



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

**Sunday 1st**

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

**Sunday 8th**

9.30am Family Worship Hilary Ayling  
Bible Hero - Paul

**Sunday 15th**

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

**Sunday 22nd**

9.30am Morning Prayer Olga Harris/Gary Lee

**Sunday 29th**

9.30am Sunday Xtra - Bible Sunday Olga Harris/tbc



**ST LEONARD'S 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 October 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



## What makes a strong team?

If you are the sort of person who switches off at the first mention of football, please skip over the next paragraph. If you don't like mixed metaphors, this whole page will probably annoy you - please accept my apology now.



This year's football summer transfer window ran from 14th June to 1st September. While most of us were concerned with getting a few days holiday, players, lawyers, coaches, managers, boards were working hard to get the best deal possible. Some 750 players within the Championship and Premier Leagues transferred in this period at fees ranging anything from zero to an obscene £105m for Declan Rice moving from West Ham United to Arsenal.

You don't have to be a sports fan to know that a good player on the team makes all the difference to your chances of success. But a good team is more than just the individual players. A good team includes everyone from the players, coaches and managers to the back-room support staff and even the fans. But why, when I really don't care that much for football, am I talking about this now? Because I think, if I stretch the analogy, there are parallels between a sports team and the Church of England. Here's just a couple:

- 1) The whole Church is only the whole Church when every member does their part. St Paul uses the analogy of a body in 1 Corinthians 12.12-27 "The body is not made up of one part but of many ... you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
- 2) We work together so that the strong support the weak. A good team will often see stronger members carrying others in their time of weakness. The Church of England does this through its parish, benefice, deanery and diocesan structures and the pooling of shared resources.

Our Church has now been invited to join local conversations with other churches in this area to see how we might work better together in structures that the Diocese of Leicester is calling Minster Communities. This is an exciting time for us and some of the suggested changes to how we work may lead to increased levels of concern and anxiety for some; but working together is a God idea. God lives in Trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I would suggest that when we work together we form a stronger, better team. If you can, join the conversation, pray and watch this space for future developments.

*With every blessing, Colin Resch*

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH IS ONCE AGAIN**

**HOSTING A JAZZ CAROL SERVICE**

**OF 9 JAZZ CAROLS & LESSONS**

**ON WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER AT 7pm**



If you or any of your singing friends are interested in being a part of the Jazz Choir, please let me know.

Two initial rehearsals have been scheduled on

Saturday 14th October at 10am and

Saturday 25th November at 10am

both at Christchurch, Mountsorrel.



Contact Steve Delaforce on 07786702893  
or [steve.delaforce@gmail.com](mailto:steve.delaforce@gmail.com)

## CHRISTIANS IN THE FOREST

The Autumn Bible Study Course will be  
"THE UNIQUENESS OF OUR FAITH" by Selwyn Hughes

Come and find out what makes Christianity distinctive  
and an essential way of life.



### 3rd October

The uniqueness of the Incarnation - St Leonard's, Swithland

### 10th October

The uniqueness of the Person of Christ - Methodist Church, W/Eaves

### 17th October

The uniqueness of Personal Salvation - St Leonard's, Swithland

### 24th October

The uniqueness of the Cross - Methodist Church W/.Eaves

### 31st October

The uniqueness of the Bible - St Leonard's, Swithland

### 7th November

The uniqueness of the Resurrection - Methodist Church, W/Eaves

### 14th November

The uniqueness of the Ascension - St Leonard's, Swithland

All meetings at 7.15pm for tea and coffee. 7.30pm Study start.

Gary Lee - garyhlee87@gmail.com 01509 890642



### St Peter's Church Mountsorrel

A service of remembering for Baby Loss Awareness week

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 7pm at St Peter's Church



You are warmly invited to join us for this short service of remembering and reflection during which you will be able to light a candle and remember your loss.

This service is for families who have experienced the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or death either recently or in the past and all family members are welcome.



Refreshments will be served after the service so you are welcome to stay and meet with other families who have also experienced the loss of a baby and church staff will be available if you need someone to listen.

## ST LEONARD'S CHURCH FRIDAY CLUB

9am to 10.30am

Every Friday in term time

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 short prayer,  
lots of playtime and singing too.



**EVERYONE WELCOME**



### *Sponsoring our Floodlighting and Church Flowers*

October 5th - Church flowers sponsored by Revd Steve Delaforce

"In memory of my father"

October 23rd - Floodlighting sponsored by Sally Allen

"In memory of John and Joan Copson"

October 30th - Floodlighting sponsored by Val Capewell

"In memory of Pat and Phyllis Close"

If you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion



in this way, please speak to one of our  
churchwardens, Sally or Chris.



### **NEED A PRAYER OR 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 at  
revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org

## THE MUSIC OF JOHN IRELAND AND THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

When asked about his hobbies and interests, the American satirical singer-songwriter and Harvard maths professor, Tom Lehrer, replied “lying down”. Since he is now 95 years old this has clearly held him in good stead! As well as the physical benefits of rest and sleep, they are known to improve cognitive ability and mood and help us to think more clearly. I often get ideas for the subject and content of an article when lying in bed, and I know at least one preacher who finds inspiration doing the same. So here is one of my offerings.

John Ireland (1879-1962) was an English classical music composer and teacher. He taught at the Royal College of Music from 1923 and his students included Benjamin Britten. The majority of his output consists of piano miniatures and songs, though he also composed short orchestral works. His best-known piece is the nativity carol “The Holy Boy”. He also wrote hymns and anthems. Many of you will know that most beautiful of hymns “Love unknown”, composed by Ireland to words by Samuel Crossman (1624-84). Verses 1 and 7 illustrate the love which Jesus Christ has for us.

***My song is love unknown, my saviour's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be,  
Oh who am I, that for my sake,  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die.***

***Here might I stay and sing no story so divine,  
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!  
This is my friend in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.***

He composed the anthem “Greater love hath no man”, a motet for Passion-tide, to a patchwork of verses from the old and new testaments, starting with the Song of Solomon, 8.6-7:

***Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.***

The really important part comes from the words of Jesus in the gospel of John, 15.12-14:

***Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.***

Jesus did exactly that and laid down his life for his friends, and for us, people he never knew. We are imperfect people, yet Jesus assured us that it is possible to love each other perfectly when he commanded us to love one another as he has loved us. What a wonderful message this is!

***Clive Hilton, September 2023***

# Angels At Advent

## Angel Festival

## St Leonard's Church

## 1st - 3rd December



### Friday 1st December

Festival opens from 11am to 5pm - come and see the hundreds of Angels that have flown in with messages for everyone. Plus coffee, tea and angel cake.

**7.30pm an Evening of Live Music** to celebrate Angels and Light.

### Saturday 2nd December

Church open from 10am to 5pm to view Angels. Plus coffee, tea and angel cake.

### Sunday 3rd December

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

4pm Closing Festival Service of Light.

Church open all day to view Angels.

**Free Entry: Collection in aid of St Leonard's Church + Cancer Research UK**



We had a wonderful day, the sun shone wonderfully for us, a little too much some of the time! The level of entries was up and it was lovely to see lots of new names on the entry forms. The enthusiasm from the participants in the various events and our visitors was positively infectious. As always the auction was a great success, as was the tombola. All in all a very successful day in which we raised a superb amount of over £8,000. This year the bulk of the proceeds will be going to LOROS and Rainbows with smaller donations to other local worthy causes. Once again our grateful thanks to the show participants, donors, bidders, our fantastic auctioneer, Jeff Harrison, and our great committee. Everyone's valuable support has helped us to reach our goal and to help others. Without you this would not have been possible. A provisional date for the 2024 Show will be announced shortly. We hope you will be able to support us again next year.

**Duncan Keates, Show Chairman**

*From the Church Registers - 2023*

**Baptisms**

26th February Monty Alan O'Callaghan

9th July Penelope Matusiak

**Holy Matrimony**

18th March Rebecca Wakeling - Josph Cockill

5th May Bethan Miles - James Hadley

3rd June Stephanie Green - Dominic Robinson

7th July Laura Hudson - Shaun Foster

**Funerals**

30th June Patricia Atkinson

5th July Ann Buswell

4th August Timothy Jee



**HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS  
WITH NO COST TO YOURSELVES!**

We are using a great website called easyfundraising to help us to raise money for St Leonard's Church.

Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site and will turn your everyday online shopping into **FREE** donations for us.

All you need to do is sign up and shop via the easyfundraising website or App when you are shopping with over 7,500 brands including eBay, Tesco, Morrisons, ASDA, Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer, Just Eat and many, many more!

Your online shopping won't cost you any extra and we will be really grateful for your donation.

Please sign up here:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-leonards-church-swithland?utm\\_medium=Email-share&utm\\_source=Newsletter](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-leonards-church-swithland?utm_medium=Email-share&utm_source=Newsletter)

**For further information contact Val Capewell, Treasurer -  
vcapewell@btinternet.com**



**Watch out!  
The Angels have begun  
to fly into  
St Leonard's.  
Look up and around to  
see them appear in  
every nook and cranny  
in readiness for their  
big meet at the  
Festival of Angels.**

*I had thought it would be difficult to find anyone with a longer association to St Leonard's Church than last month's interviewee, Olga Harris, but in fact our Churchwarden, Sally Allen's number of years of worship proved to be very similar indeed.* Editor.

## SALLY ALLEN

Sally's parents, John and Joan Copson, were married at St Mary's Church, Rothery, in 1939, and they lived at Hollycroft Farm, Main Street, Swithland. Sally lived at home into her adulthood along with her two elder sisters, Rosemarie and Cynthia and two younger brothers, Roger and Nigel. As with so many people from large families Sally remarks that she can't remember where everyone slept but that the bathroomless house never seemed overcrowded even when hosting an evacuee during the war.

Home was in fact a small dairy farm with Sally's father both selling and delivering milk, cream and butter. It was part of the Lanesborough Estates until 1954 when it was sold and given the number 104 Main Street.

Sally was baptised at St Leonard's in 1943 and has been part of the church congregation ever since. She attended the village school from 1948 with teachers Miss Dixon and Miss Oldham until she was 11 years old when she transferred to South Charnwood School, Markfield, travelling there daily on the school bus.

Sally remembers attending a very active Sunday School held in church at 2.30pm. This meant that on Sundays she attended church three times - 11am, 2.30pm and 6.30pm. Beatrice Bunney and Dorothy Rudkin were the Sunday School teachers and they organised outings, an annual party and Festival each year for which new dresses and bouquets of flowers were the order of the day - see photo of Sally, Cynthia and Rosemarie.



Growing up, Sally joined the choir, rang the church bells, took part in the annual carol singing and Bluebell Services and remembers Harvest Festivals when all the fresh produce was donated to the Roecliffe Manor Children's Home. She was confirmed along with 37(!) others both young and old by Rev'd Cecil Harcourt in December 1955. The reason for this huge number of confirmations was because until 1955 and the advent of Rev'd Harcourt, St Leonard's had been in interregnum and without a vicar since 1939.

The new vicar, together with Mr & Mrs Ernest Gamble, missionaries who lived at the Rectory, brought new life into the village. A Friday night Youth Club which drew youngsters from Cropston, Thurstaston and Woodhouse Eaves, was organised. Regular Saturday night dances were held in the Memorial Hall, weekly Whist Drives took place and Fur & Feather events were held at Christmas. One of the visiting young men at the Youth Club was Christopher Allen.

Many a romance began at the village get togethers including Sally's own with Chris, who she went on to marry at St Leonard's Church in 1964. Continuing to worship each week, their two children, Rachael and Charles, were duly baptised and attended Sunday School. Sally became secretary of the Parochial Church Council for many years, a leader of the Mother's Union and then, upon the retirement of Gwen Gimson in 2008, took on the role of Churchwarden which she still holds today.



Sally will agree that St Leonard's has always been a huge constant and reassuring presence in her life - she is certainly our runaway winner for a certificate of outstanding attendance over a whole lifetime!

## SWITHLAND CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP

Our programme for the coming year begins on

**MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall**

when we welcome back **Vince Jupp** who will be telling us all about "**Salt of the Earth**", a charity close to his heart.

We hope to see you there and please feel free to bring along any friends who might be interested. Subscriptions for the coming year remain at £15 and will be collected during the evening.

The remainder of our programme will be shared with you when we meet. Please let one of us know if you require a lift to the meeting.

**Val - 01509 890551 Sarah - 01509 890547 Janet - 01509 8909805**