

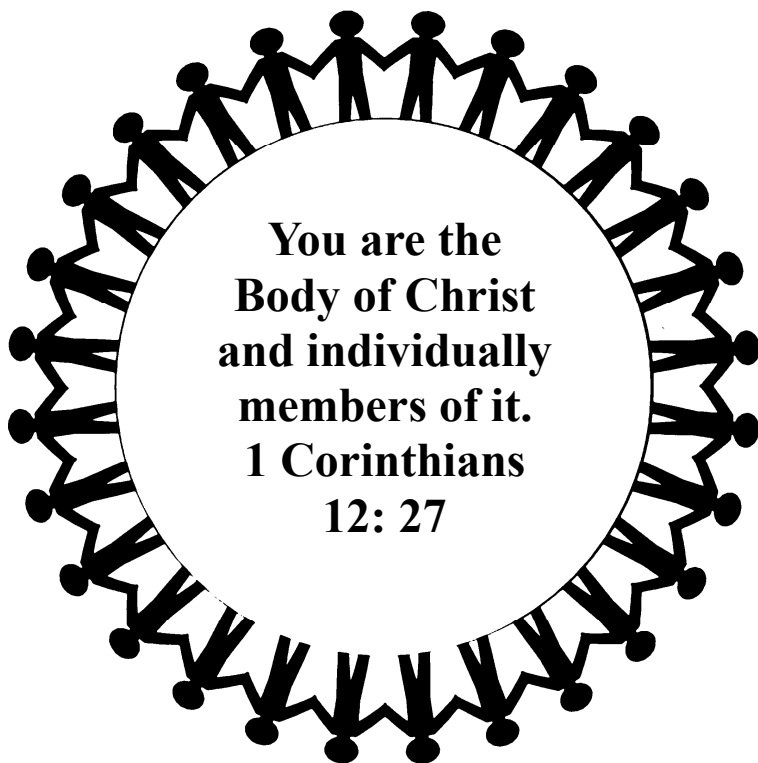
**PARISH OF SOUTHMINSTER
MAGAZINE OF THE
CHURCH OF ST LEONARD**

StL



and also for Steeple Parish

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



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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the October magazine
should be with
Kath Dunstan by, at the latest,
Sunday 17th September
New contributors are welcome.*

To cover our costs we have to charge for this magazine. This is now **80p per issue** or £3 for Every 4 months paid in advance. There may be changes ahead, so we have removed the annual subscription.

Curate's Reflection

During July and August, in our Sunday services, we've been thinking about different '*Heroes of Faith*.' We've learned about the faith and courage of Daniel while in the den of lions; about David, who stood up to Goliath before becoming King of Israel; Deborah, the only female judge over Israel; of Elijah, the most famous prophet; about Joseph, sold into slavery and how his gift of interpreting dreams saved Egypt and his family from famine; of Amos, a spokesperson for justice, and, by the time you read this magazine we'll have heard about Esther, Noah and possibly Julian of Norwich too!

Each of these heroes teaches us about putting our faith in God. Faith is being confident in what we hope for, being certain and believing in what our human eyes cannot see (Hebrews 11.1), or as Martin Luther King put it, faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase. Christian faith is *believing and trusting in a God we cannot see*, a God who loves us throughout life's ups and downs and who listens, hears and cares. None of us can fully understand the mind of God and often struggle to speak with certainty of God's ways, but the scriptures tell us that God sees our misery, hears our cries, and knows our suffering. God saw the plight of the Israelites oppressed in Egypt, gave

them hope and a future (Exodus 3.7-8), and promises to do the same for us today.

Still, it isn't always that straightforward because God doesn't always seem to answer our cries. Sometimes God seems distant, sometimes it seems as if God hasn't seen or heard us, and sometimes, we doubt that God might be at work, leaving us to question God and why God didn't act or intervene. However, when God sees and hears the cries of the distressed, the form God takes is that he uses us as human agents to bring about change. God acts *through us*; *we are the* heroes of faith in today's world; even when we feel we only have the tiniest and most easily shaken amount of faith, God uses us when we are reluctant or lacking faith. We become God's ears, eyes, hands and feet to share God's loving nature and wisdom. As we act for God, the wonderful thing is that our faith is restored, grows and flourishes; we are blessed as we bless others. We should always ask ourselves, was it a coincidence that we were there, or was that moment a God instance?

So, the 'Heroes of Faith' we have remembered on Sundays are people like *us*, the ones God chose and sent into places of suffering to do God's work of healing, liberating and restoring, even if they felt they

might not have the credentials for the situation. When we remind God of our inadequacies, God says to us as he said to Moses, *"I will be with you!"* (Exodus 3.12). The work that we do is always God's work, not ours. All we are asked to do is to act by faith. Let God be our leader and guide; we are to trust in his faithfulness to us in all areas of life. (*1 Corinthians 12: 27*)

What we think, say, and do for God changes situations; we only need a little faith and God adds the rest. God acts *through us ... we are all today's* heroes of faith.

Every blessing,

Jacqui



It isn't too late to get involved in this annual event. It will happen on **Saturday 9th September** and most of our local churches will be ready to receive visitors/participants. These could be cyclists or walkers - hence the title. Funds raised by this event will support the "Friends of Essex Churches". Details are available on the church notice boards so do look at them and encourage one another.

The Charge of the Light Brigade

I expect many of us have heard the above-entitled poem written in 1854 by Alfred Lord Tennyson. It was written to commemorate the bravery of the British soldiers killed at the Battle of Balaclava during the Crimean war.

The battle was a sad day for England. Their light cavalry soldiers, lightly armed, mounted on horseback, were mistakenly ordered to attack a Russian artillery battery. The soldiers did their duty, they obeyed their superior's command and the 600 soldiers charged headlong into the fray, charging against Russians cannons and suffering high casualties but making no gains on the enemy's territory.

As we know the charge was a command from a superior officer which had only one response: obedience, regardless of the cost. Which leads us to thinking about the Charge, the command, given by Jesus to His Church. Jesus' great commission is to go into all the world carrying the light, the Good News, of the Gospel. Jesus' commission is to go, make disciples, baptize and teach.

The hardest part for us all is the "Go" command. With some trepidation we ask: Where will we be sent? Will we have to move house? Will our whole life change? One thing we do know is that it won't always be easy, we may endure hardship

as a good soldier of Jesus but that is the responsibility of all who accept the charge of our Lord.

We know, as Christians, we are in a war, but not a physical war, instead we are in a spiritual war. We constantly battle against principalities and powers of evil as we seek to teach the saving grace of Jesus in our mission to this world.

So, our “Charge” is to go into all the world and preach to all peoples of repentance and then God’s forgiveness, this is our life long commission. Let us shine and charge into this world as the light of Jesus always remembering we just need to trust and obey knowing that Jesus has promised He will be with us always and in all circumstances.

Brenda Sheppard

The inspiration for this article is used with permission from the “Turning Point” Magazine & Devotional written by Dr. David Jeremiah.

Brenda’s article has reminded us about the loss of lives in wars over the centuries. This reminder occurs regularly and sometimes we end up asking the question “Why did God allow this?” Losing a loved one in our family today can bring us similar problems. Today we remember Church family member Phil Richards who died recently and we pray for his widow Hazel and their sons in their grief. Phil’s contribution to St Leonard’s Church over the years was appreciated but his recent deterioration in health means that we can actually thank God that he is now at peace.

The Sunday evening Services at the Chapel of St Peter on the Wall in Bradwell have continued through August.

The General title was "Discrimination" and on 6th August it was **Sexual Orientation Discrimination** with a talk by Piers Northam, the Bishop's Adviser on Identity, Sexuality and Relationships.

I made lots of notes but was blessed when Piers sent me a complete paper version of his talk. I have tried to pick out the most important parts and have written them here as his statements.

We start with Acts 8: 26-38 :

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Our topic today is discrimination based on sexual orientation and on sexual gender identity. The Ethiopian eunuch is someone who sits outside the norm of Jewish society, so he is "othered". He is banned from temple worship. Our secular society has moved a long way since the 1960s when homosexuality began to be decriminalised, but there are still many problems for LGBTQ+ people.

In some respects the Church has moved forward too, e.g with the "Living in Love and Faith" courses. At least the Church is more positive, or at least more honest than it used to be. One question the Church faces is "Should we be more accepting?" We are called to live distinctively and sometimes this means living counter culturally. Above all, our decisions should be grounded in our understanding and experience of God and God's call on our lives.

The eunuch was reading from the script of the prophet Isaiah. He was clearly a person of faith but he had lots of questions. When Philip arrived (sent by the Holy Spirit) he offered to interpret the scriptures. This he did - and went on to tell the good news of Jesus, a message brim-full of hope for all humanity including the marginalised in society. So the eunuch asked "Is there anything to prevent me from being baptised?" He is enthused by the Gospel but his question betrays a lurking fear. Such fear shows itself in three questions then and now. The Church seems often to give negative answers to "outsiders".

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Am I acceptable? | Only up to a point; you may have to deny a large part of who you are. |
| 2 Am I good enough? | No, not entirely. |
| 3 Am I included? | Well, only for certain things. |

Philip baptised the eunuch, and we need to answer people's questions today in a more positive manner as well as telling them the good news of Jesus. Our answers need to be:

- 1 Yes - because of what Christ has done for you and for all humanity
- 2 Through the grace, the mercy and the love of God, YES you are!
- 3 All of us are included - for each and every one of us is a beloved child of God....All are longed for, all are welcome.

Kath Dunstan

Sunday 3rd September

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Romans 12 : 9-end
Matthew 16 : 21-end
Sidesperson

13th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui
Celebrant
Celebrant
Gordon Baker

11.00 FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION

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

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui
Christine Morgan
Kath Dunstan
Christine Lucas & Sarah Prendergast
Sylvia Adams
Gwyneth Iffland
Eira Hagger & Frances Hatfield

Sunday 10th September

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Romans 13 : 8-end
Matthew 18 : 15 -20
Sidesperson

14th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Celebrant
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

11.00 Family Celebration

Leaders
Readings & Prayers
Audio-visuals
Prayer Ministry
Sidesperson
Refreshments

Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny Pratt, Karen Flack
Rev'd Jacqui, Jenny & Karen
Christine Morgan
Brenda Sheppard & Frances Hatfield
Leon Flack
Sally Culff & Maureen Smith

HEROES OF FAITH THIS MONTH

Sept 3rd JULIAN of Norwich
Sept 17th NEHEMIAH

Sept. 10th FRANCIS of Assisi
Sept 24th MARY

Sunday 17th September**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

President/Preacher
 Romans 14 : 1-12
 Matthew 18 : 21 -35
 Sidesperson

11th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Peter
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Leon Flack

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/preacher
 Readings as above
 Intercessions
 Audio-visuals
 Prayer Ministry
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Rev'd Peter
 Rupert Killick
 Brenda Sheppard
 Christine Lucas
 Fiona Begley & Yvonne Thurbon
 Sylvia Adams
 t.b.a.

Sunday 24th September**08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

Leader/Preacher
 Philippians 1: 21-end
 Matthew 20 : 1 - 16
 Sidesperson

12th Sunday after Trinity

Rev'd Ken/Brenda Sheppard
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Pete Adams

11.00 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher
 Readings
 Intercessions
 Prayer Ministry
 Audio-Visuals
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Rev'd Peter/Brenda Sheppard
 Linda Payne
 Fiona Begley
 Sylvia Adams & Keith Hatfield
 Christine Morgan
 Nigel Winger
 Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

Steeple Church News

Steeple Church has services every Sunday morning at 9.15am unless otherwise advertised on the church door. We have Morning Prayer with activities for children on the first and third Sunday each month, and Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays. An on-line service for those preferring to worship from home is available each week on



www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk

Steeple Church contacts in addition to the Benefice Team:

Rhona Leech, Churchwarden & PCC Secretary,

Teresa Julien, Churchwarden,
Peter Marshall, PCC Treasurer & Verger,

In this very busy time of year lots of things have been happening in Steeple. The Community Party on Sunday 13th August in the Village Hall was well supported and all the organisers and helpers did a superb job.

As we go to print there is no news about the Historic Gathering (Sunday 20th) but I'm sure that there will be some information in next month's magazine informing us all about it.

The working partnerships between Steeple and neighbouring parishes have raised necessary funds for building maintenance. May it continue successfully. *(Kath Dunstan)*

ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES

Several people of my acquaintance have suffered unexpected falls in the recent past, with varying degrees of consequences.

For those of us who are the wrong side of youth, perhaps we should take a good look at ourselves and consider the following:

If we are likely to fall for any reason, should we be wearing a care alarm?

We should have the telephone number of local friends and neighbours to hand if family don't live nearby or are likely to be out at work if they do.

Remember 999 does work and there are times when that's the first number to call if we don't have a care alarm and if we're in any potential danger.

If we get a call from somebody asking us for help, we should not be hesitant to call 999 if we feel it's necessary having assessed the situation.

We should remember that it's not always a good idea to try to move somebody if they have fallen.

Getting old ain't for sissies, that's for sure!

Good luck and keep safe, everyone!

Chris Martin

CHATTERBOX: as described opposite....We are an open door to people who like to come along. We also have jigsaws on the go and a Craft table from which we have exhibited some of the amazing items made in the Flower Show. We are hoping in the future to have a computer to use to help people enhance their computer skills. We are a friendly group and would love more people to come and enjoy a warm space and good company. Recently made greeting cards are available on most Thursdays. It has been good to welcome occasionally groups of people from Squeaks Nursing Home.

On a practical level, if anyone has any Jigsaws they would like to donate or lend to the group we would be very grateful as we get through quite a few in a year!!

Any enquiries to: Norman
or: Brenda

The St. Leonard's Together Apart Facebook Group

I prayerfully decided to start the "Together Apart" facebook group at the beginning of the first lockdown and posted on the page at least 6 days of each week. 3 years on lockdowns now seem to be long behind us and the interaction with the group is now minimal so after a lot of thought and prayer it was decided that I would no longer post on this group daily.

The group will remain open and I will occasionally post things that I think may be of interest. Please feel free to post on there too.

Thanks to all those who have interacted over the past three years.

Karen Flack

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

LUNCH CLUB meets on Mondays.

Back after Summer Break

If you would like any information please phone

Dave Christie 07775 758118.



CHATTERBOX

meets on Thursday mornings 10 am-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.

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!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

This will now meet every week on Tuesdays from 10 am - noon
at Christ Church, North Street.

DENGIE HUNDRED LADIES GROUP

will meet on 26th September

LYNNE CREASEY : HARP RECITAL

Competition: An old Family Photo

For further details contact Paula Neall 01621 773243



Keep praying for everyone who has recently lost a loved one, and for others who are in need of healing and general care.

Pray for all medical personnel, local and wider afield, and all the regular carers. We particularly remember Dickie

Dulude who had been suffering for some time but who is now in peace with our Lord. His funeral was on August 8th in church.

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 2023	5	12	19	26	
December 2023	3	10	17	24	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 Club

Again, I want to say a big thank you to all the team who help at Henry Club which of course is named after one of our trusty vacuum cleaners!! We meet once a fortnight on a Friday from 9am – 11am and helpers do as much as they are able. We do our best, but do need extra helpers, and it would be great if someone could perhaps ‘Adopt the Chapel’ as it has been so lovingly looked after in the past and we also need someone to vacuum the carpets in the main church. If you feel you would like to help with the interior cleaning at any time, please contact me even if you can only come every now and then. It would be great to have you onboard and for you to be comfortable in the task or tasks you would prefer to do.



Brenda Sheppard

CORONAVIRUS 2022

We are pleased that most restrictions have been lifted but we do need to be sensible and continue cautiously during 2023. 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.

Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30 pm

St. Nicholas Church, Tillingham

Eco- Floristry Demonstration by

HELEN SHEARD

There will also be

Coffee, Tea, Prosecco, and Homemade Cake!

Tickets £10

For tickets ring Jan 07976028856 or Sally 07807473833

The MALDON SALVATION ARMY's 140th Anniversary

Will be celebrated at the URC, Market Hill Maldon

With the LONDON CENTRAL FELLOWSHIP BAND

Saturday 7th October at 7 pm

Tickets £7 Concessions £3

Mail Salvation Army, 12 Wantz Rd Maldon CM9 5DE

Or phone 01621 840088

Or see Maldon@salvationarmy.org.uk

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b 3 September South-West

w/b 10 September Central - West

w/b 17 September North - East

w/b 24 September Central - 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

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 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)

11.00 am Holy Communion or Morning Worship

Steeple Services similarly continue at **9.15am**

Children and Young people are always welcomed
especially for the **Family Celebration Services.**

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Monday. Wednesday & Friday at 8 am Morning Prayer

Tuesday at 8.30 am Just Prayers

'LITTLE LIONS' usually meet on Wednesday mornings

In the Memorial Hall but this is **during term-time only.**

It is for babies/toddlers & their carers.



Everyone is
welcome to join.
Details on board.

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

The new course details will be on the notice
board and at the back of church.