



FEBRUARY SERVICES

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

Sunday 5th

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Alison Prince

Sunday 12th

9.30am Family Worship Hilary Ayling
Bible Hero - Daniel

Sunday 19th

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Sue Willetts

Wednesday 22nd - Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion (CW) Revd Eric Whitley

Sunday 26th

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Eric Whitley
9.30am Morning Prayer + Baptism Clive Hilton/
Revd Colin Resch



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

THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland
in February 2023*



Revd. Colin Resch

Priest in charge of the Mountsorrel Benefice

with St Leonard's Swithland

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CHRISTIANS IN THE FOREST LENT COURSE 'FLEETING SHADOWS' by Revd Malcom Duncan

A reflection on some of the ways in which life can be engulfed in uncertainty or darkness and a reminder that no matter how dark things might seem, God is closer than you think and shadows are dispelled by hope.

28th February - Methodist Church Woodhouse Eaves - leader Hilary Ayling

7th March - St Leonard's Church Swithland - leader Chris Watts

14th March - Methodist Church Woodhouse Eaves - leader Jerry Griffith

21st March - St Leonard's Church Swithland - leader Gary Lee

28th March - Methodist Church Woodhouse Eaves - leader Richard Bowers

4th April - St Leonard's Church Swithland - leader Hilary Ayling

All meetings at the usual time of 7.15pm for 7.30pm

For further details please contact Gary at garyhlee87@gmail.com



SERVICE OF JAZZ CAROLS AND LESSONS 21st DECEMBER

Thank you to everyone who came along to this most enjoyable evening service.

Your donations raised the magnificent sum of

£511

for The Children's Society

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.



**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**



ABIDE IN ME AND YOU WILL BEAR FRUIT

EVERYDAY CALLING

11th February 2023
10am to 3.30pm

How can I to live out my faith?
What could God be saying to me?
What opportunities are there to serve God?

For more information contact:

liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org

To book contact:

claire.stapleton@leicestercofe.org

stating any dietary requirements



ST MARTINS HOUSE
7 PEACOCK LANE, LE1 5PZ

God's love is for all people

For several decades, the Church of England has been exploring and debating issues around identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The last six years in particular have seen the Church engage in a process of listening and learning together around these issues under the heading of Living in Love and Faith. This is a process that we have engaged with in our own parish and has given individuals the opportunity to give feedback into the debates. Generally, these issues tend to polarise views within the Church around matters of doctrine with some calling for the Church to take a fresh interpretation of the Bible that would allow us to extend the offer of marriage to those in same-sex relationships; while others are calling on the Church to uphold a traditional view of sexuality and marriage. The discussions have not been easy; and, at times, hurtful words have been spoken on both sides of the debate.



Alongside proposals to be debated at General Synod this month, the House of Bishops has now issued a direct apology to LGBTQI+ people for the way the Church has rejected them, admitting "We have not loved you as God loves you, and that is profoundly wrong." The proposals, which you can find on the Church of England website, recognise that there is still much disagreement on the way forward. For some, the proposals will go too far; yet for others, the proposals will not go far enough. I am not sure how the debate at General Synod will pan out, but there is the danger that neither side of the debate will be satisfied and the motion will fail.

Penny Mordaunt, MP, has said, "This issue (*same-sex marriage*) has been under discussion with the Church of England for a long time... I fear if it is not resolved at General Synod the matter will continue to fester and detract from the positive contribution the Church of England makes to our society." This is a real danger - that the focus of the Church shifts from worship and the outward looking sharing of God's love to an inward focus of argument and doctrine.

So whatever you see of the Church in the press over the coming weeks, I want to reassure you that I will continue to focus on the needs of my parishes and the sharing of God's love to ALL the people of our community. It is my hope and prayer that our Church family will do the same. Perhaps it is no coincidence that we begin February with a remembrance that Jesus Christ was presented in the temple and proclaimed to be 'salvation prepared in the sight of all people; a light for the revelation to the gentiles (non-jews) and the glory of Israel.' (See Luke 2.29-32)

Please join with me in praying for the members of General Synod who will debate these proposals on 8th February.

With every blessing, Colin Resch

News from the Bell Tower

'RING FOR THE KING'

Following the successful 'Ringing Remembers' campaign to encourage more people to learn to ring, the Central Council of Church Bellringers is keen to promote a new idea - 'Ring for the King'. This is to encourage ringers to learn to ring and participate in the national ringing on the day of the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6th.



As I have mentioned recently, the tower is very short of ringers and some weeks we are not able to ring for the Sunday Service. At the moment we have a learners' practice at 7.30pm each Thursday if anyone would like to come along and see what it involves.

Currently we have 3 people in various stages of learning to ring the bells. Jo Wilkins is now able to ring for services. Her learning was interrupted by Covid and now Tim Wilkins is also learning to ring. Louise Jones has joined us since the start of the year and is making good progress.

Jo was able to join in the ringing for the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth and we hope that all three ringers will be able to 'Ring for the King'! Hopefully some more of you from the village and parish will feel that you would like to take up the challenge. Please contact me - janbeeby@btinternet.com - or just turn up on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm at St Leonard's.

Janet Beeby - Tower Captain



SWITHLAND MEMORIAL HALL

**is available throughout the year to hire for
small family and children's parties of all kinds**

Please contact the Bookings Secretary

01509 890354 for all the information you may require



Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. It starts on Ash Wednesday - this year on February 22nd - and finishes on Easter Eve, which will be on Saturday 8th April.

If you look on the calendar and count the days, you will notice that they come to more than 40. This is because we do not count Sundays.

For Christians, Lent is a time to prepare for Easter and to think about their relationship with God. It represents the 40 days when Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the desert. During this time he did not eat or drink anything and this is why some Christians give up food and fast for Lent. Some just give up luxury items such as chocolate and cream cakes!

In many churches the altar is covered with a purple cloth during Lent. Purple is traditionally a royal colour and having a purple cloth on the altar helps people to remember that Jesus is King and that he died at Easter. No other decorations or flowers appear in the church during this period.

Lent began at a time when people who were to be baptised would use Lent to prepare for their baptism on Easter Sunday. Over the years it has turned into a time of reflection for all Christians.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent.

The name comes from the tradition of putting a small cross of ash on people's foreheads as a sign of confession and to help them remember that they rely on God for forgiveness from their sins. It is still done in churches today.

The ash comes from the palm branches that are burned after the Palm Sunday Church services of the previous year.

***St Leonard's Ash Wednesday Service
is at 7.30pm on 22nd February***



SHROVE TUESDAY - 21st FEBRUARY 2023

I am pleased to let you know that after a two year absence due to Covid restrictions, the **Christians in the Forest Shrove Tuesday Event** is back.

Our theme will be the environment. We humans continue to destroy God's creation at an alarming rate - world leaders met at COP 27 but nothing was done - even campaigners like Greta Thunberg are being ignored. So it is time to mobilise the voices of the 2.4 billion Christians worldwide - beginning with us here in Charnwood!

You are therefore invited to Doxecology - Songs and meditation on creation ecology and hope with Resound Worship. I have already heard the CD of the music which was produced during 'Lockdown' and I am really looking forward to hearing it performed live. The concert/event will be at the Baptist Church, Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves (an excellent concert venue) on 21st February 2023 at 7.30pm - doors open for tea and coffee at 7.00pm.

Tickets are £5 in advance or on the door. There will also be a collection for the work of Christian environmental charity A Rocha UK.

Can I ask that, if possible, you purchase your tickets in advance so as to reduce the workload on the night and speed up entry - advance tickets from www.doxecology.org

Hope to see you there, **Gary Lee.**

SWITHLAND WOMEN'S GROUP

Our Annual Dinner was held on 16th January at the Wheatsheaf, Woodhouse Eaves. In spite of the unexpected snow, there was a very good turnout with an excellent meal in a cosy room at the pub. It was a very convivial evening and it was good to be able to get together.

Next Meeting - MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall

Our speaker is Vince Jupp, who as Rector of Birstall, looked after us at Swithland Church for a short time. He has since retired from the church and is now a psychotherapist and counsellor. The title of his talk is 'Speaking Volumes without Words'. Vince is an excellent speaker and we feel sure his talk will be entertaining as well as informative.

Partners and guests are welcome to join us for an interesting evening.

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

Shrove Tuesday 21 February 2023 7.30pm (Doors 7.00pm)

Woodhouse Eaves Baptist Church, Main Street LE12 8RZ

Tickets £5 in advance or on the door (Free for those in full-time education)

The evening will include a collection for the work of environmental charity A Rocha UK

More information and tickets: www.doxecology.org





LEICESTER CATHEDRAL REVEALED

The Leicester Cathedral Revealed Project is restoring and renewing the Cathedral so it can be its very best as a place of worship, heritage pilgrimage, hospitality, learning, sanctuary and celebration.

The existing cathedral building is being transformed with a new stone floor, level throughout and including energy-efficient under-floor heating; replacement of failing infrastructure such as boilers and the electrical system; installation of new lighting and AV; restoration of key architectural features and repair of much that has deteriorated, particularly stonework and décor.

The project is also creating a distinct new extension to the Cathedral - a visitor and learning centre to be known as The Chapter House - on the footprint of the former 1930s Song School, thereby preserving the open space of Cathedral Gardens. It will have a confident contemporary appearance and provide a new orientation/exhibition gallery, hospitality and learning spaces, WCs, offices and storage.



Good progress is being made. External stonework repair and restoration has been completed on the south façade, including installing four striking new grotesques high up on the parapet wall. Inside the Cathedral a limestone floor slab has been laid to create a breathable

base for the new limestone floor. Internal scaffolding is in place and high-level works for the new lighting and redecoration are advancing

Archaeological excavations have been undertaken and these have revealed fascinating information and insights into the lives of those who lived in Leicester over past centuries. With archaeology complete, construction of the basement for the new Chapter House can get underway.

Significant cost overruns are being encountered in a number of key areas including archaeology and asbestos removal, putting additional demands on what was always going to be a challenging project.

It is hoped to re-open the Cathedral in the Autumn of 2023 and then the new Chapter House in the Spring of 2024.

Simon Bentley, Project Director Leicester Cathedral Revealed

(Article published in Diocese of Leicester Prayer Diary January - April 2023)

For further information visit leicestercathedral.org/leicester-cathedral-revealed



Many of you will have seen the beautiful Nativity figures which were on display beneath the altar at St Leonard's from the weekend of our Crib Festival on 10th and 11th December, until Candlemas Sunday on 29th January. These have been gifted to our church anonymously.

The figures will now be used to enhance the Festive Season each year with the continuing gratitude of the whole congregation.