

THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland
in September 2021*



Can you help us?

Please share your views and opinions
by turning to the centre pages and
completing our Survey.

Revd. Colin Resch

Priest in charge of the Mountsorrel Benefice
with St Leonard's Swithland

4 Rothley Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7JU

Tel/Fax 0116 429 9946 Email revcolinresch@icloud.com



Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you just a few days after watching the Taliban enter the city of Kabul with complete ease and take control over Afghanistan declaring an end to the 20 year war. One Afghan Christian has said “It’s a heart-breaking day for the citizens of Afghanistan and an even more dangerous time to be a Christian. Secret believers in Afghanistan are especially vulnerable. Prior to Taliban rule, they already had a very difficult time living out their faith, as they had to keep it secret from their families for fear of being shunned, or worse, killed. Now that the Taliban is in power, their vulnerability increases tenfold. It would be almost impossible to be a follower of Jesus in this country. We are monitoring the situation, but this is the time for us to ask God to have mercy not only on His people, but on this country as a whole”.



Afghanistan was already number two on the Open Doors’ World Watch List meaning it is the second most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian believer. As people who live in safety, with freedom to attend worship whenever we like, I would urge you to join with me in praying for Afghanistan. Here are five ways to pray for Afghanistan today (as published by Open Doors).

- ! Please pray for the small group of believers in the country. They are walking on eggshells and are uncertain who to trust. Pray that they find strength, wisdom and supernatural peace in God’s promises.
- ! Pray for the displaced. A new wave of refugees is expected to come from Afghanistan to many parts of the Middle East and the rest of the world. Pray for God’s protection and provision over them in their journeys.
- ! Pray for women. Many fear Taliban rule would mean they would be stripped of opportunities for education. Women involved in education during the past years could also be at risk - pray for their protection.
- ! Pray for the sick. Though underreported in international media, Covid-19 cases are spiking in the country and hospitals are limited in what they can offer. There is no certainty as to how the healthcare system will be able to sustain itself with the new Taliban government. Pray that the healthcare system will not collapse.

! Pray that the country will not be a haven for extremists. The Taliban government of 20 years ago are known enablers of extremist Islamic organisations. With their newfound control over Afghanistan, the country could be host to a new generation of terror groups.

I don't know what else we can do for the people of Afghanistan except to hold them in our prayers. Will you join with me in praying for our Afghan brothers and sisters every day? And, as we do, may God have mercy upon them.

With every blessing, Colin Resch



You are invited to a

Coffee Morning

at St Leonard's Church

on Wednesday 22nd September, 10am to 12noon

All donations in aid of

Macmillan Cancer Support

Please bring along something for our

Bring & Buy Stall

A warm welcome awaits
and we hope to see you there!

SWITHLAND PARISH MEETING

I am pleased to tell you that I have finally been able to book
a Parish Meeting at the Memorial Hall

at 8pm on Tuesday September 28th

Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you are unable to come but would like to raise something
concerning the Village, please contact me on
01509 890547 or sarah.may1@btinternet.com

I look forward to seeing you - Sarah May.



LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH TASTER HALF DAY - 9.30am - 1pm SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

This event is an opportunity to learn about the vision and purpose of the Living in Love and Faith project and to explore some of the resources. The aims of the day are for the participants

- to be clear about the purpose of LLF
- to know what resources are available
- to experience engaging with sample elements of the LLF course
- to begin to think about how to engage with LLF in their context
- to have their questions answered

There will be a mix of plenary presentations, discussions and working together in small groups. Eeva John, the national church Enabling Officer, will be present and there will also be an opportunity to hear from Andy Brockbank, the diocesan LLF Advocate and other members of the Living Well Together Group.

To enrol please contact Abbie Allen: abbie.allen@leicestercofe.org
Please give your name and parish/deanery when enrolling.

SWITHLAND CHURCH MEN'S CLUB

There will be a meeting at the Griffin Inn
on Wednesday 13th October at 8pm

This will be an Annual General Meeting
which will be followed by a presentation from Chris Aspinall
on his life working with glass entitled
“Through the Looking Glass”

We look forward to seeing members new and old once again.
Andrew Brown - Chairman



It is with great sadness that the Swithland Flower & Vegetable Committee are in a consensus of cancelling this year's show due to Covid concerns, crowded pub and classrooms, along with continuing increase of Covid cases in our area including those that are 'double jabbed'.

The Committee do not want to run a half hearted Show and it be a pale imitation of its former self with a fear of limited exhibitors, visitors and ultimately auction buyers! We are therefore going to move forward for a fantastic return in 2022. However, we are planning a meeting to discuss alternative fund raising options over the coming weeks and if anyone would like to join us, or pass on any ideas, please let me know and I will include you or your thoughts at the meeting.

Duncan Keates - duncan.keates@sky.com

QUICK SURVEY



SWITHLAND CHURCH SURVEY

The church family here at St Leonard's would like to take this opportunity to explore with you the possibility of better ways in which we can do things.

Can you help us?

We would like your views on how we can improve and become more effective at offering valuable church services and serving our community.



You can access the survey in one of two ways:

1. Scan this QR code:



2. Go to: stleonardsswithland.org/survey/

If you don't have a computer, then maybe a friend or family member can help you.

The survey is completely anonymous and should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

It will be more valuable than you know to receive your views so here's a big **THANK YOU** for taking the time to respond!



OPEN CHURCH AT
ST LEONARD'S ON
SEPTEMBER 11th and
OCTOBER 9th - 2pm to 4pm

With no Swithland Show to go to this year, you will be very welcome to visit the church to either share a cup of tea and slice of cake with us, or wander around our very interesting churchyard - or you could simply take the time to enjoy its peace and tranquillity.

We hope we shall see you.



'RIDE AND STRIDE'
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH



**Help us to raise money for both St Leonard's and the
Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust**

You can participate by cycling, jogging, walking or driving to as many or as few different churches or chapels as you wish - or you can simply be on hand to offer a welcome to those who visit St Leonard's.

Sponsorship forms are available at the back of church or more information can be obtained from Martin Greenwood - 07756 234201.

Last year we raised £1046
Help us to raise the same amount in 2021 or even more!



GREAT NEWS !

**OUR 'FRIDAY CLUB' RE-OPENS ON
SEPTEMBER 10th**

Toddlers, Mums, Dads, Grandparents & Carers
are all invited to come along and join us for playtime
activities, bible stories, songs, a drink and a chat.

9am to 10.30am in Church every Friday
in term time through to 10th December

EVERYONE WELCOME



SWITHLAND CHURCH WIVES

We are delighted to confirm that arrangements
have been made for us to meet on

THURSDAY 9th SEPTEMBER -7pm

Canon Anne Horton has kindly agreed to give a guided walk from St Leonard's Church up to the Memorial Hall talking about the listed buildings on the way and who lived there.

We shall meet at 7pm at the church and finish at the hall with some drinks and nibbles and there will be an opportunity for us all to have a general discussion about our plans for future meetings.

If you don't want to take part in the walk, you can join us at the hall - just let one of us know - and bring along a friend if you wish.

Sarah 01509 890547 - Val 01509 890551 - Jan 01509 890805



NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER



With the easing of lockdown, we started to ring for weddings in June following the Central Council of Church Bellringers Guidance. As there is no window in the ringing chamber, hence poor ventilation, we initially restricted ringing to 3 bells only for the weddings prior to the 19th July, following social distancing and wearing face coverings.

As you may imagine, ringing with masks is not that comfortable! However, since 19th July we have rung all 6 bells for the 5 weddings in late July/August. The current situation is that facemasks are optional. Due to a shortage of ringers for one Sunday wedding, we were grateful that ringers from Rothley tower helped us out. We have 5 weddings in September, including one at St Mary's, Woodhouse.

With the current situation and the course of the pandemic unclear, we have not resumed practice or Sunday ringing but continue to chime one bell for services where possible.

We are delighted that the Mountsorrel and Rothley Community Heritage Centre have a display board in their upper room detailing our bell restoration project in 2019 and have a glass case displaying our old clappers, with a couple of old headstocks at the base of the display board. Thank you to Chris Watts for organising this with Steve Cramp. See photographs below.

In addition, we now have a pictorial display and thank you board in the back hall at St Leonard's, opposite the vestry door, with photographs documenting the removal and rehangng of the bells. This is a record of thanks to organisations and individuals who donated to the project. Thank you to John Cramp at the Heritage Centre for his design. **Janet Beeby - Tower Captain**





Join us for our
HARVEST LUNCH
SUNDAY 26th SEPTEMBER
at the Memorial Hall at 12.30pm
EVERYONE WELCOME

Our Harvest Lunch will once again be a 'Bring and Share' lunch. If you would like to attend, please either use the contact number below or add your name to the list at the back of the church. You will then be contacted to confirm your choice of food to bring along.



Geraldine Mason 0116 2672360



**CHRISTIANS IN
THE FOREST
AUTUMN BIBLE
STUDY**



Starting on Tuesday 28th September at 7pm, our course will be
"Acts 13-28, To the Ends of the Earth" by Christine Platt.
At the time of writing we are hoping to meet in person at St Leonard's
- but this may change, so please visit the CITF website citf.qwkz.uk
or contact Gary near to the start
date to confirm.

garyhlee87@gmail.com





*You are invited to join us at any
of our services and be assured
of a very warm welcome.*

Sunday 5th

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Colin Resch
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch

Sunday 12th

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Eric Whitley
9.30am	Family Service	Hilary Ayling

Sunday 19th

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Colin Resch
9.30am	Morning Prayer + Baptism	Revd Colin Resch

Sunday 26th

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL All gifts to be distributed to the Soar Valley Community Food Project	Olga Harris/



St Leonard's Church

www.stleonardsswithland.org

CHURCHWARDENS

Sally Allen 0116 2375704 and Chris Watts 0116 2123763
St Leonard's Church, Main Street, Swithland, LE12 8TJ

Please forward contributions for The LINK to the Editor: maryselina@hotmail.co.uk