



Services for July and August

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

JULY

Sunday 2nd

8.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Steve Delaforce

9.30am

Holy Communion (CW)

Revd Colin Resch

Sunday 9th

9.30am

Family Worship + Baptism
Bible hero: Esther

Revd Colin Resch &
Liz Resch

Sunday 16th

8.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Steve Delaforce

9.30am

Holy Communion (CW)

Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 23rd

9.30am

Morning Prayer

Olga Harris/Gary Lee

Sunday 30th

9.30am

LAMMAS SUNDAY
Sunday Xtra

Olga Harris/Gary Lee

AUGUST

Sunday 6th

8.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Steve Delaforce

9.30am

Holy Communion (CW)

Revd Colin Resch

Sunday 13th

9.30am

Family Worship
Bible hero: John the Baptist

Hilary Ayling

Sunday 20th

8.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Revd Steve Delaforce

9.30am

Holy Communion (CW)

Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 27th

9.30am

Morning Prayer

Olga Harris/Gary Lee

CHURCHWARDENS

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

THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland
in July and August 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





Are you ready for a break?

Now that Summer has truly arrived, many of us will be preparing for our holidays. We will take time out of our normal, busy schedules to do something a little different. Some of you will be looking for active holidays enjoying long walks, cycling, swimming and other sports; some will be looking for a new cultural experience with the opportunity to explore somewhere you've never been before, eating foods you've never heard of; others will be looking for a place of rest and sanctuary with the opportunity to sleep-in or lie in the sun. Whatever you are looking for, and it might just be a mix of all of the above, I hope it brings refreshment and relaxation.

Ever since the beginning of time, right back at the beginning of our Bible, when God created the world, we see that the cycle of work and rest was built into the rhythm of life. God created for six days and then rested for one. This one day in the seven for resting was enshrined in Jewish law and culture as 'Sabbath'. There were strict consequences for breaking the Sabbath and those that did so were to be cut off from the rest of the people.

God knows that we need rest. It is not good for us to work day after day, week after week with no opportunity for rest. Occasionally I meet people (usually those running their own business, but sometimes my clergy colleagues) who just don't seem to know how to stop - in fact it almost becomes a badge of honour "*I have worked every day for three years, and it hasn't done me any harm.*" And yet, there is ample scientific and anecdotal evidence that resting is vital to our mental and physical health. It benefits our immune system, stress management, mood, decision making, creativity and work productivity.

Jesus says, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11.28). I hope that over the next few weeks, you may be able to spend some time resting either by yourself or with your family; laying your work phone to one side and enjoying a little down time. You've worked hard, now take some time to rest.

With love and blessings, Colin Resch.

NEED A PRAYER OR A HOME VISIT?

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, a home/hospital visit and/or communion, please leave a message for Revd Colin Resch on 0116 429 9946 or send an email to revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

For enquiries about christenings (baptisms), weddings or funerals please contact Revd Colin Resch on 0116 429 9946 or via email to revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org

NEED A LIFT TO CHURCH?

If you would like to attend any of our services but find that you are not able to because of transport difficulties, please contact either of our churchwardens who will arrange for someone to give you a lift.
Sally - 0116 2375704 Chris - 0116 2123763



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.
There will be a meeting on July 7th and after the Summer break we will recommence on 8th September.

Everyone welcome

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 next Swithland Show which is great fun for the whole family, will take place on Saturday September 9th. Competing exhibits will be shown in the marquee and the village school. The Tombola Stall and plant stalls, and the famous 'Auction of Produce', will be held in the Griffin Inn courtyard plus music from The Quorn Ukulele Orchestra.

Show Schedules are available from early July giving full details of all exhibition classes.

Amateur gardeners, bakers, artists, photographers, crafters and flower arrangers are invited to enter their exhibits for display and judging, but who will win the prizes on offer?

Kevan Porter

The Parish Giving Scheme

In a recent issue of The LINK we made an appeal for help with our Church financial situation. We asked if you would carefully consider making a financial contribution to the church through The Parish Giving Scheme and, if possible, make a commitment to do so on a regular basis. Just a small monthly commitment of say £5, £10 or £20 would make an enormous difference.

We are extremely grateful to those who followed up our request and have joined the scheme to support us by regular giving. However, we are still way short of our target and this is a little reminder should you be meaning to sign up to the scheme but haven't got round to it yet.

If instead you would prefer to make a 'one off' donation you can do so by either visiting the church website - stleonardsswithland.org - or by cash or cheque payable to Swithland PCC and sent to our treasurer, Mrs Val Capewell. If you would like more information about this appeal, the church or its finances, please feel free to contact Val by phone: 01509 890551 or email: vcapewell@btinternet.com

LAMMAS DAY SERVICE

9.30am SUNDAY 30th JULY



Despite the increased activity of our farmers and even the sight and sound of combine harvesters in the fields towards the end of July, it is easy to forget that there is more than one harvest a year.

Such is the richness of the soil and the diversity of our crops that there is a mid-summer harvest as well as that of Autumn.

The Lammas Day Service, this year on 30th July, helps us to remember and give thanks to God for this early harvest and to pray for the success of the main harvest later in the year.

During the service we also remember and pray for those throughout the world who, through climate change and acts of war, have had their harvest taken from them. The service is also a time for us to reconfirm our commitment to care for creation, reduce waste and live sustainably.

I do hope you will be able to join us to sing, pray and give thanks to God for all that He has given and provided for us.

Gary Lee



Please make a note in your diary that our

BRING 'N SHARE HARVEST LUNCH

on Sunday 24th September

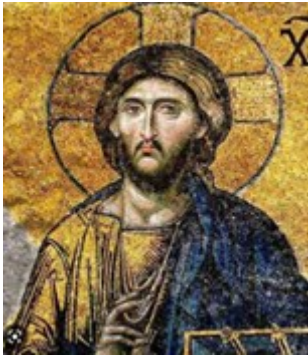
will be held in Church following the

Harvest Festival Service at the later time of 11am

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

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

You are invited to a

Coffee Morning

at St Leonard's Church

on Wednesday 27th September, 10am to 12noon

in aid of

Macmillan Cancer Support

As well as yourself and friends,
please bring along something for our

Bring & Buy Stall

A warm welcome awaits
and we hope to see you there!

ST SWITHUN (or Swithin) - Saint for a rainy day - 15th July



St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days afterwards. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting as Winchester was the capital of Wessex and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960's, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. Finally, on 15th July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was transferred to the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester Cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. It was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.



Readers of The LINK will be aware that every September St Leonard's Church participates in Ride and Stride and has raised a significant amount of money for the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust over the years.

Half of the monies raised each year by our church are given back to St Leonard's towards the running costs of the church. This year again the PCC has decided that this money will be given to the much needed, on going new gas meter fund. The meter is in urgent need of replacement in order to ensure the plentiful and safe supply of gas to the church.

We hope that you think this is a worthwhile cause to support and can be encouraged to take part in Ride and Stride this year on **Saturday 9th September**.

As well as taking part, please spread the word and encourage friends also to take part and enjoy a day that is a fun day as well as beneficial to the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and St Leonard's Church. You can either cycle, walk or drive from church to church making your own route. There will be many beautiful churches open throughout the county certainly worth visiting, some that are not usually open to the public. Remember, the more people you can get to sponsor you on the number of churches you visit, the more money we can raise.

Unfortunately, due to dwindling participants during the past few years, if more people do not feel able to help with this worthy cause, we may find ourselves unable to continue taking part in this worthwhile event which benefits both St Leonard's and the heritage of Leicestershire churches.

For further details and entry forms please contact Martin Greenwood on greenwood287@btinternet.com or mobile 07756 234201.

Hazel Byford very kindly agreed to be the second person in our budding series of local people with longstanding connections to St Leonard's Church. I am sure you will enjoy reading the following which touches on just a part of her very interesting life. Editor

HAZEL BYFORD

Through her marriage to Barrie Byford, Hazel's connections to St Leonard's Church can be traced back for four generations. Living in Thurcaston and unhappy with the Rector there, Barrie's parents along with their children, began to attend services at St Leonard's in the 1930's and, as the adjacent photo shows, on June 3rd this year, three generations of the family were very happily able to gather together to celebrate the wedding of Hazel and Barrie's granddaughter, Stephanie. However, this brings us up to date rather too quickly, so we shall begin again.



Hazel, known to many of us as Pixie (a derivative of Pickles from when she was a child and seemed always to be 'in a pickle'), was born in Rothley and was baptised at St Mary's Church. Along with her siblings she attended the Sunday School there under the guidance of Mrs Ruth Packe, and she would accompany her father to Matins every Sunday - a non-negotiable, compulsory arrangement Hazel recalls - and, as a teenager she attended Evensong with her mother. The services at this time were led by Reverend Hunting. Hazel was confirmed whilst attending school in Scotland.

In 1962 she married Barrie Byford at Rothley Church and from then until 1977, whilst living in Quorn, they worshipped at St Bartholomew's, Quorn, and Barrie became a member of the Parochial Church Council. Returning to Rothley in 1977, Hazel preferred to worship at a smaller church and began attending the services at St Leonard's. Barrie joined her later and went on to become the treasurer of St Leonard's Parochial Church Council for many years.

Hazel grew up with politics always being an important part of her life - her father, Sir Cyril Osborne, was an MP - and her interest, dedication and achievements in this area eventually led, in 1996, to her becoming a working Peer in the House of Lords where she served for 24 years and was Shadow DEFRA Minister for 10 years. Asked "how do you balance your religious beliefs with your work?" Hazel will answer that they are inseparable, they always go together.

Accepting an invitation from Bishop Tim Stevens to become a Lay Canon of Leicester Cathedral, Hazel undertook this role for 20 years during which time she was Chairman of the Cathedral Council for 10 years. Becoming Licensed as a Server at the Cathedral was a natural progression and in addition she became a relief Server at St Leonard's - a role which she still fulfils today.

Now a year long member of the Thurcaston Church Handbell Ringing Group and thoroughly enjoying taking part in their local performances, Hazel confirms that "you never know where life in the church will take you" and that her faith and connections to St Leonard's continue to be a most important part of her life.

OPEN CHURCH AFTERNOONS

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

Call in to see our aerial drone presentation of the church,
have a chat and share tea and a slice of cake with us.



You will be very welcome