

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



MAY 2015

“Trust in Him at *all* times, O people;
pour out your hearts to Him, for God is
our refuge”

Psalm 62 verse 8

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*Articles for the June
magazine by Sunday
16 May, please, to
Kath Dunstan.*

Your monthly magazine costs 30p. If you normally collect your copy from the back of church please pay 30p then. If you would like to have one delivered regularly please pay **£3.50 for the year (due in January)** to your distributor or contact Sheila Nicholson to arrange this. (See inside back cover.)

Reflection

Last month the cover text was from Psalm 31: 15 which read “My times are in your hands”. Today the text comes from Psalm 62 and verse 8 which says “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is your refuge”

We have come through the Easter season; we have journeyed through Lent and the penitential moments of that, into Passion Week and the considerations of the last journey that Jesus took in order to “repair” our relationship with God the Father, and on to the celebrations of Easter Sunday when we come together to worship our mighty risen King! We consider all that He has achieved for us and rejoice in His love, so readily given to us all.

As I think again of that Easter story I think of the frailty and the ease by which the disciples ran away at the moment that Jesus needed them most. The time in the Garden of Gethsemane when the disciples fell asleep, maybe because of a long journey, a meal or some wine! Nevertheless, they did not support Jesus at the time he needed them. I think of Peter, denying even knowing Jesus when he is taken away by the guards. Peter is very brave in the garden, with his sword in his hand, but when Jesus needs a friend where is he? And where are all the other disciples while Jesus is before the courts, being viciously beaten, abused, accused and scorned?

The natural frailty of the human nature is to turn away from conflict, turn away when things get tough, and deny ever being involved. Our trust moves to our default position, but somehow we must change that default position from ourselves to Jesus, so that we trust more in Him than we do on ourselves. The text today says “Trust in Him at all times, O people” a plea from the Psalmist encouraging us to always look to God for our daily needs.

Part of the Easter narrative is from Isaiah 53, a wonderful passage to dwell on, prophesying the suffering servant and showing the severity of his punishment. Chapter 53 tells us in detail what will happen to the Messiah and all that will be achieved by Him through His affliction. In all there are 9 different prophesies in this one chapter, all of which were fulfilled by Jesus on the cross. God never lets His spoken word go unfulfilled, He always makes good his promises and will never let us down. God is faithful all the time. Whenever things are tough - He is faithful; whenever trials appear - He is faithful, when things seem at their blackest - He is faithful. There is not a single circumstance in which Jesus will not draw alongside to bring His comfort and healing: He is faithful - **always**.

The condition is that we trust in Him first; we trust Him with our lives, we trust Him with our finances, we trust Him with our wellbeing, we trust in Him for our future and we trust in Him for our today. At all times we are to trust in Him, because “our times are in *His* hands”.

As we move towards Pentecost, we can trust that God will send His Holy Spirit upon us to give us the strength needed to sustain us in our times; He will send His Holy Spirit to fill us to give us faith when we are faithless, He will send His Holy Spirit to dwell with us to guide us into all truth. He will do it for He is faithful. He may not come according to *our* timing, when we are asking, but it will be in God’s time, at the right time. *Whatever* God has promised He **will** fulfil; He **is** faithful - and He **will** do it.

“Trust in Him at *all* times, O people”

Peter

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

As we go to press the above annual meeting has not yet taken place, since it is on the last Sunday of April.

However, if you don't manage to attend the meeting you can still keep up to date because there will be information available in church. Obviously any major appointments or decisions will be reported in next month's magazine.

Your prayer support is always appreciated for all who are involved in living out the St Leonard's vision statement:

"to be a people offering praise and worship to God and serving him by being the Good News by our words and actions" in Southminster. This obviously includes our Church family members whether they have a position on the PCC or not.

The Apology that prompted a Cheer

On Easter Sunday at the 10.45 service of Holy Communion the sidesmen were embarrassed that they had run out of the service leaflets. They visited the early arrivals and asked them to share, if possible. Eventually after a fair bit of shuffling most people had some sight of a leaflet and the service started.

Peter welcomed everyone and 'apologised'. "As you will probably know, we have run out of service order leaflets this morning.... Great, isn't it!" Smiles and cheers resulted. It was wonderful to have a congregation of over 80 - and I don't mean all old people. There were several children as well.

Kath Dunstan



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

happens this month.



The Week starts on 10th May.

We hope to be able to raise funds as usual during that week by carrying out the normal house-to-house collection. Please contact Kath Dunstan (see page 23) for further information or to offer your help.

Already there is a team of collectors ready and willing - but we haven't managed to cover all the Southminster roads yet. New volunteers will be really appreciated.

There's Another Fiona!

Keeping in Touch: Fiona Smith

Fiona is the daughter of Dave and Liz Smith. Dave was Churchwarden in the 1980s. Their children, Alec and Fiona, were regular members of "Centre Point", the youth group run by Phil and Hazel Richards. Fiona concentrated on art in the community. After time developing art therapy, Fiona answered a call to Cambodia, She has returned for "some family celebrations and catchups with folks north, south and west". She has sent Phil and Hazel a catchup with folks East; this is the short version.

Fiona has worked in Phnom Penh for some years. At Christmas she began to discern a shift in direction. It began with carol singing in a Red Light district and craftwork, "making angel wings" with children and seeing new, Cambodian-led mission activities developing. One, Alabaster House, provides a beauty salon and safe space for working women and their children, and, says Fiona, "For

me it felt like a swansong ... so good to see Cambodians leading the way ... time for me and others to back off". The other is a small NGO called "Women of Hope". Fiona met them at a local working women's party with "games, gifts and giggles", a Khmer-style nativity play and a message of a God who is not distant, judging or scary, but who "gets where we're at, and loves us". The message is reaching people making first steps Godwards. Fiona has been asked to be part of the Women of Hope team, as a friend rather than as an outside expert.

Fiona has also been working on materials to help children appreciate the dangers of pornography – soon to be published. She has joined "Christians for Social Justice" in supporting women jailed for their peaceful protest against land-grabbers who demolished their homes to build a shopping mall. She is involved in a group called New Creative Ventures. The first Venture is a Festival in August to mark the 40th year of the Khmer Rouge takeover that damaged Cambodia so much in the 1970s.

It will be a time of remembering, lament and thanksgiving for subsequent healing.

Fiona returns to Cambodia in June after her current tour of Britain.



Fiona Protests

For further news in the future contact Phil & Hazel.

Easter Flowers tell the story.

The two arrangements pictured here focussed on the Cross of Jesus. People who arrived in the church



couldn't miss the message represented there. A similar effect resulted from the arrangement in the South Doorway. (My photos don't do them justice.) We are grateful, too, for the care that Kathy and her team took to keep the flowers well watered. The arrangements still looked beautiful over a week later,

NEW PLANS: There is a list of dates at the back of church so that if you would like to have the flowers in church recognised as being in memory of someone, or for some special occasion, you can sign for the date and make a donation towards the cost of those flowers. Look out for the list and be part of the plan.





The Sanctuary lilies were really beautiful and their lovely arrangements (on the pedestal and on the reredos) set the tone for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.



St Leonard's Church Southminster



Exploring Nature
Monday, 27th April

(This is the May one)

Starts 3.30 pm

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

Bring all the family along and join in the fun!

Next one:

Monday 1st June

Exploring Church

Then change of date

Monday 13th July

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 16th May

July 5 12 19 26
August 2 9 16 23 30
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:

This month, see page 8 too.

If you would like to be involved with the providing and/or arranging of flowers in church during the year - not only at the major festivals - please contact Kathy Pegg who will be only too pleased to receive your help.



The used stamp collection at the back of church continues for Farleigh Hospice. Thank you everyone for your involvement. Keep it up!

We are still collecting items to support the Homeless Shelter in Chelmsford. The tub for your gifts, particularly toiletries and other cleaning materials, is at the back of church. Please see their web site for more information. www.chelmsfordchess.org



Single bedding is always useful.

PRAY FOR SOUTHMINSTER:

w/b	3 May	North-East
w/b	10 May	Central - North-West
w/b	17 May	Central - East
w/b	24 May	Central - South
w/b	31 May	South - South-West

ROTA FOR MAY 2015

Date **3 May**

5th Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion(BCP)

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter Begley

Acts 8 : 26 - 40

Dick Dulude

John 15 : 1 - 8

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Tom Fogg

10.45 Holy Communion

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 8 : 26 - 40

Christine Morgan

John 15 : 1 - 8

Christine Morgan

Intercessions

Kath Dunstan

Communion Assistants

Mike Bikhazi & Phil Richards

Prayer Ministry Team

Sarah Prendergast & Viv Perry

Projectionist

Sylvia Adams

Sidesperson

Harry Payne

Refreshments

Tom Fogg & Linda Payne

Date **10 May**

6th Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 10 : 44 - 48

Sheila Wright

John 15 : 9 - 17

Celebrant

Sidesman/Communion Asst..

Paul Lucas

10.45 All-age Worship

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

John 15 : 9 - 17

Linda Payne

Intercessions

Gwyneth Iffland

Prayer Ministry Team

Brenda Sheppard & Christine Lucas

Projectionist

Sarah Prendergast

Sidesperson

Sylvia Adams

Refreshments

Margaret Curtis & Sally Culff

For details of Ascension Day service - 14th May - see page 14

ROTA FOR MAY 2015

Date **17 May**

7th Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion(BCP)

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
Acts 1 : 15 - 17, 21 - 26	Sheila Nicholson
John 17 : 6 - 19	Celebrant
Sidesman/ Communion Asst.	Phil Richards

10.45 Holy Communion

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
Acts 1 : 15 - 17, 21 - 26	Sylvia Adams
John 17 : 6 - 19	Sylvia Adams
Intercessions	Jacky Griffiths
Communion assistants	Harry Payne & Paul Lucas
Prayer Ministry Team	Sylvia Adams & Tom Fogg
Projectionist	Christine Lucas
Sidesperson	Gwyneth Iffland
Refreshments	Viv Perry & Bob Perry

Date **24 May**

Pentecost

08.00 Holy Communion

Col: Red

Leader/President/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
Acts 2 : 1 - 21	Kathy Pegg
John 15 : 26 - 27 ; 16 : 4b - 15	Celebrant
Sidesman/Communion Asst.	Phil Richards

10.45 Morning Worship

Leader/Preacher	Rev'd Peter
Acts 2 : 1 - 21	Paul Lucas
John 15 : 26 - 27 ; 16 : 4b - 15	Paul Lucas
Intercessions	Jenny Pratt
Prayer Ministry Team	Jacky Griffiths & Viv Perry
Projectionist	Mike Bikhazi
Sidesperson	Lynda Hedges
Refreshments	Christine Lucas & Linda Payne

The rota is continued overleaf.

MAY SERVICES AT STEEPLE

Sunday	3 rd	9.15 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	10 th	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	17 th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	24 th	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	31 st		United Service at Southminster URC

St Leonard's Church Rota continued

Date **Thursday 14 May**

Ascension Day

20.00 Holy Communion

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Acts 1 : 1 - 11

Paul Lucas

Luke 24 : 44 - end

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Phil Richards

Date **Sunday 31 May**

Trinity Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion(BCP)

Col: White

Leader/President/Preacher

Rev'd Peter

Romans 8 : 12 - 17

Phil Richards

John 3 : 1 - 17

Celebrant

Sidesman/ Communion Asst.

Paul Lucas

10.30 United Service at ChristChurch URC

Leader/Preacher

Rev'd Jon Morgan/Rev'd Peter

Readings, Readers, etc. are to be arranged.

ESSEX SAVERS - the Credit Union for anyone who lives or works in Essex has set up a local branch which is open every Tuesday morning at Barclays Bank in Burnham and is staffed by local volunteers. If you can save regularly with them this will provide money that they can lend to those people who might otherwise be trapped by Loan Sharks or doorstep lenders. See their web site or the leaflets in church for further information.

essexsavers.co.uk 01245 496314 53 New St. Chelmsford

REGULAR MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

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

The **Music Group** meets in church on Fridays at 7.45 pm
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)
The May dates are Friday 1st & Friday 15th

Flower arranging is usually on Fridays or Saturdays.
Please see Kathy Pegg (See p. 23) and get involved.

Churchyard Working Parties happen on Saturdays, as required. See Paul Lucas or Phil Richards for details.
There is always a need for people to pick up the litter that is dropped in the church grounds. If you can help please do so; you just need some rubber gloves and a bin bag!

Midweek Prayer services (Mon., Wed. and Fri.)
8:00 am (about half an hour) in the chapel.

HOME GROUPS

Normally they are Mondays at 10 am
Venue will be named in the weekly bulletin.

and Thursdays at 7.45 pm for 8 pm
in the side chapel of the church.



Young people and children are always welcome at 10.45 services, and age-appropriate activities are available at the back of church if required. The All-age worship which is normally on second Sundays, is likely to involve them directly.

Messy Church is once a month on Mondays. See page 10.

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

What's On in the Local Area: May 2015

Arrangements in St Nicholas, Tillingham (T), St James, Dengie (D) and
St Nicholas School (S)

Sunday 3rd	8.00 am	Holy Communion	D
	10.00 am	Sunday Morning Worship	S
Wednesday 6th	9.15 am	Holy Communion	Vicarage
Sunday 10th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	S
	3.00 pm	Evening Service	D
Wednesday 13th	9.15 am	Morning Prayers	Vicarage
Thursday 14th	1.30 pm	School Ascension Day Service	S
Ascension Day			
Sunday 17th	8.00 am	Holy Communion	D
	10.00 am	Sunday Morning Worship	S
Wednesday 20th	9.15 am	Morning Prayers	Vicarage
Sunday 24th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	S
	3.00 pm	Evening Service	D
Wednesday 27th	9.15 am	Morning Prayers	Vicarage
Sunday 31st	10.00 am	Sunday Morning Service	S

The Chapel of St Peter on the Wall, Bradwell-on-Sea



The **Quiet Day on 30th May** will be led by Chris Macallan.

This will be a day of reflections on our own journeys with our God.
This will include experiential art and prayer using our own feet,
a collage and hopefully a labyrinth on the beach.

FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Friends of Southminster Community Open Spaces



THIS MONTH - A Guided Walk

around the Orchard & Seasons Wood
led by Roy Read - Saturday May 16th 10.30 am

Meet in the car park. Numbers are limited to 25
so places will have to be booked in advance.

Southminster W.I.

May 5th - AGM - WIA Shirley Perkins

Resolutions - Sheila Wright

Competition - How to improve our WI

Thank you for your support by providing food regularly for the Food Pantry. The latest list of required items is on the notice board near the green tub at the back of the church. As we go to press the list still includes cereals; tinned custard; biscuits; tinned rice; pasta sauces; long life milk



THE COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

is in

THE MEMORIAL HALL

every Monday

but you need to book each week by
12 noon on the previous Friday.

Menus and other details are available at the Hall, on
notice boards in church and at Lily Sage's Shop.

ALSO AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

look out for posters about the May **Quiz Night**

Please note that the Wednesday afternoon "Tea and Scones"
session will not be continuing because of lack of support.

**Scarecrow Festival
in Bradwell & St Lawrence
Bank Holiday Weekend
3rd and 4th May**



**A Fun Day sponsored by the
Bradwell Community Shop,
St Thomas' Church &
St Cedd's
Church of England Primary School**

Scarecrows will start to appear around the area from 18th April but judging and prizes will only be awarded on Friday 1st May. There will be a workshop day on 18th April at St Thomas' Church. Instructions and further details will be available from the Community Shop – phone: 01621 776274

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL EVENTS COMING UP

Prayer Vigil for the General Election

30th April 7.30 - 8.30 pm

Chelmsford Cathedral

You are very welcome to join a prayer vigil at Chelmsford Cathedral on Thursday 30th April between 7.30pm and 8.30pm to mark the beginning of a county-wide week of prayer for the UK General Election.

Friends of Essex Churches Trust - 2015 Gepp Lecture

'How buildings tell a story'

Wednesday 13th May 8.15 pm

Chelmsford Cathedral

The third annual Gepp Lecture will be given by Dr Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge following the AGM. All are welcome. Please email events@foect.org.uk if you are planning to attend.

The Dengie Olive Branch will be opening in Southminster very soon.

It will start by opening on Saturdays from 1pm until 4pm

There will be a warm welcome to all.

If you would be interested in joining the team of helpers which are being recruited in order



to open on other occasions, there will be training sessions to ensure that no-one is overburdened.

Details will be available in church. Look out for them.

In the meantime, just drop in when the Olive Branch is open.



A further reflection on our cover text:

Psalm 62 v. 8

I asked for strength and
God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom and
God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity and
God gave me brawn and brain to work.

I asked for courage and
God gave me dangers to overcome.

I asked for love and
God gave me troubled people to help...

My prayers were answered.

*from an internet article by Rabbi Ahron Hoch facing the question
"Why do bad things happen to good people?"*

Food for Thought

from the internet via Angela Parker

Imagine that you won the following prize in a contest:

Each morning your bank would deposit £86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize had rules just as any game has certain rules.

The first set of rules would be:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.

Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another £86,400.00 for that day.

The second set of rules:

1. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "It's over, the game is over!"
2. It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? •

- You would buy anything and everything you wanted, right?
- Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love, right?
- Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?
- You would try to spend every penny and use it all, right?

Actually, this is the **game of life**!! Each of us is in possession of such a 'magical' bank - we just can't seem to see it.

The magical bank is time!

Each awakening morning we receive 86,400 seconds as a **gift of life**, and when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is NOT credited to us. What we haven't lived up to that day is forever lost. Yesterday is forever gone. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time.....without warning.

WELL, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds?

Editor's reaction: See the hymn "New Every Morning".... and Trust God always

SOCS are presenting
The Pajama Game
at
Ormiston Rivers Academy
on

Thursday 14th May 7.30pm £8

Friday 15th May 7.30pm £9

Saturday 16th May 2.30pm £8

Saturday 16th May 7.30pm £10

Musical Director: Meinir Wyn Davies

Director: Eric Smart

SOCS first performed 'The Pajama Game' 14 years ago...
.....a few members are still here!!

Box Offices: The One Place, Burnham
DengieTech, Southminster (opposite the church).

FURTHER SOCS NEWS

On 24th March many members of SOCS were in church for an event they would rather not have had to support - the funeral of long-time member Bernard Hammond (age 94). It meant that the volume and quality of the hymn-singing at the service was much greater than is usual. It also gave people the chance afterwards to reminisce about times past in the Society. We were pleased that David Felstead was able to play the organ on that occasion. He and Bernie had enjoyed long conversations about Bernie's farming life in Norfolk as well as his singing life in the Dengie area. We at St Leonard's had also appreciated Bernard's contributions to Church life over several decades and we rejoice that his daughter Pam's membership continues to this day.

Kath Dunstan



Our Children's Society Dinner on Saturday 25 April.

As we go to press this is still in the future. A report should be available next month. However, it's never too late to support the Society; just bring your money gift in a labelled envelope to the church.

For further information about the Children's Society see their web site.

ADVANCE NOTICE

**The 2015 ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION
will be held in church
in SEPTEMBER on
SATURDAY 12th & SUNDAY 13th**

We aim to encourage local artists, so this is to give everyone plenty of warning. Plan your own entries and also tell your friends who might be interested in exhibiting.

A team of helpers for the weekend is being recruited, so be prepared to be asked - and think about saying "Yes". Thank you to all who have already volunteered.

Kath Dunstan

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	Mrs Brenda Sheppard	
Evangelism Enabler (Children's Work Co-ordinator and Child Protection Rep.)	Mrs Jacky Griffiths	
Churchwarden	Mr Phil Richards	
Churchwarden (& Transport to services)	Mr Paul Lucas	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sylvia Adams	
PCC Treasurer (& Deputy Warden)	Mr Michael Bikhazi	
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr Dick Dulude	
Music Co-ordinator	Mrs Hazel Richards	
'Henry' Club (& church bookings)	Mrs Jacky Griffiths	
Church Flowers (& Electoral Roll Officer)	Mrs Kathryn Pegg	
Lending Library	Mrs Christine Lucas	
Bookstall Payments (& Bible Reading notes)	Ms Sarah Prendergast	
Magazine Editor (& Community Liaison)	Mrs Kath Dunstan	
Magazine distribution	Mrs Sheila Nicholson	
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

Sunday Services - normal pattern

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.)

On first Sundays our hymns are accompanied on the organ. On other Sundays our Music Group plays, with occasional organ hymns.

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



MESSY CHURCH is held monthly on Mondays at 3.30 pm in church. The next one will be on

Monday 27th April (*instead of the May one because of the May Bank Holiday*)

Midweek Prayer times (Mon., Wed. and Fri.)

8:00 am (about half an hour) in the chapel

THIS MONTH at St Leonard's

SUNDAY SERVICES FOLLOW NORMAL PATTERN

SUNDAY 10th CHRISTIAN AID WEEK BEGINS

Thursday 14th Ascension Day 20.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 31st Trinity Sunday 10.30 United Service at ChristChurch

Pray: for Southminster (five regions on five-week rota)

See notice-boards for street details & page 11 for regions.

HOME GROUPS: See page 15 and weekly bulletins for details

United Service for the Elderly at 4 pm on 21st May at **Southminster Residential Home** Contact Rupert Killick