

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



**APRIL 2018**

*Start children off on the way they should go.*

*Proverbs 22:6*

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*We are sad that the school's BIG SING had to be cancelled but we're pleased to announce that there will be an opportunity to hear the children singing in a concert in church on Thursday 26th April at 3 pm..*

*Articles for the May magazine to  
Kath Dunstan by **Sunday 15**  
**April** please,  
New contributors welcome.*

This magazine costs 50p.  
Please pay in church.  
**Or pay in advance if your  
magazine is delivered to you.**  
Details from Brenda Sheppard  
(See inside back cover.)

## Reflections

*Start children off on the way they should go: Proverbs 22:6*

Many years ago, before I started training for the ministry, I had the great privilege of working with the Gideons for five years. These were valuable times as I took on the responsibility for visiting schools to place Gideon Bibles into the hands of the year 7's (11 year olds or first year senior school). Each year, from September through to early December, we would visit all the schools in the Southend to Benfleet area. I had the responsibility of three schools in particular in the Benfleet-end of the territory; little knowing that God would place me in Benfleet during my Curate training time (but God knows!). It was in these schools that I met some of the young Christians that came to the parish church a few years later to be married or have their children baptised: seeds that are sown early come to fruition at some point.

The other benefit of placing Bibles in schools (and lots of other places too) was that at each meeting of the Gideons we would hear good-news stories of how people, in their difficult situations, turned to God for an answer and were relieved when an answer came. These testimonies were all written and collated in a monthly magazine that was distributed to all members of Gideons. Every month there was at least three stories of how someone had their lives turned around by God as they sought after Him in prayer. The testimonies nearly always read "I was in desperate need when I saw (or I remembered) my Gideon Bible on the shelf and opened the

first pages titled ‘If you are in trouble then read’....” As the reader looked up the passage, it spoke to them, gave them peace, and the reader then realised that God’s word really is active today. God’s word is good news however it is received, whether the written word or spoken, God’s word works its purpose.

I don’t know how many testimonies I must have read over my five years, a few hundred perhaps, but always there were the expressions of deep gratitude that someone gave them a message and a book of hope for them to use at a God-appointed time. The lesson learnt, for me, was that on and in any occasion or place to speak of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Plant the seed, and God will bring it to bear fruit in His time. Proverbs 22:6 says *Start children off on the way they should go*: This Proverb commends us to start something in people’s lives; plant something that will stay with them forever. The influence of a blessing will sustain people through difficulties and may even produce more than we expect.

My experience with the Gideon schools work was that some of the young people received the message with gratitude and went on to explore what God would have for their future, some sneered as they received their New Testament and Psalms, yet they still kept the little book.

The work that **we** do may not seem very significant on a day-to-day basis, but our testimony, through our lives, in our actions and words, in all we do and how we do it, tells a lot

about God and may be re-assuring for those folks around us. Certainly, they do watch us closely to see if what we say matches what we do and say we believe.

I am really looking forward to the start of Little Lions later on this month on 18 April at approx. 10:00 – 12:00 (to be confirmed); a meeting on Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall. It gives us the opportunity to **give** something to the young mums and dads around us, and the young people can play in a safe environment surrounded by Prayer and in the peace of God's presence. "Little Lions" may be part of your ministry too, where you are able to talk to others and encourage them in the ways of God. Most certainly we need to pray continually for them all, children, carers and helpers; for their protection, for their hearts and lives to begin to open up to the possibilities of realising God's love is for *them*. Our heavenly Father is the gardener.... we are His workers. We are absolutely here to sow those all-important seeds in order to start something in the lives of those around us. It is up to God to germinate those seeds - and when He will choose to use what has been planted.

**Peter**



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**COMMON GROUND**  
**Coffee morning**



Open every Tuesday 9 am - 11.30 am  
at St Leonard's Church, Southminster

**EVERYONE WELCOME** (Toys available for children)

Come and join us for a break, a chat, support, friendship & cuppa!

## **Congratulations and Thank you**

Don and Gladys Hardy recently celebrated their 90th birthdays at a special party arranged for them at Steeple Village Hall.

As was quoted in the March edition of "Steeple Village News",

*Over the years they have made significant contributions to the Village Hall and Steeple Church. Gladys was part of the Playschool team and Don originally solicited the advertising for Steeple Village news.*



Arriving with son David  
What a surprise for  
them!



**There was lots of applause  
as they cut their lovely cake.**

**Women's World Day of Prayer Service in Southminster  
Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 10.30am at Christchurch URC**



**All God's Creation is Very Good**

***Report by Jacky Griffiths***

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service this year, as mentioned last month, was prepared by the Christian women of Suriname, and they emphasized the fact that God created a perfect set up for us to live in. It also emphasized that people have spoiled his Creation over the years – polluting the waters, not caring for the creatures that God has given us, not looking after the habitats, so building up to a situation where our world might become damaged in all sorts of ways. We offered prayers for ourselves, and others, to consider God's Creation and to make a decision about how we can take a further step towards helping to improve our planet.

The Bible readings were from Genesis, chapter 1, which tells how God created the world and everything in it, including people, and some verses from Psalm 8 – O Lord, our Sovereign, How majestic is your name in all the earth!

During the Service it had a scene when several people unwrapped the items they were placing on the table and threw the packaging on the floor. A little later it was all picked up and put into the recycle boxes, as you can see in the first photo. But seeing a pile of boxes, bubble wrap and wrapping paper on the floor, discarded by 7 people it was not hard to imagine that pile multiplied by all the people in the world and seeing what a huge amount of rubbish that would be – and what a mess it would make! It certainly has made me think more about how I can make the difference where I am.

In the picture you can see the dark green cloth to mirror the colour of the Amazon rainforest and the bouquet of flowers to symbolise the ten districts in Suriname and the ethnic diversity of the population, as well as the Suriname flag. The Bible is in the centre, open at Genesis. We thought we might have some difficulty speaking a few words in their language, especially singing one complete song based on Genesis, chapter 1, verse 31 – but I think we managed very well between us!



God is good and His Creation should be good as well. Let's all make an effort to keep it good for future generations to enjoy. Thinking about how God made a perfect world in the beginning, it reminded me of what we say at the Children's Holiday Club – God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!





## Messy Church

(for April to avoid holidays)

26<sup>th</sup> March

## Messy Easter

All start at 3.45 pm

Age range aimed especially for children at  
Primary School with Parent or Carer.

It's a family afternoon of fun and messiness.

Future Dates:

30<sup>th</sup> April

(for May to avoid holiday)

Abraham

4<sup>th</sup> June - Daniel

## ROTA REPLY SLIP    YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR 2 MONTHS

Please cross out the dates when you are **not** available and return this slip to **Paul Lucas** by 15th April

June 2018        3        10        17        24

July 2018        1        8        15        22        29

Name .....

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

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Easter Sunday is the 1st April this year. We buy Easter Lilies and flowers to decorate our church and there will be a Memorial Roll to remember those we love who are sadly no longer with us. We thank you for your contributions to this Memorial Roll and we hope that it is helpful to you when you read it.



We shall return to our normal pattern of floral arrangement after Easter. If you wish to join the team or contribute to the regular provision of flowers please speak with Kathy Pegg. Financial offerings should go to the churchwardens please. Remembering a lost loved one or a special occasion through flowers can help you and enable others to enjoy the decorations too.

### PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	1 April	North-East
w/b	8 April	Central North-West
w/b	15 April	Central - East
w/b	22 April	Central - South
w/b	29 April	Central - North - West

## ROTA FOR APRIL 2018

Date **1 April**

**Easter Sunday**

**08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)**

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 10 : 34 - 43

Kathy Pegg

John 20 : 1 - 18

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Paul Lucas

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**10.45 Holy Communion**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 10 : 34 - 43

Mike Bikhazi

John 20 : 1 - 18

Mike Bikhazi

Intercessions

Kath Dunstan

Prayer Ministry Team

Tom Fogg & Sylvia Adams

Communion Assistants

Paul Lucas & Mike Bikhazi

Projectionist

Christine Morgan

Sidesperson

Gwyneth Iffland

Refreshments

Bob Perry & Viv Perry

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Date **8 April**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)**

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Ken Dunstan

Acts 4 : 32 - 35

Sheila Nicholson

John 20 : 19 - end

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Paul Lucas

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**10.45 Morning Worship**

Leader/preacher

Peter Begley

Acts 4 : 32 - 35

Paul Lucas

John 20 : 19 - end

Paul Lucas

Intercessions

Jenny Pratt

Prayer Ministry Team

Jacky Griffiths & Viv Perry

Projectionist

Mike Bikhazi

Sidesperson

Lynda Hedges

Refreshments

Christine Lucas & Brenda Woolnough

## ROTA FOR APRIL 2018

Date **15 April**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

### **08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)**

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 3 : 12 - 19

Phil Richards

Luke 24 : 36b - 48

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Phil Richards

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### **10.45 Holy Communion**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 3 : 12 - 19

Jenny Pratt

Luke 24 : 36b - 48

Jenny Pratt

Intercessions

Fiona Begley

Prayer Ministry Team

Fiona Begley & Brenda Sheppard

Communion Assistants

Phil Richards & Tom Fogg

Projectionist

Christine Lucas

Sidesperson

Tom Fogg

Refreshments

Maureen Smith & Sally Culff

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Date **22 April**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

### **08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)**

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 4 : 5 - 12

Anne Wodhams

John 10 : 11 -18

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Phil Richards

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### **10.45 Morning Worship** followed by the

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)**

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 4 : 5 - 12

Linda Payne

1 John 3 : 16 - end  
or John 10 : 11 - 18

Linda Payne

Intercessions

Jacky Griffiths

Prayer Ministry Team

Christine Lucas & Jacky Griffiths

Projectionist

Sylvia Adams

Sidesperson

Mike Bikhazi

Refreshments

Linda Payne & Tom Fogg

## APRIL SERVICES AT STEEPLE

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.15 am	Family Service
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	United Worship at Steeple

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### St Leonard's Rota continued

**Date 29 April**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**08.00 Holy Communion**

Colour : White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 8 : 26 - end

Paul Lucas

John 15 : 1 - 8

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Paul Lucas

**10.30 United Worship at Steeple Parish Church**

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Full details will be available nearer the date.



**Note Concert on Friday 4th May (see page 22)**



*Kath Dunstan has tickets.*

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**Coming up: May 10th, 11th & 12th**

at Southminster Memorial Hall

Southminster Operatic & Choral Society

present Richard J Reeves

**"A hundred and one not out "**

It is all about Gilbert & Sullivan and contains songs from all their operettas.

## REGULAR MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

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

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

**Bellringers** meet occasionally in the tower. See Allan Pye for details, since this is not a regular activity.

**Henry Club** - Church Cleaning Team - meets twice a month at 9.30 am (normally on Fridays)  
April dates: Fridays 6th and 20th

**Flower arranging** is usually on Fridays or Saturdays. Please see churchwardens and booking list at back of church.

**CHURCH GROUNDS WORKING PARTY**  
The next one will be publicised on notice boards.

**Midweek Morning Prayer services (Mon., Wed. and Fri.)**  
8:00 am (about half an hour) in the chapel.  
**Tuesdays 8:30 am "Just Prayer"**  
and **9 am - 11.30 am "Common Ground" Coffee morning**

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## HOME GROUPS

Normally they are Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 7.45 pm for 8 pm  
Full details will be published in church bulletins.



Young people and children are always welcome, especially at 10.45 services.  
Messy Church is once a month on Mondays. See page 10  
This month we shall meet on Monday 30th

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Weekly Bulletin information should be sent to Christine Morgan,

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



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Southminster W.I.

We normally meet at Southminster Memorial Hall

**Tuesday 3rd April**

**Sandra Sparrowhawk : Great ways with Scarves**

*Competition: Small table flower arrangement*

## Memorial Hall

### Wishing Well Club

Normally every second Tuesday

**1 pm - 3 pm**

Light lunch, games & good company.

Phone K.S. on 07434915467

or just turn up.

## THE COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

at

THE MEMORIAL HALL

It is normally on  
Mondays at 12.30 pm  
*A 2 course meal with  
tea/coffee to follow  
£5 per head*

Please book by noon on the  
previous Friday by phoning  
Kath S on 07434915467

## The SOUTHMINSTER HARBOUR Group

meets in the Memorial Hall on

**Thursday mornings  
from 10 am until noon.**

Drop in; you are welcome.

Check posters for details of  
special talks. Regular activities  
include Jigsaws, Knitting,  
Crochet, other crafts ....

Also

there is a selection of  
Mike's Cards  
available for purchase  
fortnightly.

## The Bereavement Group

meets alongside the  
Harbour Group on the  
1st and 3rd Thursdays  
of each month

## Family Fun Evening 6.30pm on 21st April.

Fun games and music  
£3 adults children under 16 free.  
Refreshments available.

## Just thinking ...Ken Dunstan

Some years ago, Kath and I were invited to attend a meeting of the Diocesan Environment Group. It was set up in order to help the Diocese of Chelmsford to live the requirements of the Five Marks of Mission, especially the Fifth Mark, "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth." To us who acknowledge the one God as the maker and sustainer of the Universe, this should be a no-brainer. He made and loves it and wants us to do the same - it's part of what the Church is about.

I've done a fair amount of study on climate change, conservation and the like, but it has tended to be on the physics and biology of the subject. But there's another side, which we as Christians should have close to our heart. The Bible, especially the Book of the prophet Amos, the Psalms and many parts of the New Testament, are full of references to justice, and to God's requirement that we should "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) Time for some more study!

I've enrolled on a course on "Environmental Justice" run by the University of East Anglia. It's on line and it's free. This particular course lasts just five weeks. It's part of a wide range of courses under the banner of "Futurelearn". I've looked at climate change, renewable energy and, very briefly, learning Dutch. All the courses are delivered by universities and take a multi-media approach, with video talks, stuff to read and a lot of interaction among students world-wide. The only qualification is a willingness to learn.

Environmental justice is included in the *Fourth* Mark of Mission: "to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to

challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation." This isn't the Church playing politics; it's the business of the Kingdom of God which Jesus inaugurated and for which he gave his life in the climactic battle of the Cross. Do look up "Futurelearn," whether or not you take a course like this. There's something for everyone in the huge range of courses on offer.



Our group holds its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th April 2018, 12.45 for 1 p.m. start,

all complete by 3 p.m. Members and non-members are welcome.

We are grateful to Burnham Town Council for allowing us to host this event at the Council Offices in Chapel Road, opposite Barclays Bank Car Park. The agenda and other details of our recent activities can be viewed at [www.dhbug.org](http://www.dhbug.org) - regularly updated with news and comment.

The election of Officers and Committee is critical, for without these positions being filled the Group cannot function. The main requirement is an interest in public transport especially local/rural buses! Our hope is to have representation from as many villages as possible.

Representatives from local bus operators and Essex County Council will hopefully be able to give us all the latest updates and respond to questions. If time allows we would also like to hear your opinions on DRT [Demand Responsive Transport], Sunday services, and bus stops / shelters. The AGM is the start of our membership year. This is the time to renew unless you have joined or renewed since January 2018, in which case your membership runs out at the AGM 2019. Individual membership costs just £1 as our finances remain in reasonably good shape thanks to careful management by the Treasurer.

## Share a bit of Easter ‘foolishness’ .... Bishop Stephen writes

When was the last time you shared a bit of good old-fashioned Christian ‘foolishness’?

Many early Christians eagerly embraced the label ‘foolishness’ for the good news they shared about Jesus. They didn’t think the Gospel was nonsense, though. They simply saw that, by the usual standards of the world, the story of the cross and resurrection was ‘foolishness’. Today, in a world obsessed with material success, the cross has lost none of its ‘foolishness’. Today, in a time when hope seems in desperately short supply, the ‘foolishness’ of the resurrection remains as powerful as ever.

So, this Easter, I want to challenge all of us to rediscover, celebrate – and most importantly – *share* the delicious ‘foolishness’ of the cross and resurrection with those around us.

The cross is ‘foolishness’ because it is a sign of complete failure by the usual standards. Things looked different when Jesus arrived triumphantly at Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, however. As he was heralded by great crowds, Jesus seems to be the epitome of success. But that was one day at the start of a very long week.

As the days went by, success disintegrated and faltered into Good Friday, when Jesus’s death on the cross was to redefine the depth of worldly failure. He seemed a failure through the betrayal and denial of his closest friends, a failure in his condemnation by the political and religious authorities and the crowds, a failure in the anguish and humiliation of his public torture, a failure in his pathetic criminal’s death on a cross - suffocated by the weight of his own broken body. Truly, from the foot of the cross the sign above his head, ‘The King of the Jews’, seemed so foolish as to be laughable.

At Easter we discover that this ‘foolishness’ shouldn’t be accompanied by the laughter of derision, however, but rather by the laughter of great joy: the laughter of hope fulfilled beyond any expectation. The ‘foolishness’ of the resurrection is that the terrifying absence of Jesus’s body from the tomb tells of the eternal presence of the risen Christ! At *that* moment, the ‘failure’ of the cross is revealed to be God’s great triumph – a success beyond our imaginings.

If we share this ‘foolishness’, we become beacons of resurrection hope in a world paralysed by fear of failure. If we cherish this ‘foolishness’, we are liberated to be disciples who know that whether we succeed or fail by the world’s standards, the risen Christ is present with us. In our triumphs and joys, our disappointments and disasters, and even in our death, the risen Christ is there. He is with us because in the cross and resurrection the world’s greatest failure was shown to be the eternal triumph of God’s love. *That* is a ‘foolishness’ that world needs to hear in every generation. So let’s share it.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2018: 13 - 19 May**

As many of our readers may realise, we have decided - in conjunction with Christ Church - that there will be no house-to-house collection for Christian Aid in Southminster this year. That doesn't mean that we shall not be supporting this worthwhile charity. We are just organising some different events, and having other ways of receiving your donations.

There will be

**A Garden Party** in the St Leonard's grounds

on **Sunday 13th May**

Contributors are welcome.

Posters will be available soon.

*Contact Kath Dunstan*



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and a

**Variety Concert in the Memorial Hall**

on **Sunday 20th May**

**7 pm - 9.30 pm**



See posters for details of artists contributing.

They will include

**Brad Luff** singer-guitarist

The **Twin Rivers** Line Dancers

**M.U.G.S.** - the Maldon **Ukelele Band**

**Cross Reference Duo** (Julian May & Ernie Lamprell)

**and possibly other instrumentalists**

Admission £8

*Contact Brenda Sheppard*

**NEXT CHURCH EVENT COMING UP**

***St Leonard's Church, Southminster  
present***



***Space and beyond  
an 'out of this world' evening  
of music with the  
Maldon Orchestra***

**At 8 pm**

**Friday 4th May 2018**

*in aid of St Leonard's Church,  
Southminster  
and Christchurch, Latchingdon*



Tickets **£7** available from  
St Leonard's Church, Southminster  
Christchurch, Latchingdon  
and on the door.

Contact no. 01621 772199

## WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev'd Peter Begley	772300
	The Vicarage, Burnham Road	
Licensed Reader	Mr Norman Pratt	
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs Linda Payne	
Pastoral Assistant (& i/c Magazine distribution)	Mrs Brenda Sheppard	
Evangelism Enabler (Children's Work Co-ordinator and Child Protection Rep.)	Mrs Jacky Griffiths	
Young People's Work	Mrs Jenny Pratt	
Churchwarden	Mr Phil Richards	
Churchwarden (& Transport to services)	Mr Paul Lucas	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sylvia Adams	
PCC Treasurer	Mr Michael Bikhazi	
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr Dick Dulude	
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr Pete Adams	
Music Co-ordinator	Mrs Hazel Richards	
'Henry' Club (& church bookings)	Mrs Jacky Griffiths	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Gwyneth Iffland	
Lending Library	Mrs Christine Lucas	
Bookstall Payments (& Bible Reading notes)	Ms Sarah Prendergast	
Magazine Editor (& Community Liaison)	Mrs Kath Dunstan	
Bellringing: Tower Captain	Mr Allan Pye	

## WHAT'S WHAT

### Mission Statement

"To be a people offering praise and worship to God and serving him by being the Good News by our words and actions"

**Web Site** [www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](http://www.stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

**Contact:** [vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stleonardsouthminster.org.uk)

### THIS MONTH at St Leonard's

**Everyone is welcome at all our services.**

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

**10:45 am** Holy Communion or Morning Worship

(Prayer ministry for any needs is available during the communion service or after the Morning Worship.)

Light refreshments are served after the 10.45 services.

**Sunday 22nd The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held in church immediately after the 10.45 service. Details will be available at the back of church from Sunday 8th April



**Children and Young people** are always welcomed  
(See page 15)

**MESSY CHURCH** is held monthly on Monday afternoons so the next one is Monday 30th April starting at 3.45 pm  
(See p 10)

**Midweek Prayer times (Mon., Wed. and Fri.) 8:00 am** (about half an hour) and **Tuesdays at 8.30 am** (Just Prayer) in the chapel followed by **COMMON GROUND** (coffee & chat) See page 20

**United Service for Elderly at Southminster Residential Home**  
on Thursday 19th April

and at **Squeaks House** (contact Norman Pratt or Jacky Griffiths)  
on Wednesday 11th April

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