



## Services for July and August

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

### JULY

<b>Sunday 3rd</b> 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Colin Resch
<b>Sunday 10th</b> 9.30am	Family Worship	Revd Colin Resch & Liz Resch
<b>Sunday 17th</b> 9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Steve Delaforce
<b>Sunday 24th</b> 8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer	Revd Steve Delaforce Olga Harris/Gary Lee
<b>Sunday 31st</b> 9.30am	Sunday Xtra	Revd Colin Resch

### AUGUST

<b>Sunday 7th</b> 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Colin Resch
<b>Sunday 14th</b> 9.30am	Family Worship	Hilary Ayling
<b>Sunday 21st</b> 9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Alison Prince
<b>Sunday 28th</b> 8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer	Revd Steve Delaforce Olga Harris/Gary Lee

### CHURCHWARDENS

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

Please forward contributions to *The LINK* to the Editor: [maryselina@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maryselina@hotmail.co.uk)  
More information about St Leonard's services and activities is available on our website  
[stleonardsswithland.org](http://stleonardsswithland.org)

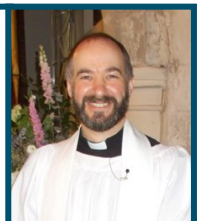
# THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland  
in July and August 2022*



Saturday June 11th - Handing over of the Bell Rope - see details on pages 6 & 7.

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 [revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org](mailto:revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org)





As I sat beside the fire pit at Muddy Church at Christ Church, Mountsorrel, I found myself staring into the glowing embers, reflecting on their beauty, observing how the reds and golds flicker and change with flames dancing above and, not for the first time, I was struck with the 'wow' of God. This is what Muddy Church is all about - finding God in the natural world.

Fire is a regular feature in the Bible. In fact the word fire-s appears four hundred and sixty four times. Its use is varied, but here are some of the uses:

- \* **Fire.** Sometimes it is just that. A fire, for cooking or keeping warm.
- \* **God's presence.** God appeared to Moses from the fire of a burning bush.
- \* **Sacrifice.** Abraham was prepared to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering in the fire. The Israelites made burnt offerings, sin offerings, fellowship offerings to God - offerings made by fire.
- \* **Guidance.** God guided the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- \* **Cleansing.** Pots, pans and other objects that had become 'unclean' were cleansed by being put through fire.
- \* **Judgement.** Elijah called down fire upon the men of King Ahaziah of Samaria because he wanted to consult another god instead of Israel's God, the Lord.
- \* **Love.** Solomon describes love as a fire that blazes like a mighty flame.
- \* **Punishment.** Often, after taking over a city and destroying or capturing the inhabitants, an invading army would set the city on fire so there was nowhere for them to return to.
- \* **Place of Reconciliation.** After his resurrection, Jesus met with Peter on the beach with a fish barbecue. As they chatted, Jesus offered his forgiveness for the three times that Peter had denied him, by asking Peter to affirm his love for Jesus and by Jesus calling him into future ministry. and perhaps the most well known of all:
- \* **Hell.** A place to be avoided at all costs. A place of eternal fire. A lake of fire. A place without Good and without God.

I hope that this Summer brings you warmth - but not so much that you think you're in hell.

*With every blessing, Colin Resch*



## PRAYER NETWORK



Prayer is one of the foundations of the Christian Faith.

In prayer Christian believers speak directly to and with God.

We believe that God delights to hear our prayers,  
and that prayer can make a difference.

We have a small group of Church members  
who have committed to pray for others.

If you would like prayer for yourself, or someone else, please visit our  
website where you will be able to leave your details.

Click on the heading **Worship & Prayer** and the subheading  
**Ask for a Prayer** will give you all the information you need.

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

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

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

Meetings in July are on the  
1st & 8th and will then  
recommence every Friday in  
termtime after the summer  
break.





## **FLOWER FESTIVAL AT LINCOLN CATHEDRAL** **SATURDAY 6th AUGUST**

A visit to the Cathedral is being arranged by members of  
Christ Church Mountsorrel

If you wish to participate, please contact Veronica Liquorish,  
Church Warden a.s.a.p. - [vp11947@virginmedia.com](mailto:vp11947@virginmedia.com)  
so that tickets can be purchased at the reduced rate of £12.75p each

Travel will be by car, so please indicate whether or not you  
are able to offer lifts

The visit will be followed with Afternoon Tea providing  
an opportunity to spend some enjoyable time together



## **CHRISTIANS IN THE FOREST** **NEW DATES FOR** **"GALATIANS (Freedom in Christ)"** **Course by John Houghton**

Paul's letter to the Galatians is the Magna Carta of religious freedom. It is a powerful and passionate rejection of all religions that depend on rule keeping, ritual and regulation for their efficacy. Salvation is by faith in Christ alone, without any additional help from us or anyone else. Faith in Christ makes us right with God and assures us of eternal life.

**All meetings at 7.15pm for tea, coffee and biscuits - 7.30pm study start**

20th September at the Methodist Church, Woodhouse Eaves

27th September at St Leonard's Church, Swithland

4th October at St Leonard's Church, Swithland

11th October at the Baptist Church, Woodhouse Eaves

18th October at the Baptist Church, Woodhouse Eaves

25th October at the Methodist Church, Woodhouse Eaves

1st November at the Methodist Church, Woodhouse Eaves

**For further information contact [garyhlee87@gmail.com](mailto:garyhlee87@gmail.com)**



## **'RIDE AND STRIDE'** **SEPTEMBER 2022**



Readers of The LINK will be aware that every September St Leonard's Church participates in *Ride and Stride* and has raised a significant amount of money for the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust over the years.

Half the monies raised each year is given back to St Leonard's to put towards the running costs of the church. This year the PCC has decided that this money will be given to the much needed new gas meter fund. The meter is in urgent need of replacement in order to ensure the plentiful supply of gas to the church. We hope that you think this is a worthwhile cause to support and can be encouraged to take part in *Ride and Stride* this year on Saturday 10th September.

As well as taking part, please spread the word and encourage friends also to take part and enjoy a day that is a fun day, as well as being beneficial to the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and St Leonard's Church. You can either cycle, walk or drive from church to church making your own route. There will be many beautiful churches open throughout the county which are certainly worth visiting and some that are not usually open to the public.

**Remember, the more people you can get to sponsor you, the more money we can raise.**

For further details and entry forms please contact:

**Martin Greenwood**

[greenwood287@btinternet.com](mailto:greenwood287@btinternet.com) or mobile 07756 234201



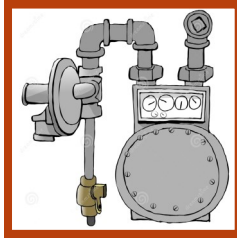
## **OPEN CHURCH AFTERNOONS**

During the summer months join us on  
**Saturday 9th July - Saturday 13th August**  
**September 10th September - 'Ride & Stride Day'**  
**from 2pm to 4pm**

Come and learn more about our historical church  
and churchyard or just enjoy its peace and tranquillity.  
You will be very welcome. Tea, coffee, drinks and cakes available.

## MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GAS METER!

We have found that the most common reaction to our Gas Meter Replacement Appeal has been **‘Why will it cost so much?’**. This is completely understandable, so what follows is by way of an explanation.



The present meter housing does not meet present day gas safety requirements and the building is not suitable or economical for conversion. The gas meter, therefore, cannot be replaced in its present location.

The main problem is that a new gas supply can only be purchased from the National Grid (known as SMS Plc). However, an individual or a company cannot order a gas supply directly from them. The only people who can place an order are the suppliers of the gas to the property and, in the case of St Leonard's Church, this is Total Energy. Total Energy will place an order with SMS who will then organise the work to be undertaken by MKT who are the company authorised to undertake work on behalf of SMS. The MKT quotation for the work is £8,092 +VAT.

This price includes a new 63mm supply from the road, the GRP gas meter housing, a new meter and all the connections up to the meter.

However, we will then need to arrange for another Gas Safe Registered Company to bleed the pipe (empty all the gas from the pipe) which runs from the meter all the way to the boiler. When the new meter is fitted, the existing pipe must be altered to connect it to the meter outlet and again bled of all air. This will be at an extra cost of £1,300 +VAT which will include an annual boiler service and safety checks.

This situation is the same with most services (Electric, Water, Telephone) where it is not possible to obtain competitive quotes. It may be that, from a safety point of view it is good, but from a price point of view it means that they do not have to provide a competitive price. The customer can either take it or leave it.

## APPLYING FOR PERMISSION TO UNDERTAKE THE WORK TO THE DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Following our Appeal, there may well be something of a delay before we are able to begin the work of replacement of the gas meter as Anglican churches have a legal system which requires everyone involved with any changes to the church to apply for the changes to be made through a 'Faculty'. These can just be advisory for small things, or through an Archdeacon's permission for larger things. Any major works need a full Faculty Application and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) will need to submit one in order to carry out the gas meter works. The process can take months or even longer before permission is granted and we are able to go ahead.

In the meantime, of course, we shall be able to continue with our Appeal.

**Derek Cranage and Chris Watts - St Leonard's Fabric Committee**



**AN EVENING OF JAZZ  
STANDARDS -  
PLUS A BIT MORE!**

**with the  
THE RICHARD KING QUARTET  
in aid of the Gas Meter Appeal**

Join us at St Leonard's for an evening full of music and fun

**FRIDAY NIGHT 16th SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm**



Tickets £15 each including wine & canapes  
Available from Church, ordering by email from:  
[maryselina@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maryselina@hotmail.co.uk)  
or by using this QR Code



## ***PLATINUM JUBILEE - JUNE 4th SONGS OF PRAISE AND CELEBRATION***

What a joyful service and proud privilege it was to join the St Leonard's Church celebration of Her Majesty's 70 years of faith and service to our country and the Commonwealth.

We were reminded of the young Princess Elizabeth's preparation before her Coronation for her greatest commitment - to fulfil her promise to God. 'A Little Book of Private Devotions', 33 daily prayers given to her by the Archbishop of Canterbury, guided her spiritually and emotionally for her extraordinary role. At the heart of the Coronation there was a hidden ceremony for the most sacred moment when the Queen was anointed with oil to empower her life ahead by God's Holy Spirit. When she became Queen she asked that people around the Commonwealth pray for her "that I may faithfully serve Him (God) and you, all the days of my life". The Queen has certainly fulfilled her promise to us.

This service for the community was well attended by folk from various surrounding villages and provided a wonderful way to share their sense of public duty and of gratitude towards the Queen for her remarkable, long and consistent duty of service. At this time of war in Europe, uncertainty caused by numerous oppressive regimes and widespread famine and drought throughout the world, perhaps we should encourage each other to join in such services, whatever your faith - or none - or as a staunch republican - to acknowledge how very fortunate we are in this country.

St Leonard's Church will always give you a warm welcome - it's a place of peace, tranquillity and reflection where can we join together through life's celebrations, routine days and difficult times too. Please do come along to any of our services or to an 'Open Church' afternoon - the next is on Saturday July 9th, from 2pm to 4pm.



We owe a sincere thank you to Gary Lee for leading this Jubilee Celebration service and to everyone who helped to decorate the church, including the Union Jacks and crowns made by the children of the 'Friday Club'. Thank you too for the wonderful cake donated by North's - a nice treat along with a glass of prosecco.

We ended the service by singing the National Anthem at the top of our voices. 'God save our gracious Queen; long live our noble Queen'.

***Roger Watts***

## ***PLATINUM JUBILEE ART COMPETITION***

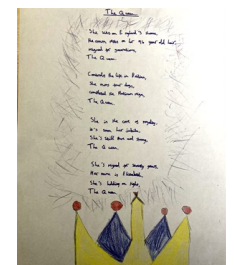


To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the pupils at St Leonard's CofE Primary School were invited to take part in an art competition and poetry competition. All 92 pupils entered both competitions. All of the entries were amazing, bright, cheerful and amusing. Well done everyone. The congregation attending the church over the weekend were invited to vote for their choice of poem and picture. Each winner received a certificate and a souvenir copy of the book 'Our Faithful Queen, 70 years of Faith and Service'.

The winners were:

**Art:** 1st prize - Penny Longland  
2nd prize - Freya Hunter  
3rd prize - Harry Patel

**Poetry:** 1st prize - Josh O'Connor  
2nd prize - Sienna Davies  
3rd prize - Daisy Langton



Names and artwork supplied by Mrs Lethbridge, Headteacher.

**Ali Wright - Foundation Governor**



## **BELL CELEBRATION WEEKEND - 11th/12th JUNE**

**Report by Janet Beeby - Tower Captain**

We had a very successful weekend of events to formally celebrate the end of our Bell Restoration Project. The refurbished bells were returned to the tower almost exactly three years to the day in 2019 and we have been wanting to thank everyone for their support for the fundraising since then. Obviously Covid intervened and three years on we have finally been able to do so.

Richard Bimson organised the team shown in this photo, to ring a peal on the Saturday morning. Starting just after 10am, the bells were rung continuously for 2hr 50mins in seven different methods. Four of the members of the team, including Richard and the Guild President, Sally



Brown, had rung in the previous peal on Saturday 19th January 2019 before the bells were taken down from the tower. This was Richard's first peal since lockdown and many thanks to him for organising this new peal team.



During an extended Open Church afternoon, there was a display of photographs of the whole project from the start of the fundraising campaign to the first ring on the newly installed bells. In addition, there was a display of material from the Leicestershire Diocesan Guild of

Bell Ringers highlighting bells and bell ringing. As usual, refreshments were served with tea, coffee and many delicious cakes. Thank you Mary and Geraldine and all those who helped during the afternoon. Ringers were on hand to show anyone interested the ringing room and how the bells are rung.

From 5pm there was a more formal part of the day when Graham Clifton from Whites of Appleton, Church Bell Hangers, marked the end of the Restoration Project by handing a bell rope to Rev Colin Resch. (See front cover picture of Rev Resch, Graham Clifton, Guild President Sally Brown and Janet Beeby.) Janet thanked all those who had helped during the project

whether by donations or attending fundraising events, and also thanked the Guild Bell Restoration Fund for their donation of £6,000. This was the highest amount ever given to an individual project and reflected the fact that ringers had already raised £10,000 from wedding fees and weekly subscriptions before the fundraising had commenced.

Janet also thanked Marc Wainwright for his service to the church throughout 50 years of ringing at Swithland. Marc has only recently stopped ringing the 8 o'clock bell when the BCP Service was moved to monthly at 9.30am.



After Graham Clifton had handed the rope to Colin and said a few words to symbolise the end of the restoration process, drinks & nibbles were served. It was a very convivial evening enhanced by the presence of some of the Danvers family from America who thoroughly enjoyed the whole afternoon.

The Annual Bell Ringers Service on Sunday was also Trinity Sunday. As well as ringing before the service, the bells were rung for a short time during the service by Margaret Hardwicke, Janet Beeby, Val Capewell, Guy Jibson, Suzanne and Nick Cunningham. Colin gave thanks to all who were a part of the restoration and linked the idea of Trinity Sunday with the three strands of the bell rope, symbolising the strength of things in threes. Richard Bimson read the lesson and we were pleased to sing the hymn that Jean Curd had written for bell ringers everywhere. The following is an extract from the prayers written for the service by Chris Watts:

***Lord, we are reminded that one of the voices of our church are the bells, they call us to worship, they ring out for joy on a wedding day, they ring out in solemnity for funerals or days of remembrance. They must never be silent; the voice is that of the church and the bells amplify and echo it in each of us called by their sound. Lord, we thank you for our six bells, the story that they tell and for those who have been given the joy and responsibility of sounding your welcome from our tower. Grant that faith, love and devotion may be awakened in all who hear the bells through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***