



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

Sunday 2nd	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch
Monday 3rd		
7.30pm	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Steve Delaforce
Thursday 6th	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	
	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch
	‘Stripping of the Altar’	
Friday 7th	<i>Good Friday</i>	
10am	Morning Prayer, Litany and Ante Communion	Jeff Harrison/Gary Lee
Sunday 9th	<i>EASTER DAY</i>	
9.30am	Family Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Steve Delaforce
Sunday 16th		
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch
Sunday 23rd		
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Olga Harris/Helen Hodson
Sunday 30th		
9.30am	Sunday Xtra (+ Annual Parochial Council Meeting at 10.30am)	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

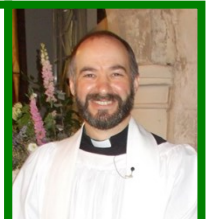
Please forward contributions for The LINK to the Editor: maryselina@hotmail.co.uk

THE LINK

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



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



Not Everything is Better Online

Many things that used to take time to achieve can now be accomplished online in a fraction of the time. For example, I recently applied to renew my Passport. The process was incredibly simple, completed with a photo taken on my mobile phone.



There was no need to queue at the post office to get the correct form, no need to talk to anyone, no need to wait for the photo-booth to process and print my photo, no need to find someone to countersign the photo, no need to get the form double checked at the post office. It was, in short, a very simple process.

Even the art of letter writing has taken on new levels with the introduction of AI (artificial intelligence) ChatBots. Have you ever wondered what this letter might look like if produced by a ChatBot? Well, apparently, something like this:

(As we approach the month of April, we are reminded of the significance of this time in the Christian calendar. April is the month of Easter, and it culminates with the celebration of Resurrection Sunday on April 16th. We are excited to celebrate the hope and promise of new life that this day represents. We invite you to join us for our special Resurrection Sunday service on April 16th at (time). We will have a powerful message of hope and joy, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.)

It begins so well, but then it is obvious that the ChatBox can't distinguish between our date of Easter and that of the Orthodox Church; and it doesn't spell in an English way. Those are minor details, but more importantly it seems to be lacking warmth and connection. You'll probably be pleased to know that I won't be resorting to ChatBox to write my personal message to you each month.

As a Church, we are a gathered people. Yes, it is possible to watch a Church service online - and we certainly did our fair chunk of that during the Covid lockdown - but it is still not the same being present with others as we worship the living God. In Church we sit, stand, kneel, recite our responses,

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



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
Children welcome

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!



sing, pray, listen. learn, commune and celebrate TOGETHER. We come whether we are feeling happy or sad, when we are sick and when we are well, when life is going well or when it's all gone wrong. Together we gather with fellow disciples of Jesus. We gather because where even two or three are gathered together, Jesus promises to be there. We gather because He calls us to do so. And in that place of gathering we find love, healing and acceptance.

So do look at our list of Events and services for this month and join us for some, or all, of them. I can't promise that the Easter Day sermon (on 9th April by the way) will be a '*powerful message of hope and joy*'. I hope it is. But I can promise that if we gather, Jesus will be there. Because the good news of Easter - the powerful message of hope and joy, if you like - is that Jesus is alive.

With every blessing, Colin Resch



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
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 welcoming
THE LEICESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR
and
THE KIBWORTH BRASS BAND
All donations for the
AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

**Whilst Leicester Cathedral is closed
until the Autumn of this year, it is
well worth considering a visit to
Southwell Minster.**



The Minster is a hidden gem of English Cathedrals and is open every day and entry is free. As well as the daily round of worship to which everyone is welcome, inspirational music, arts and a numerous variety of community events are on offer.

The Minster has a 1,000 years of history, beautiful architecture and exquisite carvings in the Chapter House. You can walk in the footsteps of Cardinal Wolsey in the State Chamber, enjoy a walk around the Palace Gardens or book a Guided Tour of the Bell Tower, the Palace, the Minster or the gardens.

Events planned for the month of April include:

- Saturday April 1 Bingham & District Choral Society Concert 7.30pm
- Sunday April 2 Stainer: The Crucifixion 7pm
- Monday April 10 The Mighty Organ: Bank Holiday Concert 3.30pm
- Friday April 14 Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral 1.30pm
- Friday April 14 BBC Radio 4 Any Questions? 8pm
- Friday April 28 Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral 1.30pm
- April 26 - May 24 'The Leaves That Do Not Wither' Art Exhibition
- Friday April 28 Friday Lunchtime at the Cathedral 1.30pm
- Friday April 28 Meat Loaf by Candlelight 7.30pm
- Saturday April 29 Meat Loaf by Candlelight 7.30pm

A full and varied programme I think you will agree.

For further information visit www.southwellminster.org

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



SWITHLAND CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP

Our last meeting was on Monday March 6th when our speaker for the evening was Alan Dayman of Derrys Nurseries, Cossington. Alan gave a lively and interesting account of the trials and tribulations of running a nursery together with a few amusing anecdotes gathered over the years. He also brought along a large and varied group of plants which he described in detail together with suggestions for location, etc, in the garden. The plant sales went well and we were all generously given a 10% discount card for whenever we visit the nursery.

We had a good turnout of members on the evening in addition to several members of the Men's Club.

Please make a note of the following details:



GARDEN VISIT - TUESDAY 20TH JUNE

THE WHITE HOUSE FARM AT INGARSBY

We first visited this garden in 2019 on a wet and misty evening, so we are hoping for better weather this time. Further details will be circulated in due course.

A reminder that there will be the usual Holy Week Communion Service on **Monday 3rd April at 7.30pm**. This is traditionally held for members of our group and those of The Mothers' Union, but everyone is welcome to come along and we do hope that you will be able to join us.

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



SWITHLAND MEMORIAL HALL
is available for hire for
children's parties and family events of all kinds

Please contact the Bookings Secretary
01509 890354 - for more information



CHRISTIANS IN THE FOREST SHROVE TUESDAY CONCERT 2023

100 people gathered at the Baptist Church in Woodhouse Eaves on Shrove Tuesday for a concert which featured a live performance of Resound Worship's 2021 album, "Doxecology".

Resound Worship is led by Joel Payne, a local professional musician living in Woodhouse Eaves, while other members of the band travelled from further afield including one member from Ireland.

The band treated us to two hours of thoughtful and inspiring music as well as comment and reflection on creation and the environment. A retiring collection raised £200 for A Rocha UK, a Christian environmental charity that runs a number of projects aimed at protecting and restoring nature.

My thanks go to all who attended and especially to all those who worked so hard to make this event a success.

Gary Lee



Easter Thanksgiving Tree

Our Easter Tree has been in the church since Mothering Sunday. On the cards which are provided for you to hang on the tree, you are invited to write a note of thanks for all the blessings you feel you and your family receive at Eastertime and throughout the year, or the names of any loved ones you wish to remember. The cards from the tree will be blessed at our Easter Sunday Service.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A P C M



Celebrating the life of our Church

For the first time St Leonard's Annual Meeting will follow a Sunday morning service and will take place on Sunday 30th April at 10.30am.

At this meeting, parishioners will appoint two Churchwardens, elect two members of the Church to sit on the Deanery Synod and three members to serve on the St Leonard's Parochial Church Council (PCC).

We will also receive the Annual Report and answer any questions you may have about the life of our Church here in Swithland.

Nomination forms for Churchwardens and PCC membership will be available in the church porch prior to the meeting and completed forms can be left in church or given to Revd Colin Resch before the start of the meeting.

Please join the meeting and have your say



**DO YOU, OR ANYONE IN YOUR
FAMILY, PLAY THE PIANO
OR KEYBOARD?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO PLAY ON OUR HISTORIC ORGAN
AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH?**

If you are interested then please contact

John Roberts - 01509 890089

HOLY WEEK AT ST LEONARD'S

Holy Week this year is the period from Sunday 2nd April to Sunday 9th April and the following is a brief explanation about all the services we shall be holding.

Unlike fixed celebrations like Christmas and Halloween, Easter is considered a "moveable feast" and can fall anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th - this year it will fall roughly between the two dates.

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon, officially called "Paschal Moon", that comes on or just after the Spring Equinox of March 21st. This year the first full moon after the Spring Equinox takes place on Thursday April 6th which means that Easter Day will fall on the following Sunday, April 9th,. Should the first full moon ever fall on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday.



2nd April - Palm Sunday Service at 9.30am

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding as the "Prince of Peace" on a donkey, an animal symbolising peace, with crowds waving and laying down palm branches before Him, themselves a symbol of honour, triumph and victory. At our service everyone receives a small cross which is made of palm leaves.



6th April - Maundy Thursday Service at 4pm

Maundy Thursday refers to the day on which the Last Supper took place. The word *maundy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning *command* from which we get our English word *mandate*. That night Jesus said "I give you a new command: love one another. As I have loved you, so you are to love one another."

During the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of his twelve disciples and Christians have come to interpret the symbolism of this act as an illustration of a humble mission of service, the cleansing of sin and the showing of forgiveness for us all. It is what Jesus calls us all to do, "small things with great love in service to one another."

The service in church concludes with the removal of all hangings and crosses from the altar so that it remains bare until Easter Day.



7th April - Good Friday Service at 10am

Good Friday can also be known as Holy Friday or Black Friday. It is the day when Jesus was crucified for our sins and some countries observe it with re-enactments of the procession carrying the cross. Even though Jesus was crucified on this day, many Christians believe there is something good about Good Friday because it is the anniversary of Jesus' dying for our sins and if that had not happened, there would be no day of resurrection.

Good Friday is the fulfilment of God's salvation plan for us. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon Jesus willingly surrendered and endured all sufferings in order to accomplish God's plan to save us from our sins and death.



9th April - Easter Sunday Service at 9.30am

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It is a day which symbolises the hope and joy of new life in the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead and so offering us all the promise of eternal life.

We really hope that you will be able to come to St Leonard's Church at some time during Holy Week to share our services either for quiet contemplation, reflection or celebration. You will be warmly welcomed.



OUR 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