



NOVEMBER SERVICES

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

Sunday 6th St Leonard's Day - see page 4
9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) tbc

Sunday 13th
9.30am **Remembrance Service** Jeff Harrison/Gary Lee
10.50am Act of Remembrance at Swithland War Memorial

Sunday 20th
9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 27th
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am Morning Prayer and
Gift Service Olga Harris/Gary Lee
All donations to be distributed to the
Soar Valley Community Food Project

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

More information about St Leonard's Services and activities
is available on our website:
stleonardsswithland.org

THE LINK

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



Revd. Colin Resch

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

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Extract from Swithland Parish History

Publication Number 3 (2018)

'Swithland Soldiers Lost in the First World War'

"Start from that moment when the gentle enjoyment of an English summer was shattered by the announcement that Britain was at war with Germany. It was August 1914, the 'Great War' ... the 'war to end all wars.' Or so they thought.

Swithland was a very small village in those days. Of course there was the church and the rectory nearby; the school; the inn; a number of farms with associated farm workers' cottages; and just outside the village, Swithland Hall with its cottages for estate workers and its laundry in the village. So the community was much smaller than it is today; tiny by comparison. Nonetheless Swithland's young men responded to the call.

They joined up from the hall, the rectory and the cottages.

It would all be over by Christmas they said.

The reality was different; very different. Only six parishes in the whole of England were to escape having any dead in the Great War.

There are some lines in the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon that capture the sense of the time ...

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe."*



Remembrance Sunday in Swithland

13th November 2022

At 9.30am everyone is invited to join in the traditional **Remembrance Day Service** at St Leonard's Church. We meet to honour the memory of the eleven young men from our village and our local community who were killed in the First World War and the four young men that died in the 1939/45 war.



After the Service in Church which will end before 10.30am, there is ample time to move up to the Swithland War Memorial in Main Street, for a simple **Act of Remembrance**. The names of the Fallen will be read out and a wreath laid on behalf of all of us in the village and community. The Last Post will be sounded at 11.00hrs followed by the Two Minutes Silence and Reveille.

After the ceremony everyone is invited to share tea, coffee and biscuits in the Memorial Hall.

There will be a Temporary Road closure around the Memorial area for the few minutes when the ceremony takes place. Marshalls will halt the traffic briefly.

People attending will be encouraged to stand in the Memorial enclosure as well as along the pavements to avoid crowding.





A Stellar Candlelit Service of
8 Jazz Carols and Lessons
A retelling of The Infancy Narrative
according to St Luke
Wednesday 21st December at 7pm
at St Leonard's Church

Jazz played by "The Charnwood Jazz Band"
with heavenly voices drawn from Charnwood Forest
and a special nativity solo item from
Jazzy George on Blues Harp

Included in the programme will be unique Jazz settings of
The Magnificat and The Nunc Dimittis (Extended)

Mulled wine and mince pies to follow

If you would like to be a part of the Jazz Choir
or need further information please contact
the rev'd steve delaforce on 07786702893
or steve.delaforce@gmail.com

SWITHLAND WOMEN'S GROUP

Our next meeting is in the
Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on
Monday 7th November
Mark Temple's talk is entitled
'Mountsorrel Quarry & its Railway'
On Sunday 27th November
our annual Christmas Gift Service
is at 9.30am
at St Leonard's Church
For further details contact
Val Capewell - 01509 890551



A reminder that volunteers from
St Leonard's Church
continue to make deliveries to this
Local Food Project.
Donations can be left in
the church porch at any time.
The needs of the wider community
are ever increasing and
your support is much appreciated.

Ride and Stride 10th September

Our Ride and Stride day
raised over £800
to be shared equally between
The Historic Churches Trust
and St Leonard's Church
Gas Meter Appeal.
Well done and thank you
to all those who took part.



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 are held each
Friday morning in Church
in termtime.



**ST LEONARD'S DAY
6th NOVEMBER
BUT WHO IS ST LEONARD?**



The church in Swithland is dedicated to Saint Leonard who is one of those people whom the Church of England commemorate, whose existence can neither be affirmed nor denied.

Is he a fifth century Frankish monk or the creation of an eleventh century mind? I personally without further evidence to support either option, would like to believe the former.

The Life of Leonard first appeared in 1030, only two years after the first mention of Leonard within the documents of the Church. *The Life* tells how Leonard was of noble birth and held a position in the court of Clovis, King of the Franks. He was said to have received the help of God in repelling an army enabling Clovis to win a battle. Clovis, whose historicity is not in doubt, was converted to Christianity around the year 500 so the dates work.

The Life tells how Leonard refused to become a bishop, and led his life as a hermit in the forest. His seclusion was broken when, one day, he encountered Clovis and his pregnant wife in the forest, and ensured the safe delivery of their child. For this he was granted as much land as he could ride around in one day and upon which he founded a monastery in Noblac.

Leonard is popularly remembered as a result of thanksgiving being offered at his shrine in the eleventh century by crusaders journeying home after their release from prison camps. He became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages, honoured especially as someone who cared for prisoners. His emblem is that of a loosed lock and chain. He is also the patron saint of peasants and of the sick.

Here in Swithland, children at our village school were historically given an extra day's holiday on his feast day and everyone in the village celebrated with a feast. This year St Leonard's Day, 6th November, falls on a Sunday so no extra day's holiday this time.

We will be holding a service of Holy Communion in Church that day and although St Leonard won't feature, you will be welcome to join us at 9.30am.

With every blessing, Colin Resch

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION**

Pupils at Swithland St Leonard's CofE Primary School were invited by St Leonard's Church to design a Christmas card, to be used as this year's card. The card will be sent to all people in the Parish and friends of St Leonard's Church. The theme was "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". Designing the card was set as a homework activity and we had many entries. The cards were judged by members of the congregation.

The Key Stage 1 winning design was by Niamh. Niamh's design was chosen by the judges as it is bright and very effective, a silver winged angel with a trumpet on a dark background.

The Key Stage 2 winning design was by Archie and the judges liked the use of perspective in his design, the shepherd in the foreground, Bethlehem in the distance, also including the Angel and the Star of Bethlehem.

Archie's design was chosen as the overall winner and will be printed as the Christmas card. A collective assembly is to be held to present prizes of art equipment.

Well done Archie and Niamh.

Ali Wright, Foundation Governor



Niamh's winning design



Archie's winning design

Recollections of a Retreat experience:

When I read in the October magazine about the retreat being offered at Lindesfarne, it reminded me of a retreat experience I had that I thought I would like to share.

It was not at a well worn pilgrims path to a place of beauty and spirituality. It was at home, in the UAE, to encourage us to make a space in our lives for daily worship. I was encouraged by my then vicar (arm twisting encouraging, he felt so strongly he was prepared to fund me. I suspected he was making up numbers).

All the course members had a daily half hour appointment with our retreat leader. That was it. We met together for an introduction and then at the end for closure and feedback.

The group leader was a flexible young woman and our conversations were focussed but broad ranging. She also worked at Launde Abbey which was a reassuring link for me.

I have never forgotten the day she said “What would Jesus say if he was stood over there?” How often I think that now!

She taught us to prepare a place and a routine for our prayer time and to light a candle to invite God in.

At the concluding session I admitted that I had always attended church (as a good ethic and discipline) but that this was the first time I had felt a personal relationship with God.

My expectations were low but my faith was transformed by that retreat.

I am seriously tempted to join the retreat at Lindesfarne next summer. I will have high expectations, both of a spiritual nature and of a good time in a beautiful place with friends of like mind.

Sue Heap

(The Retreat to which Sue refers is a 5-day free Retreat from 7th to 11th August 2023 to the Holy Island of Lindesfarne.

Details available from Steve Delaforce - steve.delaforce@gmail.com

CRIB FESTIVAL

**Saturday 10th and
Sunday 11th December
at St Leonard's Church**



Begin your Christmas celebrations with a visit to our Crib Festival and see our display of the many and varied cribs and nativity scenes we have gathered together. The church will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and and, following our service on Sunday, again until 4pm.

Hear some Christmas carols and enjoy
a mince pie and cup of tea with us.

You and all your family will be very welcome.



Golden Wedding Day Celebration

We were delighted to celebrate the Golden Wedding Day Anniversary of John and Janet Roberts in October when, following our morning service, they very kindly shared prosecco and cake with us and also sponsored the lovely flowers. Our thanks and congratulations to them both on this happy occasion.

If you too, would like to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or the life of a loved one by sponsoring either our floodlighting or flowers, please leave details in the diary at the back of the church or speak to one of our churchwardens. Sally - 0116 2375704 or Chris - 0116 2123763.



News from the Bell Tower

Joint Outing with Thurstaston ringers

This year was Swithland's turn to organise our joint bell ringers outing and Guy and Barbara Jibson organised an excellent programme of seven local towers, with a lunch stop at Shuttleworth Clarke, Ulverscroft.

BELLS OF CHARNWOOD REVISITED

The joint tower outings of St Leonard's Swithland and All Saints Thurstaston first started in September 1986. This traditionally has taken place every year in late September, but did not go ahead in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

The outing this year was on Saturday 24th September with seven local towers selected, five 6-bell rings and two 8-bell rings. The weather looked very promising for our outing, with an early start at 9am.

First stop was at **Anstey** which is a ground floor ring of 8 bells. It was an inauspicious start with the inability to ring up Number 2 bell, but this was sorted when it was discovered that a piece of wood needed to be moved above the ceiling. These were quite challenging bells due to the long draught.

When we got to our second stop at **Grobby**, which was one floor up with 6 bells, the bells were nice and light and we all agreed that they were lovely to ring for a nice easy rhythm. The tenor bell sounded a bit odd inside the ringing room but outside it sounded fine.

Our third stop was at **Thornton** which is another ground floor ring of 6 bells. The ropes were very long and a bit whippy, but fortunately not too difficult to ring. A lovely church with huge toadstools in the churchyard and a massive ancient church door which apparently was originally from Ulverscroft Priory from around the times of the dissolution of the monasteries.

We then moved on to **Markfield** with a ring of 6 bells on the ground floor. Lovely easy bells to ring although a longish draught. A lovely sunny spot to sit whilst listening to the bells and a great spot to pick mushrooms too!

Lunch was a pleasant stop at Ulverscroft Grange which we left feeling very full after an excellent meal. A little chilly in the outside sensory garden, but we were seated together.

On to **Copt Oak** with its tiny narrow spiral staircase up to 6 bells which were lovely to ring, with call changes and Bob doubles.

Then off to **Whitwick** with 8 bells up a long winding staircase and a set of bells that were nice and easy to ring. A large church with a 14th century effigy of a medieval knight and lovely stained glass windows and we were offered a very welcome cup of tea.

Then the rain came down hard so it was a dash to the cars (no nearby parking here) and off to **Old Woodhouse** with its 6 bells up another spiral staircase. Bob minor was performed and we all agreed that the bells were a pleasure to ring. We were also provided with tea and cakes which was a lovely way to finish the day.

So, all in all, it was a great day out with all key-holders on time to advise us on their bells, beautiful churches to look around and some great bells to try. Some were easier than others, but they do say, variety is the spice of life. In all 17 bellringers enjoyed the day out. It was good to have with us five very enthusiastic junior ringers from Thurstaston.

Thank you Guy and Barbara for an excellent day out and apologies for missing Guy's name from the Queen's funeral ring photograph caption in the previous LINK.

Janet Beeby -Tower Captain

Here we are!

Swithland ringers:

Guy Jibson, Janet Beeby,

John Roberts, Val Rees,

Val Capewell (not in picture).

