



***FESTIVE SEASON SERVICES AT  
ST LEONARD'S CHURCH***  
*We look forward to welcoming you*



**DECEMBER SERVICES**

**Sunday 5th - Advent 2**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 12th - Advent 3**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am Christingle Service

**Sunday 19th - Advent 4**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am Sung Communion  
4pm Service of  
Nine Lessons and Carols

**Friday 24th - Christmas Eve**

4pm Family Crib Service

**Saturday 25th**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am Family Communion

**Sunday 26th**

9.30am 'Sing a Song of Christmas'

**JANUARY SERVICES**

**Sunday 2nd**

9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 9th - Baptism of Christ**

9.30am Family Worship  
+ Baptism

**Sunday 16th - Epiphany 2**

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sunday 23rd - Epiphany 3**

9.30am Morning Prayer

**Sunday 30th - Candlemas**

9.30am Holy Communion (CW)



# THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland in  
December 2021  
& January 2022*



St Leonard's Church

[www.stleonardsswithland.org](http://www.stleonardsswithland.org)

**CHURCHWARDENS**

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Front cover designed by Janet Lee

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## SWITHLAND CHURCH MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL CAROL SINGING 2021



For many years Swithland Church Men's Club and St Leonard's Church choir members have met annually to sing carols in Swithland Village and along Swithland Lane, collecting for the LOROS and Rainbows Hospice charities.

Unfortunately, similarly to last year, the present Covid 19 restrictions prevent the singing and collecting from households and therefore it has been decided to -

**Sing Carols only in Swithland on  
Monday December 20th 6.30pm  
outside at the Memorial Hall**

In order to raise monies for our chosen charities as well as donating at the Memorial Hall, we will also set up an on line appeal as we did last year, so that those who cannot attend the carol singing still have the opportunity to donate. A flyer will be delivered to all households throughout Swithland Village and Swithland Lane with details of how to give nearer to the time. All funds raised will be divided equally between the two charities. In anticipation, we thank you for your continued support.

**Andrew Brown, Chairman**



## Trees instead of Christmas Cards

Please consider not sending cards to each other this Christmas. Instead, leave a Christmas message on the display that will be in church and put a donation in the box.

With every £7 collected we can gift through World Vision mango, avocado and papaya seedlings to start a tree nursery that could provide fresh, sweet food for many years to come.

## Christ Church, Mountsorrel Christmas Tree Festival 2021



Entry free.  
Donations  
welcome to  
support  
Rainbows Hospice

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - 10am -5pm\***

Coffee/Tea 10am -12noon Friday

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December - 10am -4pm\***

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December - 1pm -3.30pm\***

(following our 11.00am Morning service)

\*Note: each day, last entry is 30 minutes before closing time.

**Refreshments available Saturday & Sunday**

**Christ Church, Rothley Road, Mountsorrel, LE12 7JU**

Web: <https://mountsorrelchurch.org/>

## Carol Service amongst the Trees

*Led by the Ladies of  
Christ Church & St Peters*

*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
7pm at Christ Church*

*Followed by light refreshments*



**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH SWITHLAND**

**'CHRISTINGLE SERVICE'**

**SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER AT 9.30am**

**Celebrate with us the  
coming of Christ - the Light in our world**  
A joyful occasion particularly loved by  
children and a wonderful way to prepare for  
Christmas Day

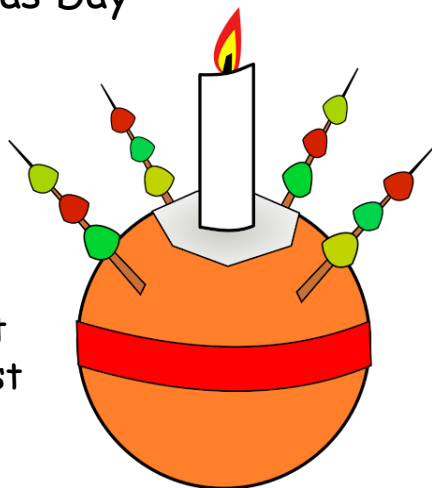
**A candle** - to represent  
Christ

**An orange** - to represent  
the world

**A red ribbon** - to represent  
the love and blood of Christ

**Fruits and sweets on four  
cocktail sticks** -

to represent the four seasons and God's love in  
providing the fruits of the earth



**Come along and join in the fun**



I wonder, if like me, you've noticed that the shops are desperate for our cash and this year's TV Christmas advertising seemed to begin much earlier than usual with one advert even stating, "The best excuse is Christmas, it's the excuse of the year ....."? In that particular advert, the retailer is advocating buying lots of presents for others while actually, rather unashamedly, treating yourself.

Well, of course, they are correct; Christmas is a great excuse for doing things a little different from the usual - and after nearly two years of living through a pandemic, we're all looking for something different - but what? Not necessarily the selfish overspending they seemed to be advocating, but still something different.

Christmas gifts, whether given generously (or sometimes reluctantly) do bring some joy; but that joy is often short lived - the batteries wear down, the novelty wears off, the clothes wear out. I don't believe that the true joys of Christmas lie in an abundance of gifts, but in the one true gift of Jesus Christ. Shops may be full of the former; but the Church is full of the latter.

At the end of Mathew's Gospel (Mt 28.19-20) Jesus says to the disciples, "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*"

I sometimes wonder whether the Church should adopt some of the advertising techniques that retailers use as we seek to proclaim the Kingdom of God; but retail advertising is a desperate business and having worked in retail for twenty years, I'm not sure I want to enter that realm again. And so I will continue without the song and dance, and simply offer you some gentle encouragement to join with us this December.

Come and see us at Church. You'll find a warm welcome and the love of God revealed through his Son, Jesus Christ. Open your heart to receive the one gift that money can never buy. And, if you need an excuse ..... It's Christmas!

*With every blessing, Colin Resch*





**Church Wives**  
**Christmas Event**



**Monday December 13th**

We are hoping to restart our Church Wives Group for the 21/22 season with a number of meetings, the first of which will be our Christmas event on **Monday 13th December at 7.30pm.**

This year it will be held at the Memorial Hall to take account of Covid precautions, and we shall be having a demonstration of Christmas table decorations and door swags given by Mary Linnett who is a member of the Birstall Flower Club, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Mary has asked that in lieu of a fee, we make a donation to MacMillan Cancer Support and St Leonard's PCC has agreed a donation of £50. We are asking our members to contribute £5 on the evening which will be their subscription towards further meetings. Non-members are also very welcome for a donation of £5. Everyone attending will be given a raffle ticket for a Christmas table decoration at the end of the evening.

For seating and catering purposes please contact one of us if you are able to come along. We are looking forward to providing a great start to the Christmas Season.

janbeeby@btinternet.com sarah.may1@btinternet.com vcapewell@btinternet.com

**SWITHLAND SCARECROW TRAIL**  
**SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER**

Following the disappointment of not holding the Swithland Flower and Vegetable Show for a second year, the Show committee was delighted to hold our first Scarecrow Trail in the village.



Although the day got off to a wet start, the sun soon appeared and allowed families young and old to walk the length of the village spotting and voting for the best scarecrow. We received 37 entries, all following our 'book theme'. They included Mary Poppins, Casper the friendly ghost, Gulliver's Travels, Whinny the Poo and Paddington Bear to name a few .... A word search formed part of the family fun once all the colourful characters had been found. This, however, proved more difficult to work out than we had estimated .... Well done to anyone who worked out 'book worms have fun'!

Gulliver's Travels (pictured) won on the day as the best scarecrow, scoring over 60 votes, more than double that of its nearest rival. Very well done for an excellent entry.

During the day we served refreshments for all those walkers at the Village Hall, including homemade cake and jam sales as well as a plant stall. Thanks to the Griffin Inn who again supported us by allowing us to have the tombola stall within the comfort and warmth of their undercover courtyard. Special thanks to David and Maureen who prepared all the goodies for the event and manned the stall all day.

Our aim was to raise circa £500. However, we are delighted to announce that £1,500 was raised which we will be splitting equally between our two charities, Rainbows and Loros.

Thank you to all those who supported us this year. Next year's Flower and Vegetable Show is on Saturday 10th September and we very much look forward to seeing you all there, and don't worry, the scarecrow trail will be back too.

**Duncan Keates**





## **CHRISTIANS IN THE FOREST**

### **Advent course**

#### **The Four Stories of Christmas - Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men and Jesus**

An in depth look at the stories that lay behind the greater story of Christmas. Please note there is no course book - the stories will be presented by Hilary, Gareth and Jerry.

All meetings start at 7.30pm and dates and venues are :

30th November at the Baptist Church, Woodhouse Eaves  
7th December at the Methodist Church, Woodhouse Eaves  
14th December at St Leonard's Church, Swithland  
21st December at the Baptist Church, Woodhouse Eaves

### **New Year Course**

#### **Ruth - Loving kindness in action**

#### **By Elizabeth Rundle in the Cover to Cover Series**

Trust, loyalty, kindness and faith - these are the central themes contained in the book of Ruth. This is a moving story that also deals with fundamental issues of poverty, bereavement, childlessness, racial tension and human rights.

All meetings start at 7.30pm and dates and venues are :

4th January at the Baptist Church, Woodhouse Eaves  
11th January at the Methodist Church, Woodhouse Eaves  
18th January at St Leonard's Church, Swithland  
25th January at the Baptist Church Woodhouse Eaves  
1st February at the Methodist Church, Woodhouse Eaves  
8th February at St Leonard's Church, Swithland  
15th February at the Baptist Church, Woodhouse Eaves

For further information contact Gary Lee - [garyhlee87@gmail.com](mailto:garyhlee87@gmail.com)

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

### **IN SWITHLAND**

**14TH NOVEMBER 2021**

This year marks the centenary of the founding of the Royal British Legion and this reminds us that the conflict of the First World War begins to slip away into history. Indeed, no-one who fought in that War is alive today.

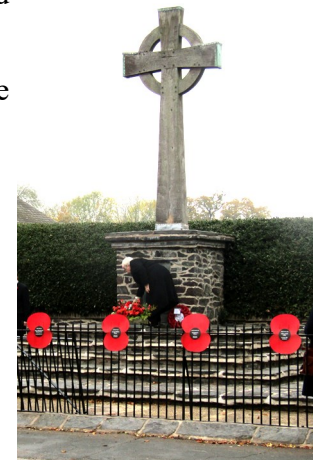


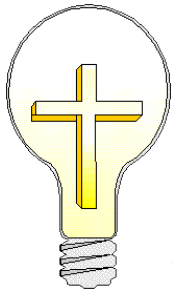
Swithland's remembrance of those who have fallen in all wars began at 9.30am at St Leonard's Church with the Remembrance Sunday Service taken by Jeff Harrison. Jeff's address was both interesting and informative about historical events and followed the circulation throughout the village of the excellent booklet entitled 'Swithland Soldiers in the First World War' which seeks to keep alive the memory of all those local men who gave their lives for their country.

Following the service the congregation and other villagers gathered at the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance, two minutes silence and reveille.

The photographs below show Sarah May laying a wreath of poppies at the Memorial on behalf of Swithland village, Max Harrison who made a welcome return as our bugler and members of St Leonard's choir.

To close the morning, refreshments were served in the Memorial Hall.





## **HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD**

*Here in Spain we are preparing for the traditional celebrations of the festive season. Huge nativities - the whole story of the life of Christ - are being put in churches and outside town halls. Families will gather for fireworks at midnight on Christmas Eve and then on January 6th the three Kings will arrive, complete with gifts, and there will be street carnivals and fireworks into the night.*

*But I want to tell you about what is happening in my church which is part of the Anglican Church in Spain. It has become a 'Church of the Community' and is reaching out in many new ways.*

*There is a voluntary donation basket which is used to help local people. Members of the congregation can suggest those in need, or they can ask personally. There is a youth club, a mothers and toddler group, bible study and an 'open to all' choir. Carol singing will be in two local pubs and in church on Christmas Eve. At present I am receiving shoe boxes for the local orphanage, each for a particular child, and the response and enthusiasm has been heartwarming.*

*This church, this Christmas is a beacon, a little light of faith and hope in a world emerging from depression.*

**Sue Heap**



**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH 'FRIDAY CLUB'**

**WILL RE-OPEN AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**On JANUARY 7TH from 9am to 10.30am**

Join us for playtime activities, bible stories,  
songs, a drink and a chat

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## **'PARISH PRAISE' IN AID OF LOROS**

**AT ST LEONARD'S - NOVEMBER 20TH**

Our grateful thanks to Mark Blatherwick and Rob Newton of 'AD 2000' for entertaining and leading us so expertly through such a wide variety of hymns and songs. Thanks also to Mark Temple for his technical assistance.

This thoroughly enjoyable occasion enabled us to donate £450 to our local Loros Hospice - a much appreciated and worthwhile amount.

Very many thanks to everyone who supported us and helped to make the evening a success.



## **Decorate our Advent Tree with your Prayer Cards**

This year we shall once again be decorating the small tree at the back of church from Advent Sunday.

We have so much to be thankful for, especially at this time of year.

Everyone is invited to write a prayer or a message of thanks on one of the coloured cards provided and hang it on our tree.

Write whatever springs into your mind.

We hope to see the tree well and truly covered by Christmas Day to show our love and appreciation both to God and one another.