



*MAY 2023*

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

**Sunday 7th**

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch
3pm	<b>'Red White &amp; Bluebell' Service in Swithland Woods</b> (see page 3 for further details)	

**Sunday 14th**

9.30am	Family Worship Theme: Rogation	Revd Colin Resch
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**Thursday 18th ASCENSION DAY**

2pm	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch
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**Sunday 21st**

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Steve Delaforce

**Sunday 28th PENTECOST**

9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Sue Willetts
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[www.stleonardsswithland.org](http://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](mailto:maryselina@hotmail.co.uk)

# THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland  
in May 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](mailto:revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org)



## *Long live the king!*

The coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May will be a unique occasion. We have never had such a long time between the successive coronations of a British monarch. What will make this event unique is the fact that most of those taking part in the proceedings were not alive when the last one took place. Memories of those who were witnesses to our late Queen's coronation have begun to fade and the details are, perhaps, a little short on the actual details.

And so, the rite is renewed afresh for our generation. The new king will have his say, the Archbishop of Canterbury his; other officials will add their own two penn'orth. Of course the media will want a say too. Out of it all will arise a ceremony that will be unique to our king and our generation.

St Paul, writing to the Roman Church, reminds us that all earthly authorities - yes even the bad ones (this is more tricky to explain and may require an entire theological tome to be written) - have been established by God. Here's how he put it: *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."* Romans 13.1-2

When the Israelites settled in the promised land, they asked Samuel the prophet to appoint a king to rule over them. This request was distressing to Samuel, because in asking for a king, they were rejecting God as their King: *"But when they said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.'" 1 Samuel 8.6-7*



So, King Charles III will be crowned king on 6th May, but let us not, in celebrating with him, reject the Lord our God as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Let us follow the advice of Jesus and *render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

Matthew 22.21

*With every blessing, Colin Resch*



**This year our**



**RED WHITE AND**



**'BLUEBELL SERVICE'**

**will be a celebration of the Coronation**

**with a themed address, readings & hymns**

Join us on

**SUNDAY 7th MAY at 3pm**

in Swithland Woods by the Great Pit with

**THE LEICESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR**

and

**THE KIBWORTH BRASS BAND**

All donations for the AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

Following the service the church will be open for tea and cakes

## The Loughborough Male Voice Choir Concert



On Saturday evening, April 22nd, a packed audience at St Leonard's Church thoroughly enjoyed being entertained by 36 members of the Loughborough Male Voice Choir.



We were treated to an extremely varied programme which included classical pieces, anthems, African choruses and songs from the shows. One particular song, 'Seal Lullaby', made its debut as a performance before an audience for the very first time.


The Sea Shanties & Folk Songs were one of the highlights of the evening with the audience participating robustly in the singing whenever the opportunity arose.

My thanks to all those who so very kindly donated towards the refreshments for the interval - they were wonderful - and to everyone else who helped in any way to make the occasion such a success.




Just over £1,000 was raised for church funds.  
A great result!

**Mary Toone**  
Outreach Team Chairman



### ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

### THURSDAY MAY 18th at 2pm




Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter Season.

It is when Jesus took his disciples to the Mount of Olives where they watched him ascend into heaven.

Join us to celebrate this important day in the Christian calendar when we shall also be welcoming year 6 pupils from St Leonard's CofE Primary School to share the occasion with us.

### SWITHLAND WOMEN'S GROUP



Please note that the new date for our

### GARDEN VISIT

to the White House at Ingarsby is **Tuesday 27th June** followed by a meal at The Ashby Arms, Hungarton. Further details to be circulated

Sarah May - 01509 890547

### 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!**





### 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*  
*Spring/Summer Course*  
*Mark - "Life as it is meant to be lived"*  
*by Christine Platt*

*Christine Platt writes "Explore the character of Christ through the eyes of Mark and realise a new intimacy in your relationship with Jesus. Follow the life of the Son of God on earth as the Miracle Maker, Supreme Teacher, Mighty Overcomer, Perfect Sacrifice, Effective Trainer, Compassionate Healer and Unfettered Traveller, and learn how to live as He Lived and love as He loved".*

Generally regarded as the earliest of the Gospels and the source material for both Matthew and Luke's Gospels, it is also probably none other than a record of the preaching material of the great apostle Peter. Certainly Mark stood so close to Peter, and so near to his heart, that Peter called him 'my son Mark' (Peter 5:13). We can just imagine Mark sitting and listening to Peter's amazing and astounding reliving of his time with Jesus.

So do join us as we sit at the feet of Mark for this dynamic eye-witness account of the life of Jesus.

Hope to see you there.

**Gary Lee**

Dates of meeting as follows:

- April 25th St Leonard's Church Swithland - leader Gary
- May 2nd Methodist Church Woodhouse Eaves - leader Gary
- May 9th St Leonard's Church Swithland - leader Chris
- May 16th Methodist Church Woodhouse Eaves - leader Hilary
- May 23rd St Leonard's Church Swithland - leader Jerry
- May 30th Methodist Church Woodhouse Eaves - leader Richard
- June 6th St Leonard's Church Swithland - leader Hilary

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

**OPEN CHURCH AFTERNOONS 2023**

We look forward to welcoming visitors on  
**Sunday 7th May 3pm to 5pm**  
 (following the Bluebell Service)  
**and on Saturdays 2pm to 4pm**



**June 10th**  
**July 8th**  
**August 12th**  
**September 9th**



Call in to see our new visual presentation about the church and to share a cup of tea and slice of cake



*Early news of our Angel Festival over  
 the weekend of 1st, 2nd & 3rd December  
 at St Leonard's Church*

At the beginning of Advent this year we are planning  
 a display in the church of at least 500 angels.

So far we have been able to source 400.

Throughout the year, at our Open Days and on Sundays,  
 visitors, members of the congregation, and especially children,  
 will be invited to a craft table to make an angel of their own.

Angels are known to be messengers of glad tidings  
 and you will be encouraged to write your own message  
 on the angel you make.

We hope everyone will enjoy this small task and  
 help us reach our target of 500 angels - or more!





**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH**  
**'SPRING WALK'**  
**in Swithland Woods on**  
**Monday 22nd May at 10.30am**

On this day

please come and join members of our congregation who will be walking in the southern area of Swithland Woods with Jerry Griffiths, a local Christian Guide.

The walk will last for approximately one hour and will give everyone the opportunity for conversation, observation, quiet reflection and prayer.

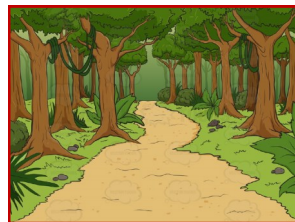
We shall gather in the Roecliffe Road car park at 10.30am and return to St Leonard's Church for soup and a roll.

We are fortunate in have such beautiful surroundings so nearby and we look forward to sharing them with you.

**No need to book - just come along - children welcome**

(Car park fee £2 - no change given)

For further information email  
 maryselina@hotmail.co.uk



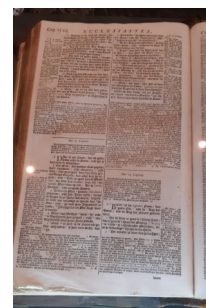
## A Trip to the Netherlands

We recently took a train trip to the Netherlands. Our hotel was based in Delft, famous for its blue pottery. Delft was a miniature version of Amsterdam with its canals through the streets, beautiful squares and crazy Dutch people on bikes!



This picture depicts the Christian scene we are all very familiar with. The photo was taken in the museum at the only remaining working Delft pottery. All the tiles were handmade, painted and fired and then fitted together to create the scene. A truly amazing piece of work.

Of course, what are the Netherlands famous for but the tulips! This photograph was taken at the famous Keukenhof Gardens. Unfortunately, the weather was not very kind so the large outside displays of tulips were not in bloom. However, the picture does show a smaller pot full of God's creation brimming with colour and beauty for our appreciation.



Delft has two main churches, both fascinating with a history to be told. The NIEUWE KERK (new church) holds the mausoleum of William of Orange which is a grand monument and also a copy of the Statenbijei which is the first Bible translation from the original Hebrew and Greek languages into the Dutch language.

The first complete Dutch Bible was printed in Antwerp in 1526 by Jacob van Liesvelt. This translation and other existing Dutch Bibles were merely translations of other translations. In 1618-19 it was deemed necessary to have a new translation, accurately based on the original languages in imitation of the King James Bible from 1611.

In 1626 the States-General accepted the request from the Synod and the translation started. It was completed in 1635 and authorized by the States-General in 1637. From then until 1657 half a million copies were printed and this translation remained authoritative in Protestant churches well into the 20th century.

The wonderful thing about travel is the sights you see and the new things you learn.

**Chris and Roger Watts**



## *Ringin' for the Coronation* *Saturday 6th May*

There is still no specific guidance as to when we ring for the Coronation, unlike for the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth, so we are hoping to ring around 9am - 10am in the morning.

As we are still the ringers for St Paul's Church, Woodhouse Eaves and St Mary's Church, Woodhouse, we hope to ring there for a short time first and then come back to Swithland around 9.30am, to enable some of our learners to take part in the Coronation ring. Recently Dave Edwards from the village and Chris Batteye have started to learn to ring as a part of the 'Ring for the King' initiative.

The Leicestershire Guild have designed badges for those who rang for the Queen's funeral and also there will be badges for the Coronation ring. The money raised from the sale of these badges has reached £9,000 already for the Guild Bell Restoration Fund. You may remember that we had a donation of £6,000 from this fund towards the restoration of St Leonard's bells.



**Janet Beeby - Tower Captain**



This Easter-tide our Easter lilies were sponsored by Revd Steve Delaforce  
*'In memory of my mother'*

If you would like to sponsor our flowers or the floodlighting of the church in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion, please contact Sally Allen for further details - 0116 2375704



**SAVE THIS DATE !**

**Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**

**Wednesday 27th September at 10am**

**at St Leonard's Church Swithland**



## **Macmillan Mighty Hike, Norfolk** **Sunday 21st May**

The Macmillan Mighty Hike is from Cromer to Blakeney, and a team of 'Beeby Belles' - Janet, daughters Laura and Jennie and daughter in law Rachael - have signed up to raise at least £250 each for this excellent charity. This is a half marathon and although it might not seem much of a challenge, I have now found out that it involves walking 4 miles along a shingle beach at some point, which sounds like it will be hard going!

Laura is coming from Chichester to take part in the walk. She is a big supporter of Macmillan and has held coffee mornings at the end of September for many years, raising a lot of money. She even held them in Germany where the family lived for 4 years whilst her husband was involved with the development of the electric Rolls Royce at BMW in Munich. I think the concept of a coffee morning was certainly different for her German neighbours. Jennie lives in Barrow, works with Brian at Swithland Spring Water and Rachael is a primary school teacher in the New Parks area of Leicester.

Although our individual targets of £250 have been set by Macmillan, as a team we hope to raise as much as possible. If you would like to support us, here is the link to our 'justgiving' page where you can find all the team members:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/janetbeeby>

**Janet Beeby - 01509 890805**