

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



and also for Steeple Parish

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



A Rocha's Foxearth Meadows reserve

AUGUST 2022

**God put the man in the garden of Eden
to tend it and to care for it.**

Genesis 2 verse 15

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*Articles for the September magazine should be with Kath Dunstan by, at the latest, **Sunday 21st August** 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.

Reflection Ken Dunstan

A lot has happened in July. We have had the vote of no confidence in Mr Johnson as Prime Minister by members of his own party, and the subsequent ill-tempered electioneering among those seeking to succeed to the tenancy of 10 Downing Street. We have had, despite disparaging tweets and posts by those wanting to deny human-caused climate change (references to “woke alarmists” and “snowflakes” were included), at a time when England and Wales experienced record temperatures. That is to say, maximum temperatures were greater than ever before, certainly greater than anything in the last 200 years. Coupled with the heat wave (as legally described) we have had wildfires devastating large tracts of countryside and several houses. We have just had a drought warning for August. With that in mind, I note that neither of the Conservative leadership candidates has made climate change a priority.

Meanwhile, the Summer evening services at Bradwell’s ancient Chapel focus on the Climate Emergency (yes, really!) we face and one service is recorded on page 5. Andy Jowitt from A Rocha’s Foxearth Meadows Reserve described Eco-Church as a pathway out of our problems. “Wonder Zone”, this year’s children’s Holiday Club, enables children to explore the world God has entrusted to us and how our choices make a difference. Our adult choices also make a difference to the future of our world.

I could go on with lots of science and advice. I will say only that while our individual contributions to climate change do matter and must involve significant changes in our choices, we need huge changes that only Government, big business, (notably banks and the fossil-fuel companies like Shell and BP) can achieve.

I shan't preach more on this occasion. But there is one further July Happening that matters to us.

Archdeacon Elizabeth has announced her retirement. She is the second-ever Archdeacon of Chelmsford and over the last six years has worked really hard as an administrator, buildings advisor, theologian and wise counsellor. In particular, she has been Chair of the Diocesan Environment Group. Kath and I have got to know her well over several dozen meetings. Elizabeth has an eye for talent and the gift of recruiting people to the cause of the Fifth Mark of Mission, "to strive to preserve the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth." That's part of the five-part statement, agreed by all the Anglican churches world-wide, that says, "This is what God calls us to do as Christians." Elizabeth has done sterling work in this and made a great deal of progress. Kath and I will miss her, and so will her Archdeaconry and the Diocese. As she moves on, let us remember that Mark of Mission, that statement of Christian purpose, and both reflect on and act on God's call to "sustain and renew the life of the earth" – the earth that humanity has come close to destroying. (Read Genesis 2: 15)

At the Bradwell Chapel Evening Service on 10th July we were able to meet Andy Jowitt and his wife Jane, from the A Rocha Nature Reserve at Foxearth Meadows near Sudbury. He spoke about the diversity of God's creation. He expressed concern about extinction of some of this ---- flora and fauna. Climate Change is accelerating the decline of species and much of this is caused by deforestation of areas e.g. the mango forests in Kenya. The Jowitts had visited A Rocha Kenya so they had experienced first-hand some of these problems.

There are several species of some commercially grown plants where a single species has become virtually the only one used. If disease hits one there is no alternative so extinction could follow. The requirements of species vary, but these need to be taken into account if maintaining them is planned. Rainfall is a necessary requirement of course, but regularly and not causing too many floods. In Britain we talk about 'doing our bit' for diversity and coping with the climate crisis, but do we think about our neighbours too? Who is our neighbour? Nature is our first neighbour but scientific reports say that abundance is in decline (e.g. hedgehogs, water-voles, insects) Jesus spoke about wildflower meadows and it is good that people are encouraging wildflower growth and care. BUT remember that extinction is increasingly human-caused. We need to respond. How? It's not just talking about it; it's walking the talk. Prepare for the future; resist greed. Consider two principles:

URGENCY Act quickly - and don't think it is too hard for us
 AGENCY We can make a difference.

eco Church is a recommended pathway. It enables connections with the local community e.g. through allotments and schools - and it enables people from all walks of life to study Nature together.

4 Ss STOP START SHOUT SUSTAIN
 ↓ RECYCLING ↓ TO BE HEARD ↓ ONE ANOTHER
BEGIN WITH PRAYER ----- THEN ACT

Alongside our grief there is HOPE in our covenant God.

Notes by Kath Dunstan

The Labyrinth

by Brenda Sheppard

I was praying one day with Rev'd Jacqui, our Curate, about my future direction and she had a picture of a Labyrinth. My memory was a bit hazy of what a labyrinth was and was it like a maze? I discovered that a labyrinth has a single continuous path which leads to a centre and as long as we keep going forward, we will get there eventually, unlike a maze which has multiple paths which branch off and will not necessarily lead to the centre. In a maze we can get lost but not in a labyrinth. In a maze some paths lead to a dead end and we have to go back and try again.



How does being in a labyrinth equate to our spiritual journey with God? I see it as God at the centre and we continually journey toward Him, learning on the way His will for our lives. Labyrinths are often used as a walking meditation. We continue on our windy path but as with any long pathway we still have to stop and re-evaluate the road we are taking. We need to stop, catch our breath, lay down burdens along the way until we reach the centre, God's heart, and find His will for us. On the return journey back to the start we find the burdens we left on the way have gone!

I remember a time when I was young when I went in

to a mirror maze on Southend Pier with my sister. I was absolutely petrified as I kept on getting dead ends and eventually got so distressed, they had to send someone in to get me!! To this day I won't go into a maze!

The road we take with Jesus isn't always easy, we can stray off it. If we liken it to a maze, we can reach dead ends, we feel like giving up, we can't see where we are going, we feel hemmed in and want to break free. These are the times when we need to come to God and seek fresh guidance and confirmation of the path He wants us to take. Often this confirmation comes through other Christians when we share and pray with them.

Whatever road we are called to travel with our Lord, at the end of our time here on this earth, we know that we are on the road to our heavenly home. As St. Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23 "I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far" but he also said that while He was still on earth, he wanted to continue with all of them for their progress and joy in the faith.



May, we too, have this longing to serve Jesus and others while we wait to be called to our heavenly home. And may we, while we wait, reach the Father's heart and go on to experience a great joy in our journey of faith and enjoy our walk which unlike the maze but like the labyrinth doesn't ever lead us to a dead end!!

Michael Bikhazi, as I knew him. From Harry Payne

On the 30th May I heard that my very good friend Michael Bikhazi had lost his final struggle for life. The news came as a terrible blow to us all. When Michael first had his stroke, it was soon apparent it was a very serious one, but despite that, at the back of my mind, I felt sure that recovery, although likely to be slow, would occur in time. I have four friends who had suffered strokes around the same time as Michael. However the affects of a stroke, can and will vary in severity from person to person, and tragically strokes some time come with fatal consequences. Even now, although there has been a considerable passage of time, none of my friends have yet fully recovered.

I got to know Michael when the Bikhazi family of four, first came to St. Leonard's. Zachary at that time, although clearly expected, was not yet on the scene. Mikaela and Nathaniel were just youngsters. I remember our vicar at the time, Rev. Jim Bateman, saying to me, I have a new neighbour who would make an excellent Church Treasurer. He was right of course, and it was not long before Michael became our Church Treasurer, he remained so until his stroke. At the time of their arrival I was Churchwarden, as members of the PCC Michael and I worked closely together, as a consequence our friendship grew. At the time of Michael's Stroke we were still the two cheque signatories for the Church. In those early years, Nathaniel would often strive to be present at the signing of cheques. I have an unreadable signature, but a certain flourish in my writing action, the signing became an activity that fascinated Nathaniel. I remember too, as Zac grew he

developed a fascination for keys, particularly the church keys! If they went missing we knew where to look. I used to visit Michael a lot at their home over Church matters. Mikaela often had her hair with a single long plait, she became for me Lara Croft the heroine of Tomb Raider.

To me Michael was never, just another member of the church, he was a rather special friend. He always had time for people he came into contact with, in business, socially and at the Church. Over the years we served on various church committees together. Invariably Michael was on the financial side, his patience dealing with the many questions, some, to me with my impatience, I thought quite frivolous, but he never ceased to amaze me with his quiet understanding. At St Leonard's we have been very, very fortunate to have Michael's expertise, generosity and quiet patience overseeing our finances for many years.

Outside of Church Michael and I were both Mac users and members of the Burnham Rotary Club. As an organisation Rotary has as its motto, Service Above Self, as Peter mentioned at his funeral, Michael lived that motto daily. I can vouch for that observation. Michael's quiet approach, always backed up with immaculate paperwork (he was Treasurer at Rotary too) explaining how things actually stood, kept us as a Club, fully informed.

Lynne and her family have lost a father and husband, the kind of loss that we can only guess at. For many of us, we have lost a good friend, Michael was always there, and always reliable in his quiet reassuring way, to say we will miss him enormously, is something of an understatement.



HAPPY MEMORIES

It was good to gather again this year for the Southminster Flower Show on Saturday 16th July in the King George V Memorial Field. Our thanks are due to the Southminster Parish Council for assistance. The gates opened at 1pm and the central entertainment included aerial displays by KAIYA, displays by the E&E Dance group and by Southminster School dancers

and it was good to see the crowning of the Flower Princess, Madison Smith, by Mr Bragg, Headmaster of Southminster School. The Fun Dog Show was appreciated - as was access to separate stalls serving refreshments and various other items.

The Horticultural / Floral Art section had a marquee set up by the Dengie Hundred Flower Club and the Crouch Flower Club. Its theme was “Royal Celebration” and it was brilliant.

The Handicraft Section held its first show since 2019 and its marquee was packed with fantastic work of local people. It had many different artworks and crafts on display including painting, sculpture, beading, embroidery, photography and even cookery. Demonstrations were held to encourage new people, especially children, to take part.

The public address system, commentaries and recorded music were provided by the Maldengiedoo Road Show. It was great to see members of our Churches, Ladies’ Groups, Schools and Scout organisations thoroughly involved. Well Done All!!

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.

October 2022	2	9	16	23	30
November 2022	6	13	20	27	

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

CHURCH BELLS RING

Many of you will have been aware of the wonderful bellringing that has happened recently. Unfortunately some had to be cancelled but we look forward to more in coming months.
Be prepared to hear them monthly on Saturday afternoons.
The team need practices and could welcome new members too.

Sunday 7th August

8th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Hebrews 11: 1 - 3, 8 -16
Luke 12: 32 - 40
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/Brenda Sheppard
Christine Morgan
Norman Pratt
Sylvia Adams
Kath Dunstan
t.b.a.

Sunday 14th August

9th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

Leader/President/Preacher
Hebrews 11 : 29 - 12 : 2
Luke 12 : 49 - 56
Sidesperson

Rev'd Ken Dunstan
Paul Lucas
Celebrant
Paul Lucas

10.45 Family Celebration

Leaders
Audio-visuals
Sidesperson
Refreshments

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

There will be two funerals in church in early August:

Monday 1st

Dorothy Buck

Thursday 4th

Ann Gentry

Please pray for those families and friends experiencing loss.

Sunday 21st August**10th Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion BCP**

President/Preacher
 Hebrews 12 : 18 - end
 Luke 13 : 10 - 17
 Sidesperson

Rev'd Peter
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Leon Flack

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/ preacher
 Readings as at 8am
 Intercessions
 Audio-visuals
 Sidesperson
 Refreshments

Norman & Jenny Pratt
 Kath Dunstan
 Norman Pratt
 Sylvia Adams
 Kath Dunstan
 t.b.c.

Sunday 28th August**11th Sunday after Trinity****08.00 Holy Communion**

President/Preacher
 Hebrews 13 : 1 - 8, 15 - 16
 Luke 14 : 1, 7 - 14
 Sidesperson

Rev'ds Peter & Jacqui
 Celebrant
 Celebrant
 Pete Adams

10.45 Morning Worship

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

Rev'd Peter & Rev'd Jacqui
 Susan Gendreau
 Fiona Begley
 Christine Morgan
 Marion Eldret
 Christine Lucas & Sandra Billingham

**Don't forget the Steeple Vehicle Gathering on 21st Aug.
 Details are on page 14.**

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

Our contractor for the belfry timber renovation project, Bakers of Danbury now expects to start work at the beginning of September and complete by the end of October. During that period we'll also be refurbishing the entrance gates.

Steeple's share of the profits from the highly successful Wheels & Paws event held at Elmwood Equestrian, Burnham-on-Crouch in July was a vital element in our fund raising.

We need the **Steeple Gathering at Grange Farm on 21st August** to give us another boost. —→

Equally important, we hope that our applications for grants from organisations that support listed rural churches will materialise before the bills come in during the autumn.

Entry forms for vehicles, stationary engines or stalls are available from Peter Marshall in response to a text message to 07711 472 132. We are pleased to be receiving more bookings for stalls, as that will broaden the family interest.

It's unfortunate that a vehicle show in Mayland is being arranged for the same day as our Steeple event but we are quietly optimistic that those exhibitors who have supported Steeple Gathering in past years will do so again this year. The Eccentrics have also picked up some new exhibitors from their involvement in Wheels and Paws and the local Flower Shows.

Steeple Vehicle Gathering

**Sunday 21st August
Grange Farm, CM0 7RW
11am - 4pm**

Cars,

Tractors

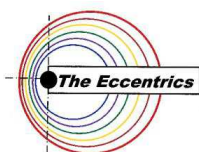
Motorcycles

Commercials

Military Vehicles

Stationary Engines

**Craft and Produce Stalls
Refreshments**



**Text 07711 472 132
For Exhibitor Entry Form**

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

If you are part of the Facebook group, you will have regular updates from the Diocesan Group "Greening the Church". Taking on board that information is helpful in these times where our environmental concerns are growing because of global warming etc. Your responses for this magazine will be very welcome.

We are remembering with love and appreciation the late Dorothy Buck whose funeral will be on 1st August. She always contributed to our Church family in many wonderful ways over the years. Please pray for her daughter, Sylvia and all family members as they continue to adjust to her loss, especially as Dorothy's birthday would have been on 9th August.

SOUTHMINSTER MEMORIAL HALL

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

LUNCH CLUB does 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 August 23rd
for a Garden Party
No competition this month.

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.

The Demise of The Printing Industry and My Part In It. Harry Payne

If you have a computer and a simple printer you can in effect become a Printer. You can produce all sorts of printing, leaflets, magazines, letter headings in fact with a little ingenuity almost anything. With the advent of the home computer and inkjet or laser printer, 'today the world is your 'printing' oyster'. It has not always been so. It was not so many years ago that DTP meant nothing to the average person. DTP?.... **Desk Top Publishing**. It was DTP, computers and WYSIWYG, oh there is another one! WYSIWYG ?.... **What You See Is What You Get** (on the computer screen) that removed the mystique that had surrounded printing for centuries. Almost overnight, the Graphics industry changed. Skills acquired over years of training, were no longer in demand or even required. It was all there at the fingertips of the keyboard operator. As you may imagine, it caused major upheavals in the Printing Industry. My own son, who had a well paid skilful job as a Planner Plate Maker, was faced with this comment after his company installed the latest technology at the time. 'You can train monkeys to operate these, and you only have to pay them Peanuts'.

Over the next little while, I will contribute some articles for the magazine, about my life in Printing. How Printing developed over the centuries, how it was when I began in 1955, and how, by the time I retired in 2002, 'my trade' had virtually disappeared. This meant of course, I was trained for obsolescence. Like the scribes many centuries before, I was past my sell by date.

In 1900, Mark Twain, wrote a letter celebrating the opening of the Gutenberg Museum. **Johannes Gutenberg?** He was the inventor of movable type and the development of

Letterpress Printing. I think you will agree, Twain had a way with words. What he wrote that day was particularly apt then, and I feel remains so today, 122 years later.

They are...

“What the world is to-day, good and bad, it owes to Gutenberg. Everything can be traced to this source. . .”

A truly remarkable comment, but nonetheless there is more than just an element of truth in it. Where would we be without that invention? For centuries Scribes produced all that had to be read, this was a time very few people could read. There was and had been, very little call for change, for the power was in the hands of the educated. So we get to the point, **Everything can be traced to this source.**

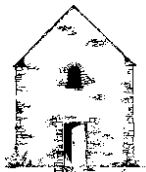
Gutenberg was the Bill Gates or Steve Jobs of his day.

I will pose a question. If you heard of one book universally acknowledged as the most important of all printed books, which would you expect it to be? The answer could possibly be a single copy of the Gutenberg Bible. One of the several surviving copies of the 450 year old Bible's printed by Johannes Gutenberg, was priced, some years ago now in excess of \$25,000,000.

Gutenberg's innovation, Moveable Type, has long been regarded a pivotable point in human history....an innovation that opened the door to the Protestant Reformation, Renaissance, the Scientific Revolution, the advent of Widespread Education. With it, the thousand of more changes that touch nearly everything we now know. For centuries Printers virtually had the Graphic Reproduction process to themselves. They did a good job, secure with their knowledge. Things began to change, slowly at first then gathering momentum, there is a story in there somewhere. There can't be many of my ilk left alive to tell their part of that story.

To be continued (and see picture on page 22.)

Local events and some in other places



Bradwell Chapel Summer Evening Services 2022 at 6pm

**This year's theme is
The Climate Crisis and the Environment.**

**Aug. 7th "Walking to the Music of Creation"
Led by Rev'd Brigid Main**

**Aug. 14th "Together for our Planet"
(Climate Action) led by Othona**

**Aug 21st "Local Wildlife & Organic Farming"
Led by ... t.b.a.**

**Aug 28th "Keeping the windows open towards
Jerusalem" led by
The Very Rev'd Nicholas Henshall
Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral**

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.friendsofessesexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride

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**

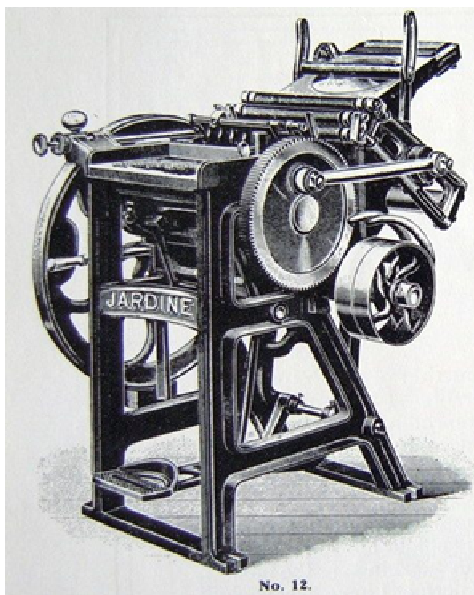
A/c No. **80825107**

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.



This is a picture of the first press that Harry Payne worked on.

Read the first instalment of his “Printing Story” on page 18.

More to come.

Holiday Club: “WONDER ZONE”

If you’re wondering why there’s not an article about this, please bear in mind that it happened after the date that items needed to be with the editor. It’ll come!!! Meanwhile, pray for Jenny Pratt and all the exhausted helpers so they can enjoy some rest.



PRAY FOR SOUTHMINTER:

w/b
w/b
w/b
w/b

7 August
14 August
21 August
28 August

Central - East
Central - South
South - West
Central - West



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 but **August dates are unlikely.**

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