

THE LINK

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



Revd. Colin Resch

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

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A woman and a young child are walking along a path in a forest filled with bluebells. The woman is wearing a white long-sleeved top and blue jeans, and the child is wearing a striped dress and yellow boots. The scene is bright and sunny, with green trees in the background. In the bottom right corner, there is a graphic of several colorful pencils (yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, green) arranged in a fan shape.

St Leonard's Church Swithland
**Welcomes the Spring with an
Art Competition for Everyone!**

**“THE BEAUTY OF
SWITHLAND WOODS”**

We are encouraging you to visit Swithland Woods, not only for our Bluebell Service on Sunday 24th April at 3pm, but at any other time and then create a drawing, painting or collage to illustrate its beauty.

Entries can be brought to the church, or left in the church porch on, or before, Saturday May 7th.

All artwork will be displayed on Saturday 14th May at our Open Church afternoon from 2pm to 4pm and prizes will be awarded at 3pm that same day.

Entries will be divided into three classes by age:

4 to 11 years

12 to 16 years

Adults

Prizes will be awarded in each class.

Artwork can be in any medium but excluding computer art. Our judges will be Janet Lee and Erica Middleton.

**GO FOR A WALK IN THE WOODS
AND GET CREATIVE!**

Where is the Love?

'Where is the love?' sang the Black Eyed Peas in their 2003 hit. A question well worth asking nearly twenty years later. In fact, this decade, the twenty-twenties; and this year in particular, 2022, just happens to find the world at its most technologically advanced state ever. Well, ok ... that's obvious and next year I could write exactly the same thing about 2023. But just how advanced are we?



Despite nearly all of the knowledge of humankind being available to us on the phone in our pocket, it doesn't appear that we have really got that far. Our climate is changing at an almost unstoppable pace. All of the advances we seem to be making appear to be centred on the theme of more. How can we be more efficient, more effective, more productive; how can we do more for less; how can we make more money, more quickly?

Formally stated, Newton's third law is: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. I haven't got the space to go into this in detail here but I suspect that there is a similar law at work in time and productivity. Every gain I make, costs someone, somewhere, something. Can it be that the driving force at the heart of all our technological advances is greed.

I have recently found myself watching the news and wondering how, in our advanced times, there can be so much violence and hatred in the world. Yes, there's also a lot of love being shown too but the news is principally dominated by war and greed.

If there is one thing that we discover in scripture that makes a difference, it is this, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this; *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (*Romans 5.8*) Our Lenten sojourn comes to an end in the most dramatic way with Christ facing the ultimate humiliation: naked crucifixion, hanging between two criminals.

This act of love, however, is sufficient to undo all the violence we see in the world around us. His Easter resurrection proves that he has the power to overcome death and offer life to all who believe in Him. Now at last we have 'found the love' and a reason to be joyful. Come and raise an hallelujah with us at Church this Easter time.

With love and blessings for a joyous Easter-tide, Colin Resch.



You are invited to
ST LEONARD'S 92nd BLUEBELL SERVICE
at 3pm
on **SUNDAY 24TH April**
in **Swithland Woods by the Great Pit**

Join us for this unique celebration of the
blessings of Spring.

Revd Colin Resch will be taking our service with
the Syston Brass Band providing the musical
accompaniment.

Following the service you are invited to St
Leonard's Church
to share tea, coffee and cakes.



All donations will be given to the
Children's Society.



**The
Children's
Society**

The nominated charity for the receipt of the collection at the Bluebell Service this year is The Children's Society. Some of you will be well acquainted with its work, but for those who aren't, here is a short summary.

The society does very valuable work with vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people. They reach thousands of them each year bringing life-changing support. This includes helping families trapped in poverty and debt, providing support to young carers and combating child sexual exploitation. They also provide drop-in services for runaways and children's centres as well as supporting children who are refugees from violence. In addition they pressurise government and local authorities to change policy and practice to protect them.

We hope you will feel able to support this worthy cause through the Giving link on our website Stleonardsswithland.org/donate or by using this QR code.



Janet Roberts - Donations Co-ordinator

OPEN CHURCH AFTERNOONS 2022

In addition being open for tea and cakes on the afternoon of the Bluebell Service, we shall be welcoming visitors on the following

Saturdays from 2pm to 4pm

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th

September 10th



Do please call in to see us and learn more about our church

ST LEONARD'S
'HOLY WEEK WALK'
In Swithland Woods on
Wednesday 13th April at 3pm



On this day
please come and join members of our congregation who will
be walking in Swithland Woods with Jerry Griffiths,
a local Christian Guide.

The walk will last for approximately one hour
and will give everyone the opportunity for
conversation, observation, quiet reflection and prayer.

We shall gather in the North car park on Swithland Road
at 3pm and return to St Leonard's Church
for tea and hot cross buns.

We are fortunate in having such beautiful surroundings
so nearby and we look forward to
sharing them with you.

No need to book - just come along. - children welcome.



(Car park fee is £2 - no change given)
For further information email
maryselina@hotmail.co.uk

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE



God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine.
We pray for peace and the laying down
of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war and peace,
For wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

This Easter-tide we are very grateful that our
lilies are being sponsored from Easter Sunday
17th April, until Ascension Day, 26th May, by
two members of our congregation.



'In memory of my mother' - Revd Steve Delaforce

*'For my beloved David remembered with love ...and now faith,
hope and love and the greatest of these is Love* - Lizette Pugh

Please contact Sally Allen, Churchwarden, for further details about
sponsoring our flowers and floodlighting -0116 2375704.

'The Dog' and the Danvers Tomb

Some of you may recall these words written by the late Gweneth Gimson which were included in the March LINK, about the wishes of Sir Joseph Danvers "that his dog 'Bodyguard' be buried with him, so the tomb is on the boundary of consecrated ground and the dog is with his master just outside."



Canon Anne Horton would like to put the record straight on this matter and with her permission to print, this is her reply.

"By the way, that bit about the dog and Sir Joseph Danvers' tomb is just not true. Some one made it up relatively recently. A dog lover presumably!

The tomb itself guards Sir Joseph's body. He erected it in 1745 two years after his wife died in 1743 and eight years before he died in 1753. There are two separate words on the front of the tomb. BODY'S and GUARD. The tomb is HIS 'body's guard'.

Also, there wasn't a wall around the churchyard when the tomb was erected by Sir Joseph. Possibly a fence. So not half in half out of the churchyard! On the edge, yes, but not like his ancestors, inside the church.

Two of their children were buried in the south aisle. We don't know about his wife Elizabeth who died in 1743. She might, like some of their young children, have been buried in the Danvers chapel - east end of your South aisle. Or even in the churchyard, ahead of his building that striking tomb in 1745.

But no, forget that mythical dog!!"

So there we have it. Thank you Anne.

Editor

(All contributions to The LINK gratefully received)

'ONE OR TWO A PENNY HOT CROSS BUNS'



Nowadays we seem to enjoy eating hot cross buns at any time of the year, but until quite recently, this has not always been the case.

The first definite record of hot cross buns comes from a London Street Cry "Good Friday comes this month, the old lady runs - with one or two a penny hot cross buns." This appeared in the Poor Relations Almanac in 1733. The line also appears in the English Nursery Rhyme "Hot Cross Buns" published in the London Chronicle in 1767.

The bun marks the end of the Christian season of Lent and different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning. The Cross is made from flour paste or short crust pastry which represents the Crucifixion of Jesus. The spices inside signify the spices used to embalm Jesus at his burial and may also include orange peel to reflect the bitterness of his time on the Cross.

Plain buns made without dairy products which are forbidden in Lent until Palm Sunday, are traditionally eaten hot or toasted after midday on Good Friday in many historically Christian countries.

One theory is that the hot cross bun originates from St Albans where in 1361, Brother Thomas Rodcliffe, a 14th century monk at St Albans Abbey, developed a similar recipe called an "Alban Bun" and distributed the bun to the local poor on Good Friday.

What is certain is that the bun we know today is still symbolic of the significant day in the Christian faith of Good Friday when Jesus was crucified, and long may this continue.

Geraldine Mason

SWITHLAND CHURCH WIVES

Last month's very enjoyable talk by Mark Temple about 'Old Swithland' was extremely well attended and we welcomed eighteen extra visitors. Many of those attending appeared in several of Mark's old photographs which proved both interesting and amusing.

Our next meeting will be the **Holy Week Church Service** at **7.30pm on Monday 11th April** which we shall share with the Mother's Union and at which Revd Alison Price will preside.

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

'Shrove Tuesday Celebration'

Our picture shows one of St Leonard's oldest friends, Pat Copson, competing to be runner-up in the Pancake Tossing competition at 'Rose Cottage', Mountsorrel. Well done Pat!

We shall look forward to seeing the results of your handiwork in a few week's time when you make a bonnet for Easter.



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH 'FRIDAY CLUB' **9am to 10.30am**

Meetings will be held on Friday 1st, 8th & 29th April
and throughout May.

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



EVERYONE WELCOME!



ST LEONARD'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Our Community Outreach Team - COMOT for short - is currently planning all the extra activities for 2022 which are additional to St Leonard's Sunday worship. Our aim is to give St Leonard's a constant and visible presence in the Parish through events which both create community participation and raise funds for charities.

On our agenda so far are a 'Holy Week Walk', an Art Competition and a Jazz Concert, as well as hosting seven Open Church afternoons. Our meetings are once a month and are open to anyone who feels they would like to contribute something towards the life of St Leonard's.

Meetings are informal and usually last less than 2hours. There is always the opportunity for open and wide ranging discussion. All new ideas and opinions are valued and all offers of help appreciated.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 19th April in church at 10am**. We would love you to volunteer to join us. Contact me if you want more information, or just come along.

Mary Toone - maryselina@hotmail.co.uk

From the Registers - 2021/2022

Baptism

October 10th	Oscar Jonathan Stuart Smith
January 9th	Albert Maurice Christopher Tilson

Funeral

October 19th	Yvonne Joy Wollaston
January 10th	Audrey Winterton
January 21st	Ella Mary Hardy-Smith

Burial of Ashes

February 1st	David Atkinson
February 6th	Ella Mary Hardy-Smith
February 9th	Kathleen Mary Allen
March 9th	Gweneth Gimson





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

Sunday 3rd

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 10th Palm Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Steve Delaforce

Monday 11th

7.30pm Sung Eucharist Revd Alison Prince
Church Wives/Mothers' Union

Thursday 14th Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion Revd Colin Resch
'Stripping of the Altar'

Friday 15th Good Friday

10.00am Litany, Ante Communion Jeff Harrison

Sunday 17th *Easter Day*

9.30am Family Communion (CW) Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 24th

9.30am Morning Prayer Clive Hilton/Gary Lee



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