



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

Sunday 4th

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Colin Resch & Gary Lee

Sunday 11th

9.30am	Family Worship Bible Hero: Isaiah	Revd Colin Resch & Liz Resch
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Sunday 18th

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

Sunday 25th

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Olga Harris/Gary Lee
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CHURCHWARDENS

Sally Allen 0116 2375704 and Chris Watts 0116 2123763
St Leonard's Church, Main Street, Swithland, LE12 8TJ

*Please forward contributions to 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 June 2023*



The Leicester Cathedral Choir at St Leonard's 'Bluebell Service'
in Swithland Woods on Sunday 7th May

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



Jesus is Lord

While in a Church service recently I sang a hymn: 'Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it.' It's a hymn I have been singing for almost fifty years and the words are very easy to sing. But I found myself wondering how easy it is to put into practice the words, 'Jesus is Lord'.



On the one hand, it is easy to accept that Jesus is Lord over creation. The Christian faith believes that He was there at the beginning of the world and it was He who spoke creation into being, so why shouldn't He be the Lord. A straight forward easy to accept fundamental belief of the Christian Church.

On the other hand, and this is where it gets a bit more difficult, if Jesus is Lord of all creation, have I allowed Him to be Lord of me. Let me explain...

For me to declare that Jesus is Lord, I need to allow Him to be Lord over every aspect of my life. So...

- * Jesus is Lord of my work - easy for me, I'm a priest in the Church of England. My work is all about Jesus and yes, He can be Lord of my work.
- * Jesus is Lord of my conversations - do I always speak in a way that is pleasing to God? Do I swear inappropriately? Is it ever appropriate to use bad language?
- * Jesus is Lord of my relationships - do I honour Him in the way I handle my relationships with my friends and my family, with Church members and parishioners?
- * Jesus is Lord of my television watching - do the things I watch please him or is my evening watching causing him upset? - best to stay clear of almost everything on Channel 4 after about 9pm.
- * Jesus is Lord of my mobile and my Social Media accounts - this has been the hardest for me recently. How easy it is to waste time - even several hours a week - watching stupid and pointless 'stuff' on a small screen when I could be reading a book instead. But...
- * Jesus is Lord of my reading - is my reading edifying - does it build me up or drag me down?

I am learning to put into practice every day the words of that hymn. Jesus is Lord. In everything I do, I need to ask myself, "Is Jesus Lord of me right now?" Maybe you would like to practice this too? If we get it right, we can truly join in the refrain of the hymn: 'Praise him with hallelujahs, for Jesus is Lord.'

With every blessing, Colin Resch

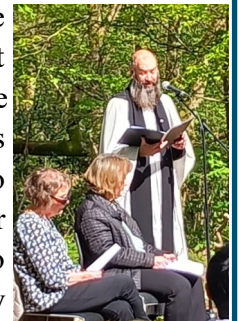
St Leonard's 'Bluebell Service'

Spring has sprung and in glorious sunshine the annual Bluebell Service was held in Swithland Woods by kind permission of the Rangers on 7th May. To honour the King and Queen and their coronation we called it the 'Red, White and Bluebell Service' with appropriate coloured flowers on the altar and a Union flag flying.



There was musical accompaniment for the hymns from the Kibworth Brass Band whose music could be heard from afar and we were very pleased to welcome the Leicester Cathedral Choristers, some 30 strong, to lead the singing. Eight of the

young choristers were singing with the choir for the first time and we learned that the choir were to sing at St Paul's Cathedral the next day as one of the three best Cathedral choirs in the country. Their red robes added colour to our service and we felt honoured to have them with us. There was a good attendance for the service which was led by Revd Colin Resch who also led the prayers and gave the address. The Deputy Mayor of Charnwood read the lesson.



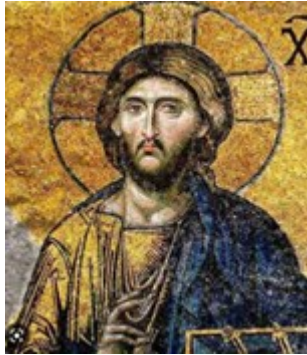
After the blessing and the National Anthem there was a retiring collection for the Air Ambulance and many of the congregation enjoyed tea and cake at St Leonard's church to round off a most enjoyable, prayerful and happy occasion.

Olga Harris

LOOKING EAST WITH WESTERN EYES

Saturday 22nd July 2023 9.30am to 4.30pm

St Joseph's Tea Room, Oaks Road, Coalville, LE67 5UP



Join us for a Quiet Day looking at Eastern Christian Orthodox Spirituality, There will be four short talks: Daily Prayer, The Jesus Prayer, Fasting & Praying with Scripture, together with an opportunity to pray in the Orthodox Way.

The cost of the day will be between £6 and £12 per person depending on the numbers participating.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

Food can be purchased at St Joseph's, or bring your own packed lunch.

We will also visit Mount St Bernard Abbey, shop and grounds.

**If interested, please contact Steve Delaforce
07786702893 or steve.delaforce@gmail.com
or sign up on the form in church**

Norfolk Macmillan Mighty Hike - 21st May 14.3 miles from Cromer to Blakeney

The Beeby Belles -Janet Beeby, Laura Monks, Jennie Garratt and Rachael Beeby, had signed up to undertake this mighty hike to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Each of us had to raise £250 which is the cost of a Macmillan nurse per day.

With our chauffer, Brian, we arrived at the Runton Road car park in Cromer for an 8.20am start. After mobilising exercises we set off along the main road through East Runton and finally on to the coastal path, through West Runton to Sheringham. This brought back many memories of caravan holidays in Sheringham when the children were young. Then it was on to Weybourne and a pit stop for refreshments etc, before the 'Shingle Beach'!

As you will know if you have walked along that stretch of the coastal path, it is very hard work. 3 miles of never ending shingle. Luckily the tide was starting to go out so walking near the sea on firmer shingle/sand helped, but it took us 1hour10minutes. Then it was the final stretch into Cley and back out on the marshes to Blakeney.

The welcome at the finish was amazing. We had taken 5hours and were all named as we crossed the line with people clapping, and then handed a finishing medal and a glass of prosecco. A thoroughly great day! The weather was perfect, not too hot with a breeze and together we have raised around £2,000 for this excellent charity. Thank you to everyone who supported us so generously. 1155 people took part in the walk (we came 306th!) and the organisation was excellent, so I would recommend it to anyone who likes a challenge.



Jennie, Laura, Janet and Rachael

Janet Beeby



ST LEONARD'S FRIDAY CLUB



Friday Club is a group with a Christian ethos.
It is for parents and guardians with babies and toddlers.
There is coffee and chat, storytime with a short prayer,
lots of playtime and singing too.
It is held every Friday in term time from 9am to 10.30am

Everyone welcome



PRAYER NETWORK



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

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Following election at the meeting held on 30th April 2023, our Parochial
Church Council officers are:

Churchwardens: Sally Allen and Chris Watts
Chairman: Revd Colin Resch
Vice Chairman: Clive Hilton
Treasurer: Val Capewell
Secretary: Penny Craven
Safeguarding: Ali Wright and Chris Watts
Health & Safety: Martin Greenwood
Electoral Roll: Ali Wright



Copies of the Report for the Annual Meeting are available on request from
the churchwardens.

OPEN CHURCH AFTERNOONS 2023

We look forward to welcoming visitors on
Saturdays from 2pm to 4pm on
June 10th
July 8th
August 12th
September 9th



Call in to see our new aerial drone presentation of the church,
try your hand at our craft table and make an angel for our
Angel Festival in December,
or just share a cup of tea and slice of cake with us.
You will be very welcome

SWITHLAND WOMEN'S GROUP EVENING GARDEN VISIT Tuesday 27th JUNE



to the White House at Ingarsby
followed by a meal at
The Ashby Arms, Hungarton.
**HUSBANDS AND PARTNERS
WELCOME**

Contact:
Sarah May - 01509 890547

CHRISTIANS IN THE FOREST



SPRING/ SUMMER COURSE

'Life as it is meant to be lived'
by Christine Platt

Join us for our final meeting
of the course on

Tuesday 6th June

at 7.15pm at St Leonard's Church
when our leader will be

Hilary Ayling.

Contact: Gary Lee
ghlee87@gmail.com



CORONATION CELEBRATION

After two days of rain Swithland awoke on Sunday May 7th to a day of glorious Spring sunshine. Over 100 villagers and their friends gathered on the green at the Memorial Hall in the marquee and gazebos to join the Great Community Lunch to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

St Leonard's school lent us their display of children's art to decorate the hall. Young and old picnicked on coronation chicken, BBQ, quiche and industrial quantities of cake washed down with a barrel of beer kindly donated by The Griffin Inn. They then played a variety of games which included horse jump racing, pass the orange and thread the key, culminating with a fiercely competitive wellie wanging competition.

Throughout the day we were entertained by Ron and the Rockets who generously serenaded us to a musical medley from the balcony of the Hall.

We toasted the new King and settled down to enjoy the company of friends and family while revelling in the wonderful weather. We were then treated to a performance of beautiful music from Holly who played the guitar and sang her own compositions.

The party drew to a close as darkness fell but we managed to pack everything away before the rain the following day.

The day demonstrated how lucky we are to live in such a lovely community and I would like to thank everyone who came and who helped make this a memorable day.

Now we need to think of a reason to celebrate next year.

Sarah May

(Photograph - Lucy May enjoying the memorable day)

RINGING FOR THE KING



The Swithland ringers were able to celebrate the Coronation by ringing the bells at three churches and it was lovely that ringers old and new were able to ring.

We rang at St Paul's and St Mary's at 9am. The St Mary's team was Val Capewell, Joan Bertram, David Beeby, Phil Thompson, Richard Thornton and Graham Sharp. St Paul's ringers were Janet Beeby, Chris Newman, John Roberts, Suzanne Cunningham, Guy Jibson and Nick Cunningham. We rang rounds and call changes including 'Kings', 'Queens' and 'Orb' for around 20 minutes.

We then returned to Swithland for 9.30am where we were joined by Marc Wainwright, Jo and Tim Wilkins, Sidney Wareing, Jane Cameron, Chris Battye and David Edwards. David's son Jack and Chris Battye were the official photographers! Here we rang rounds and call changes with all our learners participating with help from the more experienced ringers.

Janet Beeby - Tower Captain



Ringers at St Mary's



Ringers at St Paul's



The ringing team, old and new members, at St Leonard's Church Swithland

There are many interesting people who very often have had lifelong connections with St Leonard's. One such person is David North who, in his youth, was a choirboy and server and who has, over the years, always given willing support to the church in very many ways. David kindly agreed to be the first interviewee in what I hope will become an interesting series of articles about local people to appear in future LINK issues. Editor

DAVID NORTH

David's mother and father were Olive and Eric North who both came from local families. Olive's maiden name was Allen and her father worked for the Water Board. The family lived in a house towards the bottom of Kinchley Lane through the still standing gate which is located before the very sharp righthand bend, and David remembers regularly walking to see his grandparents across the fields and via the railway and reservoir. Unfortunately, the house was demolished but on an Ordnance Survey map the location is marked as Allen's Point, the family surname.

Eric's parents lived in Canada for a number of years where he and his brother David were both born. When they returned to England the family lived on Swithland Lane and it was Eric who had a house built adjacent to Rothley Station and originally began the shop from a shed at the side, delivering goods to his customers on his bicycle. The shop and building gradually expanded and it is where David and his sisters, Gill and Allison spent their childhoods.

Although Olive and Eric were married at Thurcaston Church, it was at St Leonard's that the family chose to worship, probably in no small part because all the children attended St Leonard's CofE School, travelling there each day by using the Prestwell's of Woodhouse Eaves bus service. At this time Miss Winifred Dixon was the headmistress (1941-1961) and school connections with the church were many. David became a member of the church choir and learned to be a server. He can be seen in the adjacent photo at the head of the procession carrying the cross at a 'Bluebell Service' in Swithland Woods circa 1953.



From these times David can recall Mr Dransfield who lodged at Home Farm and helped at the church and both of the rectors, Cecil Harcourt and Harold Maxwell.



David continued his education at Loughborough Grammar School, leaving at the age of 15 after missing his O level year due to illness. He went to work for 2 years in the wine and cheese department of Simpkin and James in Leicester, and from there he accepted an invitation to take part in a food and wine course in Paris. This led to working in vineyards in the Rhone Valley and Bordeaux and

all the knowledge he gained was then put to good use when he began working full time in the shop.

Whilst briefly attending the Leicester College of Art for one day a week, David met his future wife Wendy and in the early days of their marriage they lived at Grangefields Drive, Rothley. Quickly realising that David was spending very little time there, it became obvious that the answer was to return to the shop whilst his parents, Olive and Eric, moved into their own adjacent newly built home. The shop was duly altered and extended and it is there that David has stayed ever since - happily confessing that he really hasn't been anywhere else for at least 40 years!

Whilst establishing the reputation of the shop, David went to Leicester market at 4am on four mornings a week. One night a week he had no sleep at all as he took his van down to Covent Garden overnight to buy the 'unusual' items for which North's became renowned.

Gradually the shop has evolved with David expanding the delicatessen and his son Dominic developing the patisserie department so that now there is less emphasis on the grocery side of fruit and vegetables. The latest venture has been the opening of a Coffee Shop by Dominic and his wife Jules which serves light snacks and - obviously - delicious cakes. If you do call in, there are no prizes for guessing who will be there to greet you!

