier as I was now Fifteen, I could be gainfully employed. I took the job. Our day started at 8am through till 5pm, with 30 minutes for lunch. Fridays we finished at 4.45pm! A long day, a long week maybe, but I was so proud when I cycled home to tell my mum, I had a job in a printers!

Why had I wanted to go into print? My father had set up in business on his own account after the war, as a small time printer. It was the only trade he knew, having been a 'printer' before the war. Like many boys of that time I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps. But as there was only him in his business, he could not afford to employ me, or even train me. It seems strange now, but small printers of that time, and there were plenty of them, were or seemed to be, unaware that massive changes for the printing industry were just beyond the horizon. They were investing in and I was being trained for obsolescence. I was to be one of the last of a kind.

Art in our Churches

During May, June and July our St. Leonard's Church Bible Study Group did a new thing!! We were invited to go along and discover various kinds of art expressed by artists and to have a go ourselves. Led by Jenny and Norman we enjoyed 6 sessions namely: Paintings: Icons: Stained Glass: Mosaics: Tapestry and Sculpture.

We learned a lot about each work of art and the way they came about and the different ways the artists interpreted their subject. We also looked at relevant Bible verses for each subject. My favourite sessions were the Stained Glass and the Sculpture. My tapestry left a lot to be desired but I tried!!

Jenny showed us some of her creative work and helped us all to create our own work of art in all of the categories each week. I know some of us felt very inadequate when we first began but over the weeks, I think we all relaxed and did our best and were surprised how well our efforts turned out.



I remember confessing to the group how badly I did in art classes at school and lacked imagination to create even the basis of a painting or drawing, and I remember feeling very intimidated by our art teacher. In the informal setting of our group and Jenny helping us it became fun, and even if not perfect, I felt we were all proud of our achievements and from a beginning of "I can't possibly do that" we realised that we could in our own way without condemnation from anyone!!

What next, I wonder? Let's look forward to our next adventure and being challenged yet again, please come!!

Brenda Sheppard

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 2022	6	13	20	27
December 2022	4	11	18	25

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

Henry Cleaning Team

It seems that there is always a need for volunteers to do jobs in and around the church building. We, at Henry Cleaning Club, have lost some valued members this year for varied and very valid reasons. They are sorely missed but have left a void. We try to keep the cleanliness of the church building to a good standard but can always do with more willing hands. We meet once a fortnight on a Friday morning from 9.15 – 11am and do as much or as little as we feel able. If you would like to come along, please contact me, it would be great to have you onboard.



Brenda Sheppard

The **REMEDY BAND** have produced a **Marathon Song** which is available on CD (with 3 versions and artistic extras).

To arrange a purchase contact theremedybandsx@gmail.com. The cost (£5 plus postage and packaging) includes a donation to the London Marathon Charities.

Sunday 4th September

12th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Philemon 1 - 21
Luke 14 : 25 - 33
Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

10.45 Family Holy Communion

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

Rev'd Peter
Linda Payne
Norman Pratt
Sylvia Adams
Kath Dunstan
t.b.a.

There will be a **Holy Baptism** during this service too.

Saturday 10th September

9 am - 5 pm

RIDE AND STRIDE event

Most churches will be open to care for contributors

Sunday 11th September

13th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
1 Timothy 1 : 12 - 17
Luke 15 : 1 - 10
Sidesperson

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Pete Adams

10.45 Family Celebration

Leaders
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui / Jenny Pratt
Christine Morgan
Leon Flack
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

Sunday 18th September

14th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

President/Preacher

1 Timothy 2 : 1 - 7

Luke 16 : 1 - 13

Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter/Norman Pratt

Celebrant

Celebrant

Leon Flack

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/ preacher

Readings as at 8am

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/ Norman Pratt

Pauline Siggers

Brenda Sheppard

Christine Lucas

Lynda Hedges

Eira Hagger & Yvonne Thurbon

Sunday 25th September

15th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion

President/Preacher

1 Timothy 6 : 6 - 19

Luke 16 : 19 - end

Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard

Celebrant

Celebrant

Pete Adams

10.45 Family Service

Leader/Preacher

Readings as above

Intercessions

Audio-visuals

Sidesperson

Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard

Rupert Killick

Gwyneth Iffland

Christine Morgan

Paul Lucas & David Johnson

Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

CHURCH BELLS RING in AFTERNOONS

Be prepared to hear them monthly on final Saturdays.

The team need practices and could welcome new members too.

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 and third Sundays each month and Holy Communion on the second and fourth.



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

www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Expect to see Steeple Church tower shrouded in scaffolding for the months of September and October while our contractor, Bakers of Danbury carry out the belfry timber repairs we've been planning for so long. This timing turned out to be fortuitous because Natural England have advised that bats, a protected species, are least likely to be disturbed by the work at this time of year.

While the belfry timber repairs are in progress, we'll also be refurbishing the entrance gates. They were erected over 70 years ago as part of Steeple's thanksgiving for the end of WW2 so it's high time they received a make-over. Having them off-site during this period avoids the risk of damage during the building works.

The principal invoices for this £25k project will need to be paid before the end of 2022 so profits from Wheels & Paws at Elmwood Equestrian in July and the Steeple Historic Vehicle Gathering in August have been crucially important to us. There's still some shortfall in our funding so we also need successful outcomes from our grant

applications to Friends of Essex Churches and other organisations that support this type of work.

Friends of Essex Churches have their own fund-raising event on Saturday 10th September. People participating in Ride & Stride seek sponsors for themselves to “ride” a bike or horse, or “stride” on their own two legs, following a route of their choosing, usually going from church to church. Several horse-riding members of the Steeple congregation plan to ride from Steeple Church and take in as many Dengie churches as they can. Most local churches will be open on the day and offering refreshments.

Steeple’s Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 18th September. This is earlier than in recent years which seems appropriate following an abnormally dry summer when crops matured early. Shortage of helpers means we can’t hold a traditional Harvest Supper in the Village Hall this year so the Harvest service will be in the morning, at 9.15am, followed by an informal cold snack in the church. Although the building works should be well underway, we’ll still be able to use the church on Sundays.

We are delighted that the Reverend Jacqui King, curate of Southminster and Steeple, will be ordained a priest by Bishop John at St Mary with St Leonard, Broomfield, on Saturday 1st October. There will be no service at Steeple on Sunday 2nd October because we will all be at the 10.45am Communion service at St Leonard’s, Southminster celebrating Jacqui’s achievement.



The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

This was created as a way to keep in touch, encourage and support each other during the difficult time of lock-downs. Since then we have shared songs, daily devotions, prayers, church services, Bible studies, Alpha courses etc.

At the present time each weekday looks like this;

6am Daily Devotion including a worship song
11.30am Family Time (Tuesday and Thursday)

including

Little Lions' singing time, Veggie Tales movies,
virtual Sunday School etc.

3pm Bible Study / Reflection

8pm Prayer

Saturday is a quiet day and on Sunday we post the church service and weekly bulletin.

We welcome others to share encouraging posts on the page too.

Karen Flack



Steeple Belfry

Architect Hilary

Brightman evaluating the weather damaged timberwork around Steeple belfry in 2019.

The specifications for repair works now being undertaken were developed from this inspection but take account of further deterioration during the past three years.



SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

Depending on how the Omicron Virus Regulations are, we hope that the following gatherings will take place.

LUNCH CLUB did not happen during August but we hope to be back with new plans for September. If you would like any information please phone Dave Christie 07775 758118.

CHATTERBOX

meets on Thursday mornings 10am-12 noon. Everybody is welcome – come along for a chat, activities if you would like to join them and a cuppa and a biscuit for £1.00. No entry charge.

The **BEREAVEMENT GROUP** has moved to the Library but the Chatterbox team are always willing to listen and support.

There are other groups too. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer to help us in running this valuable community organisation, please just attend and think about it. It's a way to enjoy village life and make new friends!

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on

27th September for an AGM and
Jane & Janet Flower Arranging.

Competition: Flower Arrangement in a cup and saucer

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



Please pray for young people who will be preparing for a new life in a new school or in University or College. Pray for their families too as they adjust.

Keep praying for Ukraine and Russia in these difficult times.

It was great to hear Archdeacon Elizabeth Snowden speaking at the Bradwell Chapel service on 31st August. Here are my notes.

Kath Dunstan

The readings were Deuteronomy 8:11-20 and Colossians 1:11-20. Her theme was Climate Change and our responsibilities as Christians. She pointed out that Western Christianity tends to focus on the individual:

ME - MY RIGHTS - MY CHOICES - MY SALVATION.
But God's work through Jesus is bigger; God is active in redeeming and reconciling **all** things.

Deuteronomy reminds us that God spoke to a nation about land and its duties. What did Jesus do?

Col.1: 11-20 explains Christ's presence in creation. Creation was by him, through him and for him. He is restoring all things to himself and has transferred us from darkness into God's kingdom. Anyone in Christ is a new creation (2 Cor 5: 17). Jesus' acts are clear in his life, death and resurrection. We are just a simple part of this. Does the Bible help us? Yes, the Gospels and the Epistles help but the Old Testament tends to be more difficult but portrays the God who is active throughout time.

In Genesis 1, people were created last, on Day 6, but as part of the whole. It is good!! God's gift of life and gift of land are clear. God had created a chosen people - Israel - how does this apply to us? Deuteronomy reminds Israelites of their dependence on God, who gave them freedom in their own land after slavery in a foreign land. God gave Israel training in the wilderness, leading them through it for 40 years. They resented their situation but God provided what they needed. God gifted them hardship and barrenness as well as land. There were relationships between God, the land, and the people.

God gave the Covenant which declared how to be God's people.

Deuteronomy 8: 19-20 warns against forgetting what God has done. We've forgotten this today too. We concentrate on material possessions today, as in verses 17-18 so we think we can make better and build better. But the gift of life is from God. Today our churches are getting emptier because people are forgetting God. Today's education makes little reference to God. Despite amnesia, churches can promote a relationship with God, with each other and with the land. Our memories should be stirred about this.

Churches need to be aware of climate change - possibly to plan to become eco-churches. There can be difficulties but we must trust God because the land is his. We need to ask God how we can do things. He calls us to speak **to** him and **about** him. Let's do it!

On August 7th the Bradwell Chapel service was led by Rev'd Brigid Main starting with an Awareness Walk to the chapel with four pauses on the way.

1. Consider a tree, with its roots deep in the earth and its branches high in the air bringing glory to God.
2. Listen to the sounds around: leaves rustling, birds singing, water flowing - and listen to the silence.
3. Notice the diversity of structure, colour and patterns.
4. Think about our senses of touch, taste and smell and how we are being touched by the air, sun and wind on our skin and the pull of gravity keeping our feet on the ground.

The service in the chapel continued with readings, (including Hebrews 1:1-4), songs and prayers. We can all experience life in a similar way if we give ourselves time to recognise how great God's creation is and how we can share his presence with other people too.

Local events happening near us.

RIDE & STRIDE

This annual event organised by the Friends of Essex Churches trust will be on

Saturday 10th September 9am - 5pm

You are invited to ride or stride
and raise funds for your church.

See the website:

www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride

Althorne St Andrew's Church

will be open all day for cyclists

and at Althorne Church Hall from 10 am until 5 pm

you can come and enjoy

TEA, CAKE AND BOOKS.

Also at Althorne Church Hall

At 2 pm on Saturday 17th September

CREAM TEAS

Jigsaws Books Raffle Tombola

In aid of the church repair fund.

Sat. 3rd September 6.30pm

at St Peter's Chapel, Bradwell

Rev Simpkins performs SALTINGS

(folk-gospel songs

about the saltmarsh wilderness of Essex)

Tickets £10 (£5 for under 18s) from the Colchester Arts Centre
01206 500900 or www.colchesterartscentre.com

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that most restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and continue cautiously during 2022. Any changes 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.

The Printing Industry (continued from page 9)

In the August issue of this magazine we heard from Harry Payne about the Gutenberg Bible printed 450



years ago. Here is the Letterpress printed page which shows uniform column width with each page. Speak with Harry if you want to know more.



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	4 September	North - East
w/b	11 September	Central - North-West
w/b	18 September	Central - East
w/b	25 September	Central - South



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 the Church Office at 772300
or safeguarding@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

See pages 12-13 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)

10:45 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 Prayers

'LITTLE LIONS' usually meet on Wednesday mornings
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 and **September dates will be published.**

More details will be on notice boards, so
when they start again please join us.