



March Services

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

Sunday 5th

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch

Sunday 12th

9.30am	Family Worship	Hilary Ayling
	Bible Hero - Peter	

Sunday 19th

Mothers' Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 26th

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Clive Hilton/Gary Lee
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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 March 2023*



Revd. Colin Resch

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

4 Rothley Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7JU

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COMMITMENT

Is Commitment a dirty word?

In an age when we often do not think twice about signing an 18-24 month 'phone contract, why is it that membership of clubs and associations is at an all time low? Has commitment become something of a dirty word?

We are happy to sign up to something - even make a substantial regular financial commitment - if we can see how it will benefit us (such as a new 'phone contract). Maybe in our parents' or grandparents' generation they were signing up to commit to a cause - such as a community club, union or sports association - knowing that their financial contribution would assist that cause or charity; but in our generation we often make our financial contribution, asking the question, "what will I get in return?" Times are tough and we want to make the most of our hard-earned cash.

Many clubs and charities (local church included) have not been very good at communicating the benefits of their 'cause' and, as a result, have lost membership and the benefits that come from members' time, talents and money.

It is that time of year when we revise our Church membership list (known as the Church Electoral Roll). The names of those who have died are removed along with those who have moved away: new congregants and parishioners are invited to join. Will your name be on the list? What is the point, why bother? What does the Church offer in return?

I'm not sure that I can summarise the 'cause' of the Church in just a few paragraphs - it is much too complex for that: but I will draw your attention to two scriptures and encourage you to prayerfully dwell upon them to see if they give an explanation:

- *"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us". (Romans 5.8)*
- *Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10.10)*

That is reason enough for me to commit, but what about you?

With every blessing, Colin Resch



Another of our very popular
guided walks with

JERRY GRIFFITH

is planned for

MONDAY 22nd MAY
in the southern area of
SWITHLAND WOODS

Meet at 10.30am
in Roecliffe Road car park
then back to church for
soup and a roll
No need to book - just come along



Join us for our

**RED WHITE AND
'BLUEBELL SERVICE'**

On SUNDAY 7th MAY at 3pm
in Swithland Woods by the Great Pit

when we shall be joined by
**THE LEICESTER CATHEDRAL
CHOIR**

All donations for the
AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY



**is available for hire
for children's parties
and family events
of all kinds**

Please contact the Bookings
Secretary

01509 890354
for more information

**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!





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.

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

OPEN CHURCH AFTERNOONS 2023

We look forward to welcoming visitors on the following dates

Sunday 7th May 3pm to 5pm

(following the Bluebell Service)

and on Saturdays

June 10th

July 8th

August 12th

September 9th



Do please call in to see our new virtual tour of the church and churchyard, and share a cup of tea and slice of cake



DAFFODILS

As snowdrops start to fade, their place is taken by daffodils, symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings, announcing the beginning of spring and signifying the end of the cold dark days.

Daffodils are common flowers seen at Easter. Not only are they seasonal, but as symbols of revival and rebirth Christians associate them with the resurrection of Jesus.

The scientific name of daffodils is "narcissus" a name which is linked to the youth of that name who fell in love with his own reflection. It is a spring flowering perennial of the amaryllis family, and the various common names include daffodil, narcissus and jonquil. It is the national flower of Wales and is associated with St David's Day, March 1st.

The name "daffodil" is derived from affodell, a variant of asphodel. An alternative name is the **lent lily**, and is referred to as such in A.E. Houseman's "A Shropshire Lad". Many commentators believe the daffodil to be the flower that Solomon referred to as "the lily of the valley".

Among the English romantic writers, no reference is better known than William Wordsworth's 1804 poem:

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

Isiah in chapter 35 speaks of the hope and optimism represented by these beautiful flowers (sometimes translated as crocuses): *"The desert and the parched land will be glad: the wilderness will rejoice and blossom"*.

Finally, Jesus in his sermon on the mount, encouraging his followers not to worry about their worldly needs, has this to say:

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; yet I say unto you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these".

Clive Hilton



NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

The Wilkins family ringers!

I mentioned last month that Jo and Tim Wilkins from Swithland Lane have joined our ringing band. Jo is now ringing for Sunday services having originally started learning before the pandemic. Tim started learning last Autumn and is now able to ring rounds and call changes. Their son, Adam, started bell ringing as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in 2013. Having been to Norwich University, studying Business, he is now working for Amazon and is back at home. He joined us for a practice night in February - see photo.

We also have a new learner from Woodhouse, Jane Cameron, a friend of Suzanne and Nick Cunningham. She started in January and so, along with Louise Jones, we are pleased to have new learners who are all making excellent progress.

As always, we are keen to have more people from the village and parish join us, including anyone who would be interested as part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.



We hope that the learners will participate in the 'Ring for the King' as highlighted in last month's LINK and ring our bells on the day of the Coronation, Saturday 6th May.



Our learners' practice night is on a Thursday each week. Why not come along and see what it involves.

Janet Beeby, Tower Captain, 01509 890805

Swithland's Coronation Celebrations



I have booked the Memorial Hall for the weekend of the King's coronation with the idea of holding a similar "Peoples' Lunch" when we can join with the rest of the country to celebrate the occasion. The advice is to hold the lunch on **Sunday 7th May** along similar lines to last year's very successful Jubilee Lunch.

I have arranged a meeting on **Wednesday March 22nd at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall** and I would love some ideas and offers of help. Please feel free to contact me if you are unable to attend and if anyone has any influence on improving the weather from last year's cold and wet day, please get in touch! In the meantime, dust your crowns off and prepare to party.

Sarah May 01509 890547 sarah.may1@btinternet.com

Swithland Women's Group

Our February meeting saw 26 members, partners and one well behaved dog, enjoy a fascinating interactive presentation from Vince Jupp on "Speaking Volumes without Words". We learnt how to read body language and interpret hand and arm interaction. Our next meeting is on -

MONDAY 6th MARCH at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

when Alan Dayman from Derrys Nursery Cossington will tell us about **"Running a Garden Centre and Plant Care"**

Alan is an entertaining speaker with many stories to tell.

Partners and guests are very welcome.

We hope to arrange an outing to a garden with a meal in the early summer.

Sarah May 890547 Janet Beeby 890805 Val Capewell 890551

Come and join us for an evening of song
at St Leonard's Church Swithland with the
LOUGHBOROUGH MALE VOICE CHOIR
on Saturday 22nd April at 7pm



There will be a varied programme including show songs, folk songs, Welsh hymns, opera choruses, classical pieces and standards - in fact

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Tickets £15 each

including wine and light refreshments

available now from the church -
email maryselina@hotmail.co.uk -
or scan this QR code



MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE
AT 9.30am on 19th MARCH



Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent. Although it is often called Mother's Day it has no connection with the American festival of that name. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters who had gone to work as domestic servants, were given the day off to visit their mother and family. Today it is still a day when children give presents, flowers and cards to their mothers.

Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish church. Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year and so each year, in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area.

Inevitably, the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions. It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work when they were 10 years old. As they walked home along the country lanes they would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or to give to their mother as a small gift.

At St Leonard's Church we continue this tradition of giving flowers and take pleasure in distributing flowering plants for everyone who comes along to the service to take to their mother or someone they love. We hope you will be able to come along to collect yours.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 3rd MARCH

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated all over the world and each year is written by Christian women of a different country. It is the turn of Taiwan this year.

Our service will be held at

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WOODHOUSE EAVES

at 2pm on FRIDAY 3rd MARCH 2023

The theme is "I have heard about your faith"

Men, women and children are invited and the service will be followed by refreshments.

Do join us. We would love to see you. **Olga Harris.**



*Have you discovered Launde Abbey
as a Retreat House ?*

Launde Abbey is set in beautiful parkland in the south east of the county. Narrow Lanes lead to the front of the house, and at the back, the paths take you by the welcoming Christ sculpture to the door that opens into the Walled Garden and the potential for rich pickings

But what happens within the Abbey itself?

Quiet Days and Retreats

Have you ventured into experiencing a Retreat or Quiet Day?

Both are on offer within. An Individual Guided Retreat (IGR) offers a period of time for quiet reflection at a possible crossroads in life with the opportunity each day to talk with a Spiritual Director. An IGR needs prior arrangement with a member of the Abbey team.

Then there are a variety of differing retreats given in small groups lasting two or three days with full accommodation.

And lastly there are Quiet Days with a theme led by a member of the Abbey staff, starting at 10am with coffee and finishing at 4pm with tea, and a most generous lunch in the middle, all for £44. A day to relish.

Taking time to experience a retreat gives the opportunity to pause on one's spiritual journey and listen. Our world can be inundated with chatter and to take time to listen to what God is wanting to say might well open the door to a whole new way of life.

Give it a try!

St Leonard's is hoping to plan a 'Parish Quiet Day' at Launde in September - date to be confirmed.

Do come.

Lizette Pugh



RETREATS

LENT RETREAT 6th - 9th March £425

Further details : info@laundeabbey.org.uk

BEGINNERS RETREAT 17th - 19th March £295

Led by Chris Webb and Alan Humphrey

HOLY WEEK RETREAT 3rd - 6th April £425

Further details : info@laundeabbey.org.uk

ICON PAINTING RETREAT 1st - 5th May £850

Led by Peter Murphy

Retreat prices are inclusive of en-suite accommodation, all meals and retreat resources. 'Early Bird' prices are often offered.

QUIET DAYS 10am - 4pm

6th March - A Holy Crazy Grace £44

Led by John Rackley

3rd April - Unforced Rythms of Grace £44

Led by Rhona Knight

For some retreats it may be possible to extend your stay by arriving earlier or leaving later.

Quiet Days can also be extended by staying overnight.

To check availability email: info@laundeabbey.org.uk

or telephone 01572 717254