

THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland
in February 2022*



Revd. Colin Resch

Priest in charge of the Mountsorrel Benefice

with St Leonard's Swithland

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When is enough, enough?

Having recently suffered the bereavement of my Mum, I am tasked, alongside my brother and sister, with clearing her belongings and readying her home for sale. Those who have previously undertaken this task will know that it is an emotional and time consuming process. Even when you try to take a very practical approach to the matter, there will be items that stir memories and those that bring tears. Then there is the dilemma of what should be kept and what should be discarded. What may have been important for Mum, is not necessarily so for her children. Equally so, an item may have great significance for one sibling, but not another.

There is currently a very helpful advert on television from a particular online auction site. "Buy an item, sell an item". This is a good principal to hold onto not just when out shopping or when clearing a house following bereavement, but for all time. As human beings, we have a tendency to gather around us lots of 'stuff'. Our list of possessions grows ever longer; and so I have been warned not to bring everything home!

Not only does this lead to cluttered homes, but it is also not very good for the environment. Perhaps it is time to de-clutter our homes and our lives by passing on our surplus possessions to another (either by selling or donating).

Saint Luke records a parable of Jesus warning against exactly this sort of greed when someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." He goes on to tell the parable of the rich fool whose ground yielded an abundant harvest. He sought to store all he had in bigger barns. In the parable God says to that man, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

Let us do our bit for the environment by using wisely the things we already have and not adding unnecessarily to our endless store of 'stuff'. Let us try to live simply, that others may simply live.

With every blessing, Colin Resch



SWITHLAND CHURCH MEN'S CLUB

Over many years, members and friends of the Men's Club have traditionally sung carols along Swithland Lane and Main Street, Swithland during the week before Christmas. In December, due to the uncertainties around Covid19, we decided instead to hold an outdoor Carol Singing event at the Memorial Hall and encourage residents to join us.



This was a well attended evening with everyone keen to get into the Christmas spirit and with mulled wine and mince pies provided. A total of £240 was raised and split between our nominated charities, Loros and Rainbows.

My thanks to everyone who helped to make the event such a success and one which will be well worth repeating.

'PIKE SUPPER' TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY

7pm AT ROTHLEY FISHERIES

This is open to members, wives, partners and friends of members. Please let me know asap if you wish to attend. *Andrew Brown, Chairman* - andrewbrown763@btinternet.com



CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

January 2022 - Olga Harris

"Thanksgiving for my marriage on 1st January 1972"

SPONSORING OF CHURCH FLOWERS

You can celebrate the life of a loved one, or any special occasion such as an anniversary or birthday, by sponsoring either the floodlighting or the flowers which adorn St Leonard's Church each week.

The flowers will be arranged for you by volunteers and will be in church for two weeks.

Please contact Sally Allen, Churchwarden, for further details - 0116 2375704



We see the beautiful church buildings in our communities, but do we ever think of the amount of work which goes into keeping them looking as they do?

St Leonard's church is Grade 2* listed and its maintenance is governed by the Leicester Diocese and Parochial Church Council, but the cost of this is the responsibility of church givers. Like all public buildings it has yearly servicing requirements, but in addition to these it also requires a Quinquennial Inspection (QI). This means that every 5 years the building must be inspected by an approved professional who issues a report detailing the necessary repairs, tasks and timescales to keep the building well maintained. Luckily St Leonard's has a slate roof, so has not been subjected to lead theft, which sadly has left other churches without a roof.

Our churchyard is kept tidy and well maintained by a regular groundsman. The only problem we have is a rampant mole who busily makes great mounds all around the grass areas. Plenty of squirrels and pheasant also call it their home. We have some very old headstones and one Commonwealth war grave. As with all graveyards, it holds the history of those who have passed and now lie in the grounds.

The Danvers monument, pictured, which sits a 1/4 outside the churchyard, is unfortunately being affected by tree growth underneath which is moving the stone base. It has wonderful carvings on each side which need to be cleaned and the railings need painting.



The Hind Sisters monument, pictured, is also in need of some stone work and painting of the railings. Before we can do anything to either of these monuments we need to make contact with family descendants. Please do get in touch if you have a connection.



We have recently had our kitchen and office area refurbished which was made possible through a generous legacy left to the church. All money that we are gifted we spend on improvement so that the fabric of the building will be maintained for many years to come.

Chris Watts - Churchwarden (Fabric)



CW and BCP!

Have you come across the initials CW and BCP and wondered what they meant?

What does it mean to have a CW or BCP Communion Service?

CW stands for “Common Worship” and BCP stands for “Book of Common Prayer”.

Common Worship is the name given to the series of services, including Communion, authorised by the General Synod of the Church of England and launched on the first Sunday of Advent in 2000. It represents the most recent stage of development of the liturgy (public worship) of The Church of England, and replaced the 1980 Alternative Service Book (ASB). Most of the services at St Leonard’s are Common Worship services and so you will probably have encountered, and hopefully enjoyed, a CW service.

Book of Common Prayer is the name given to the book of services and prayers first published in 1549. Put together by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, it was the first prayer book to include the complete forms of service for daily and Sunday worship in English. It contains Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Holy Communion as well as the orders for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

The 1549 Book of Common Prayer was revised by Cranmer in 1552 with further revisions made in 1604 and 1662. It is the 1662 version of the Book of Common Prayer that is used at St Leonard’s for our communion service.

There are a number of differences between CW and BCP services - the most obvious being that of language. While the language used for a Common Worship service is current English, that of the Book of Common Prayer is probably best described as Shakespearean English. Shakespearean English, to the modern ear, can prove a little difficult on first hearing but to devotees of the Book of Common Prayer, of which I am one, with patience and a little application, there are many benefits to be had.

One of these benefits is that because of the poetical and rhythmic writing of the Book of Common Prayer it seeps deep into our consciousness. Without actively trying to commit to memory the words, we find that over time we are able to recall entire services so that at times of difficulty or even just in a quiet corner of the day, we are able to bring to mind such comforting words.

Some of those words may be archaic or may have fallen out of general use. Nevertheless, we can get the gist of their meaning and after hearing them a few times within the poetic writing of the Book of Common Prayer, they become perfectly understandable and indispensable to the power and beauty of its writing.

Let's just take a short wander through the **BCP Communion Service** and see what we can find there.

The Collect for Purity

We open with **The Lord's Prayer** and this is followed by **The Collect**.

A collect is simply a prayer meant to 'collect' or 'gather' the intentions of the people and the focus of worship into a succinct prayer. All of the collects more or less fit a pattern that was developed, and some would say perfected, by Archbishop Cranmer in the Book of Common Prayer. This first collect is known as the **Collect for Purity** and it asks God to, "Cleanse the thoughts of hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit".

The Ten Commandments

Following the Collect for Purity we have the **Ten Commandments** during which we ask God to, "Incline our hearts to keep this law". 'Incline' meaning to not only make us willing to keep each and every commandment but also to turn away, or incline in a different direction, from any wrong path that we may be on.

The Collect of the Day

Unlike the Collect for Purity which never varies, the **Collect of the Day** changes from week to week. All the collects for the whole year and the special collects for Saints' Days are contained in the Book of Common Prayer. If you read through all the collects for the year you will find the word 'merciful' or 'mercifully' is to be found in nearly all the collects - emphasising our need for God's mercy and His propensity to be merciful.

The Offertory Sentences

Following the sermon are the 'Offertory Sentences' - quotations from scripture which address the seriousness of responding to God's generosity. God has given us so much - we respond by giving generously to the Church's ministry both near and far. The quotations from scripture show us that our giving is never something that we do for God but only ever something that we do in response to what God has done for us.

The Prayer for the Church Militant

This next prayer calls on us to be “**militant here on earth**” which means that we are to be **actively in support (militant) of Christ’s Church through prayer**. And we do this because **The Apostle (Paul)** has taught us that this is what we should do. There follows an orderly set of petitions, the universal Church, all Christian rulers, Bishops and clergy and all God’s people. The sick and needy follow and finally those who have died. There is a recognition that there is no part of the structure of Christian society that does not rely on God’s mercy to keep it alive and on the right path. The importance of the **Prayer for the Church Militant** is highlighted by all that is currently going on in the Diocese of Leicester and the Bishop of Leicester’s search for a new direction and way of working for the church in Leicester Diocese.

The Comfortable Words

“Hear what comfortable words our saviour Christ sayeth unto all that truly turn to him”.

These **comfortable words** are, quite simply, quotations from scripture that are capable of bringing great comfort. In our busy, harassing lives how comforting it is to hear Jesus say, **“Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you” Matt.11:28**

The Prayer of Humble Access

“We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.”

Here is a prayer of great significance and importance, coming as it does just before receiving of communion - just before receiving the most precious thing the church has to offer. In the prayer we are reminded of our complete humbleness. We know that, **“We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under (God’s) Table”** and yet - unworthy though we be - through God’s grace and mercy and the sacrifice of Jesus we are able to come before God in this most Holy of Holy moments. It is a privilege and honour that goes beyond words.

The Prayers of Self Giving and Thanks Giving

The two prayers that follow the distribution of the bread and wine give an either/or option. However, both prayers follow the theme of our humbleness and God's mercy. In the first prayer we ask God to dispense mercy, "**not weighing our merits but pardoning our offences**". In the second prayer we declare our reliance on God's grace, "**We most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in.**"

Finally: The Gloria

We have reached the end of the communion service. We have received the body and blood of Christ - as indeed he commanded us to, "And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

Now we arrive right back at the beginning of Christ's life on earth with **The Gloria**, inspired by Luke's nativity story. And what better way to finish a service than with a host of angels praising God and singing, "**Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men**" Luke 2:14

I hope that this very brief overview has given you at least a flavour of what you can expect from a BCP Communion Service. If you have not already done so, why not come along and discover for yourself just how inspiring and meaningful a Book of Common Prayer service can be.

I hope to see you there.

I will finish with the words that bring the Book of Common Prayer Communion Service to a close;

"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen"

Gary Lee

The next BCP Communion Service at St Leonard's will be on Sunday 20th February at 9.30am changing to the first Sunday of the month from March onwards.

SWITHLAND CHURCH WIVES

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic the Church Wives got together for a Christmas meeting on December 13th. This included a demonstration of Christmas flower arrangements followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

16 members and 3 guests came along and our speaker for the evening was Mary Linnett from the Birstall Flower Club. Mary made several beautiful items including table arrangements, door wreaths and swags. She was very relaxed and made the whole process seem extremely easy. Throughout the demonstration she was encouraging and lighthearted and at pains to say there were no hard and fast rules - choice of materials and colours was always up to the individual. Mary did not take a fee but requested a donation towards Macmillan Cancer Support for which we gave her £50. A most enjoyable evening and a very pleasant start to the Christmas season.

We have delayed our first meeting of 2022 until March and this will be held *in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 7th March*
Our speaker will be Mark Temple who will be showing old photographs of Swithland together with a narrative of the people and places shown.

Our Holy Week Service in church will be on Monday 11th April at 7.30pm. Hopefully we shall be able to conclude our meetings before the summer break with a garden visit.

Please make a note of these dates in your diaries when we look forward to seeing many of you once again.

Val Capewell - 890551 Janet Beeby - 890805 Sarah May - 890547



SWITHLAND MEMORIAL HALL
is available for hire for
children's parties and family events of all kinds
Please contact the Bookings Secretary
01509 890354 - for more information

THANK YOU LETTER FROM THE Y CENTRE - EAST STREET LEICESTER

The letter below has been received as a result of donations sent for Christmas.



“We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge and very massive ‘thank you’ to everyone involved in the Christmas donation you made to our charity. Although the past couple of years have proved to be quite tough for everyone, we are so grateful that this hasn’t stopped our wonderful local community from stepping up and supporting young people who are facing homelessness.

We have been totally bowled over by the love, support and generosity we have received this Christmas. Whether you donated a shoebox stuffed with Christmas cheer or some much loved festive fare or maybe you donated a Christmas gift or a selection box full of chocolate gorgeousness... every single act of kindness has been well and truly felt and the impact of this continuous stream of heartfelt donations will last well into the New Year.

We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and we wish you all the very best for 2022. With kindest regards and big thanks again.”

Michelle Haggerty-Wood, Community Fundraiser - 0116 2046227



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH 'FRIDAY CLUB'

9am to 10.30am

Meetings will be held every Friday in February
except for half term on the 18th

Mums, dads, grandparents and carers -
come and join us for playtime activities, bible stories
songs, a drink and a chat

EVERYONE WELCOME!



FEBRUARY SERVICES

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

Sunday 6th

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Alison Prince

Sunday 13th

9.30am Family Worship Hilary Ayling

Sunday 20th

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 27th

9.30am Morning Prayer Olga Harris/Gary Lee

NB: For information regarding the difference between Holy Communion BCP (Book of Common Prayer) and Holy Communion CW (Common Worship) please see pages 6 - 9.



St Leonard's Church

www.stleonardsswithland.org

CHURCHWARDENS

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