

THE LINK

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



St Leonard's Church Medieval Font

Revd. Colin Resch

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

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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!**

Lord, teach us to pray

One of the joys of being a parent is preparing your child(ren) for adulthood; helping them to take their place as independent adults in wider society.



This often involves passing on skills that we, as adults, have begun to take for granted - such as cooking a decent meal, using the washing machine, learning to drive ... the list is almost endless. Some of these 'life lessons' are taught by example and others through deliberate teaching and practice. And surely there can be no greater joy than when a child comes to you and asks, "Can you teach me to do that?"

In the scriptures, we see a similar approach with Jesus and his disciples. They follow him everywhere and carefully watch him to learn from his example and teaching. In Luke's gospel, chapter 11, we read that Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord teach us to pray." And from this simple request, Jesus instructs them in a pattern of prayer that we still use in all of our services today - The Lord's Prayer.

These words have altered little over the centuries and still have the power to bring us to our knees in acknowledgement of who God is, his power to provide for our needs and to forgive our failings.

In the period between Ascension Day (26th May) and Pentecost (5th June) that we now call 'Thy Kingdom Come', we are encouraged to come back to these words of Jesus and pray for the Church, the world and particularly to bring to mind the names of five people who do not yet know the love of God for themselves. In our prayers we remember them and pray that God's kingdom would come into their lives.

Who will you be praying for? What situations in the world will you offer to God? What are your prayers for the Church? In all of them, will you join with me in praying 'Thy Kingdom Come'?

With every blessing, Colin Resch

Unexpected Expenditure! Our Gas Heating

Recent articles in The LINK have touched upon the work and cost involved in the upkeep of our church and at the present time the cost of energy is very much on everyone's mind. Unfortunately, in addition to this expected increase we find that the gas meter at St Leonard's is not in a good condition and is fast approaching the end of its life.

As you can image, the church has an industrial gas boiler. The incoming gas main is under the lychgate with the meter housed in an old slate and stone building attached to its side - see photograph. There is a large steel pipe that runs underground through the graveyard to the tower end of the church where the boiler is situated. The gas meter building has no floor, just earth, and because of erosion the large meter is hanging by its pipes. As a temporary measure it has been blocked up by wooden packing.



The present building (known as the bunker!) which houses the meter, no longer conforms to present legal requirements in size, ability of access or ventilation, and therefore our gas supplier will not alter, repair or replace the meter or alter any of the pipework within it.

It is not economical to alter the present building to meet current standards and the most sensible and cost effective solution is to have the meter housed in a purpose build GRP housing which will be less than a metre in height and situated at the side of the existing building. This does, however, involve having a new gas supply to the meter which would have to come in from the road. The total cost of this is around £9,500 + VAT. The alternative is to do nothing, but we then run the risk of further deterioration and our supply being cut off at any time, which we obviously feel is unacceptable.

If you would like to make a contribution towards the cost of this unexpected expenditure, a donation of any kind would be very much appreciated. To do so, please contact our treasurer, Val Capewell - 01509 890551 - vcapewell@btinternet.com

Derek Cranage

MEDIEVAL FONT AND PLAQUE

The Medieval font that stands outside the South Porch door was returned to St Leonard's in 2016 and was rededicated by Rev'd Vince Jupp in 2019.

As such, St Leonard's has a very historical and important relic and something to know more about

for those interested. The Parochial Church Council therefore recognised that there should be an explanation of the history of the Font, especially with the number of visitors that the church and the churchyard attracts throughout the year.

In March the plaque you see in the picture was placed next to the Font thus giving a brief history of what happened to it after it was removed from the church in 1760 and until it was returned in 2016.

A special point of interest is that the stone slab it stands on came from Leicester Cathedral following the remodelling of the Cathedral churchyard in 2014.

More information on the Medieval Font is available in the church.

Martin Greenwood



OPEN CHURCH AFTERNOONS 2022

Take the opportunity to view the entries in our

Art Competition on May 14th

or join us on any of the following dates

Saturdays from 2pm to 4pm



June 11th

July 9th

August 13th

September 10th



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



**“SONGS OF PRAISE”
CELEBRATION TO MARK THE
PLATINUM JUBILEE OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

On Saturday June 4th at 3.00pm we meet at St Leonard's for a most important event. It is to celebrate 70 years of our Queen's glorious reign.

The celebration will take the form of a 'Songs of Praise' service and will feature the Queen's favourite hymns. Although the Queen has never issued a list of her favourite hymns she has attended very many public church services over the last 70 years and at these she has been invited to choose one or two of the hymns. From these it has been possible to build up a picture of what we can assume are her favourites - so come along to find out which of the Queen's favourites are also your own!

There will also be readings from a new book, "Our Faithful Queen" by Catherine Butcher. This delightful 64 page book, which is full of photographs and rarely seen prayers, will be given as a souvenir to all those attending the service.

After the service, which will last approximately one hour, everyone is invited to stay for a celebratory glass of fizz and some jubilee cake - so please do come along and help us make this a day to remember.

Gary Lee



SWITHLAND PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS SUNDAY JUNE 5TH

Swithland has a long history of holding celebrations to commemorate national events and as part of the Jubilee weekend we are organising a **Big Jubilee Lunch** at the Memorial Hall..

We will arrange long tables under gazebos on the green area outside the Hall. We would like everyone to bring their own food and drinks to share with family and friends. We hope to have a BBQ available for people to cook their own food as well as a celebration cake and a toast.

There will be games for all ages and crafts for children. We hope the children might like to dress in appropriate clothing including Coronation Regalia. We would like to have some music - if anyone has ideas please let me know, remembering that our budget is very limited. If all else fails there are always the infamous village song sheets!

The Hall and surrounds will be decorated with flags and bunting but we would also like you to decorate your house too. Go wild; bunting, flags, red, white and blue flowers in pots or hanging baskets. Why not a suitably patriotic wreath on the door? Let's show how proud we are of our Queen.

The school has kindly agreed to provide us with artwork and poems which will be on display and we wonder if those of us of a certain age would like to look out our own Coronation Memorabilia to also put on display.

The Platinum, Jubilee events are open to Swithland village residents and anyone else who is a friend of the village. We would be grateful if we could have an idea of numbers attending, so please can you send me an email with your party numbers.

Please get involved! We would be grateful for any ideas, comments or suggestions you have to make this a special fun occasion.

Sarah May - 01509 890547 - sarah.may1@btinternet.com



'Holy Week Walk' in Swithland Woods Wednesday April 13th

The weather remained good for our walk which was attended by 19 people from 7 different churches.

We were greeted by Jerry Griffiths who gave a short talk about Swithland Wood. Prior to the Black Death in 1300 the land which is now woodland was farmland and there is still evidence of ridge and furrow farming. After the Black Death the farmland was abandoned for more fertile land nearer to the River Soar and over time, the land reverted to woodland to become Swithland Woods.

The birds were in cheerful voice as we set off along paths through carpets of wood anemones through which bluebells were just beginning to flower. We walked and talked before stopping for meditation and prayer in a secluded clearing.

After just an hour of walking and happy chatter it was back to St Leonard's for tea and hot cross buns supplied by Geraldine and Lizette - and more happy chatter!

An altogether delightful afternoon of Christian fellowship.

Gary and Janet Lee



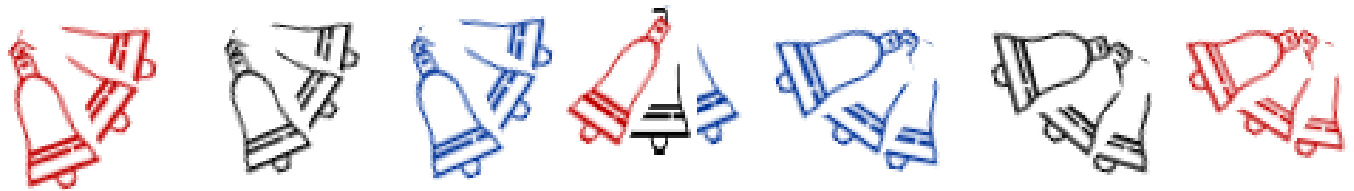
SAVE THIS DATE!

The Swithland Flower & Vegetable Show

makes a welcome return on

Saturday 10th September

to raise much needed funds for Rainbows and LOROS



BELLS CELEBRATION WEEKEND

11th/12th JUNE

Initially, I was thinking it was two years since the bells were rehung in the tower with new wheels and metal headstocks, but surprisingly it is now almost three years! We had always intended to have a celebration in 2020 but the pandemic intervened.

We shall be celebrating the return of the bells - almost to the exact weekend - on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June. (*Indeed, the photograph below was taken on 14th June and appeared on the front cover of the July/August 2019 LINK. Ed.*)

There will be a photographic display of the work carried out during 'Open Church' on Saturday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm and following that, we are having a celebration event with drinks and nibbles, from 5pm until 7pm in the church. This is to thank all those who supported the bell project through attending our fundraising events or with donations. The bell tower will also be open. We are hoping that Graham Clifton from Whites Church Bell Hangers will be present.

The Annual Bell Ringers Service will then take place at 9.30am on Sunday 12th June when we will give thanks for the refurbishment of the bells.



Janet Beeby
Tower Captain



QUIET GARDENS IN LEICESTERSHIRE



Following the vision of the Quiet Gardens Trust which began in 1992 and has since spread worldwide, our aim in Leicestershire is to offer an experience of spiritual renewal under the abundance of God's love. This takes place within the beauty of a garden and is open to those of any faith or none. Silence is the essence of a Quiet Garden Day. You will be guided gently into periods of silence by a leader who will give some optional ideas to help personal reflection on a theme. You are free to use the ideas as you wish - simply by walking, sitting, sleeping, painting or writing as you choose.

The season runs from **May to September**. Most days start at 10am with coffee and finish at 4pm with tea biscuits and cake. We conclude each day with a short act of Christian worship.

Please see the list of dates, venues and cost involved which is displayed on the notice board in our church porch.

For general enquiries contact Heather Parkinson
01509 827081 or email hmparkinson22@gmail.com
www.quietgardensinleicestershire.wordpress.com/events

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY AT 7.00pm

The annual meeting is open to all parishioners and will be held in church. We shall be electing 2 Church Wardens and 3 Parochial Church Council committee members all of whom should be regular communicants and on the Electoral Roll of St Leonard's Church.



Nomination forms can be collected from the church porch or downloaded from the Diocesan website:

[/https://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/parish-admin/Annual-parochial-church-meetings/](https://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/parish-admin/Annual-parochial-church-meetings/)

Please join the meeting and have your say



ASCENSION DAY
THURSDAY MAY 26th 9.15am



Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter Season.

It is when Jesus took his disciples to the Mount of Olives where they watched him ascend into heaven.

We hope that you will join us at St Leonard's to celebrate this important day in the Christian calendar when we shall also be welcoming some pupils from St Leonard's Primary School to share the occasion with us.

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

Meetings will be held each Friday throughout May.
Mums, dads, grandparents and carers -
come and join us for playtime activities, bible stories
songs, a drink and a chat



EVERYONE WELCOME!



NEED A PRAYER OR A HOME VISIT?

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, a home/hospital visit and/or communion, please leave a message for Revd Colin Resch on 0116 429 9946 or send an email to revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

For enquiries about christenings (baptisms), weddings or funerals please contact Revd Colin Resch on 0116 429 9946 or via email at revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org



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

Sunday 1st

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Colin Resch

Sunday 8th

9.30am Family Worship Hilary Ayling

Sunday 15th

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Alison Prince

Sunday 22nd

9.30am Morning Prayer Olga Harris/Gary Lee

Thursday 26th ASCENSION DAY

9.15am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Colin Resch

Sunday 29th

9.30am 'Sunday Xtra'

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