



## NOVEMBER SERVICES

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

### Sunday 5th

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Alison Prince
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Alison Prince
4pm	All Souls' Memorial Service	Olga Harris/Gary Lee

### Sunday 12th

9.30am	<b>REMEMBRANCE SERVICE</b>	Gary Lee
10.50am	Act of Remembrance at Swithland War Memorial	

### Sunday 19th

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

### Sunday 26th

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 for The LINK to the Editor: [maryselina@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maryselina@hotmail.co.uk)

More information about St Leonard's Services and activities is available on our website:  
[stleonardsswithland.org](http://stleonardsswithland.org)

# THE LINK

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



Revd. Colin Resch

Priest in charge of the Mountsorrel Benefice

with St Leonard's Swithland

4 Rothley Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7JU

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Our War Memorial in Swithland was unveiled on the 4th December 1921 by Captain Robert Gee VC, MC, MP. It stands there as a constant reminder of those from this village and community that gave their lives to preserve our way of life.

We too shall stand there together to honour them.

### ***Anthem for Doomed Youth***

*What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?*

*Only the monstrous anger of the guns.*

*Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle*

*Can patter out their hasty orisons.*

*No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;*

*Nor any voices of mourning save the choirs -*

*The shrill demented choirs of wailing shells;*

*And bugles calling for them from sad shires.*

*What candles may be held to speed them all?*

*Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes*

*Shall shine the holy glimmer of good-byes.*

*The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;*

*Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,*

*And each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds.*

### **Wilfred Owen**

(18th March 1893 - 4th November 1918)



### **Remembrance Sunday in Swithland**

**12th November 2023**



At 9.30am everyone is invited to join in the traditional **Remembrance Day Service** at St Leonard's Church. We meet to honour the memory of the eleven young men from our village and our local community who were killed in the First World War and the four young men that died in the 1939/45 war.

After the Service in Church which will end before 10.30am, there is ample time to move up to the Swithland War Memorial in Main Street, for a simple **Act of Remembrance at 10.50am**. The names of the Fallen will be read out and a wreath laid on behalf of all of us in the village and community. The Last Post will be sounded at 11.00am followed by the Two Minutes Silence and Reveille.

After the ceremony everyone is invited to share tea, coffee and biscuits in the Memorial Hall.

There will be a Temporary Road closure around the Memorial area for the few minutes when the ceremony takes place. Marshalls will halt the traffic briefly.

People attending will be encouraged to stand in the Memorial enclosure as well as along the pavements to avoid crowding.





## Harvest food donations

Following Harvest Services at St Leonard's Church and Swithland St Leonard's C of E Primary School, all food donations were taken by Val Capewell and myself to the Soar Valley Food Project Hub at St Michael's Baptist Church, Mountsorrel. The photo shows donations from school along with those from church which have helped to restock supplies at the Food Project.

Tim, the Food Project Co-Ordinator, is very grateful for our generous donations and he has asked me to pass on grateful thanks to everyone. Tim also reports that people receiving the food parcels are very grateful. He gave the following update:

- \* 80 food parcels are handed out weekly.
- \* Mountsorrel Baptist Church acts as a hub and reaches out to 8 Churches.
- \* Clients are signposted to agencies that can help them.
- \* A financial coach now works 3 days per week.
- \* It is estimated £15,000 passes through the hub annually.
- \* Leicestershire Council donates £200 per week. Tim orders an online food delivery to the church each week; he orders in dairy products such as cheese, fruit and vegetables to supplement the nutritional value of the food parcels.

Ali Wright

**Please continue to donate food;  
it is very much needed and appreciated.  
You can leave your donations in the  
Church porch or with  
Val Capewell, 1 Leicester Lane, Swithland.**

## ST LEONARD'S MACMILLAN

### COFFEE MORNING

27th SEPTEMBER

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to drop in to our Coffee Morning.

There was a wonderfully happy atmosphere throughout the morning and we raised the very worthwhile sum of **£580** which we shall donate to MacMillan Cancer Support

## 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.



WEDNESDAY 13TH

DECEMBER AT 7pm

at St Leonard's Church

## A STELLAR CANDLELIT SERVICE OF 9 JAZZ CAROLS AND LESSONS

MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE  
'J4J JAZZ QUINTET'  
WITH A CHOIR DRAWN  
FROM CHARNWOOD FOREST



Mince pies and mulled wine

Further details from

[steve.delaforce@gmail.com](mailto:steve.delaforce@gmail.com)

## CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

## Christ Church

Rothley Road, Mountsorrel. LE12 7JU

Doors open at 10am

Refreshments available on the day

There will be a selection of stalls to include:

- . Hand made cards
- . Second hand Books
- . Jams
- . Royal British Legion - Poppies
- . Greetings Cards
- . Scarves
- . Knitted toys
- . Knitted and sewn items
- . Canvas bags and other creations

All proceeds are for Christ Church Funds, so please give this event your support.

## MINSTER COMMUNITIES

Many of you will have heard the phrase “Shaped by God Together” from the Diocese. This has been conversations about the future vision of the churches within the Diocese. We are now at the point of putting these conversations into practice which is “Minster Communities”.

Our first Minster Communities meeting was held on 11th October and took place so that the Diocese of Leicester could outline the plan to create Minster Communities within it. Those invited to this meeting consisted of 23 Benefices which in turn include approximately 48 churches. The churches are spread mainly through north west Leicestershire.

The outline is to group churches into geographical Minster Communities, to work together and be serviced by a mix of stipendiary clergy, non-stipendiary, self-supporting ministers and laity. The Minster will need to be financially self-supporting, which will determine how many paid clergy are available to the Minster Community. The parish share will continue to be paid to the Diocese, but the detail around how this is then returned to the Minster has not yet been clarified.

Each church has a process it will need to go down in order to identify which group of churches it best fits into. The Benefice of Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Swithland can be dismantled, but it may not mean we will not still be aligned with them in a new Minster Community.

The process the churches will now go through is phased:

Phase 1: Preparing - which is estimated to take about 6-8 months.

Phase 2: Forming - which again may take 6-8 months.

Phase 3: Living - which will start when the above stages have been achieved.

The St Leonard’s Parochial Church Council and Swithland School will all be part of this decision process. Please ask questions of the PCC members. We may not have all the answers immediately, but we will keep you updated along the way.

**Chris Watts - Churchwarden**

## *SWITHLAND CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP*

Our next meeting in Swithland Memorial Hall will be on

**MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER AT 7.30pm**

**When our guest speaker, Dave Andrews, will be telling us all about**

**RICHARD III - The Man, the Mystery and the Car Park**

You may think you have heard and read everything there is to know about Richard III, but apparently, Dave will have some really interesting extra anecdotes to share.



**THE MEETING IS OPEN TO EVERYONE SO PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE AND COME ALONG**

Sarah May 890547 Val Capewell 890551 Janet Beeby 890805

## VISTING ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH

Have you ever thought about visiting housebound members of our congregations, or people who have recently moved into our parishes here in Swithland or Mountsorrel? For our housebound, infirm or poorly members it could be for a simple chat to listen to any concerns they might have, perhaps over tea or coffee, and for those who would welcome it, to be able to provide home communion and prayer. For people who have recently moved into the area it could simply be a way of letting them know what is going on (social and spiritual) in our churches and being a friendly face.

If you think any of the above could be you, please contact either Revd Colin, Liz Resch or myself for an informal chat and to get some basic information should you want to be considered for a particular role. Free training will be provided.

Also, if you know of people who would really appreciate a visit and a chat or home communion, please let Liz know (0116 4299946) as she is the first point of contact and visitor co-ordinator.

**Revd Steve Delaforce** [stevedelaforce@gmail.com](mailto:stevedelaforce@gmail.com)



## THURCASTON-SWITHLAND ANNUAL BELL RINGERS OUTING

*Saturday 30th September*

It was the turn of the Thurcaston ringers to organise this year's Tower Outing. We had a trip organised by Morgan Williams, who has just gone off the Lincoln University to study Law. There were five churches just the other side of the A14 in Northamptonshire with a pub lunch.

The Swithland contingent was a little depleted this year with only Val Capewell and myself able to go along. The first church was an eight bell tower at Haselbech. The bells were quite heavy and some quite difficult to pull off. Val and I arrived towards the end of the ring there, to join around fifteen ringers from Thurcaston.

The next church was in Brixworth, with a six bell tower. This was one of only three Grade 1 listed churches in Northamptonshire, dating from Saxon times. The interior was quite simple and the photo shows the tower staircase on the left of the clock.



There was an excellent stop for lunch at the White Horse in Old and we resumed our ringing at 2pm at Mears Ashby. Again another fascinating church with a 'Doom' painting around 550 years old.



We then travelled a short distance to Earls Barton where there were eight bells. This had a very interesting exterior to the tower and we had a good ring here mainly call changes.

Our final tower was at Moulton with the daunting prospect of ringing twelve bells! However, with some expert help from Thurcaston we managed to ring call changes. The front three bells were very light and sounded almost like handbells. This tower had a fairly challenging access staircase but not as bad as the almost vertical ladder at Earls Barton! It was good to get back on the ground floor!



Thank you to Morgan and Tim Holland for organising this extremely interesting outing in a part of Northamptonshire we have never rung before. Some unusual churches for anyone wanting an interesting day out.

**Janet Beeby - Tower Captain**

# Come and see 100's of Angels at our Advent Angel Festival in St Leonard's Church on 1st - 3rd December



## Friday 1st December

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

**7pm** Pre-concert talk given by Linda Burgh.

**7.30pm AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC** to celebrate Angels and Light. Free entry. Wine and soft drinks served in the interval.

## 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 each day: Collection in aid of Cancer  
Research UK and St Leonard's Church***



## *St Leonard's Angel Festival*

In the light of our Angel Festival at the beginning of December, I thought it might be interesting to see what the Bible has to say about Angels. There does not appear to be any definitive list of Bible references to Angels - there are any number of lists on the internet - all of them different! What I have found is that the more you look the more you find. Just dip into the Bible and pretty soon you will turn up an Angel.

**So, to begin with - Angels haven't always existed.** According to the Bible they are part of the universe God created. In a passage that refers to angels as the "host" of heaven, we read, "You are the Lord, you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host .... and the host of heaven worships you" (Nehemiah 9:6). In the New Testament, Paul tells us that God created all things "visible and invisible", and specifically includes the angelic world with the phrase "whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities" (Colossians 1:16).

**There are three types of angels in the Bible.** Scripture names three categories of heavenly beings that appear to be types of angels: cherubim, seraphim and "living creatures".

**Cherubim** are mentioned in several places throughout Scripture. They guarded the tree of life (Genesis 3:24). God is enthroned above them (Ezekiel 10:1-22). Two golden figures of cherubim sit above the Ark of the Covenant, where God promised to dwell among his people (Exodus 25:22).

**Seraphim** are only mentioned once in the Bible. They appear in Isaiah 6:2-7, where they continually worship the Lord and say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory".

**Living creatures.** Ezekiel and Revelation speak of other kinds of heavenly beings known as "living creatures" around God's throne (Ezekiel 1:5-14, Revelation 4:6-8). They, too, worship continually: "Day and night they never cease to sing, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8)

**Angels have a hierarchy.** Angels in the Bible appear to have a rank and order. The angel Michael is called an "archangel" - a title that indicates rule or authority over other angels. He's also called "one of the chief princes" in Daniel 10:13, and leads God's angelic army in Revelation 12. Paul tells us that the Lord will return from heaven "with the archangel's call" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

**Only two angels have names in the Bible.** The archangel Michael is mentioned in Jude 9, Revelation 12:7-8, and Daniel 10:13. Gabriel is the only other angel named in the Bible. He's mentioned in Daniel 8:16 as a messenger who comes from God to speak to Daniel. He's also identified as God's messenger in Luke 1. He tells Zechariah, "I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God" (Luke 1:19). Then we read, "In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin .... and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27).

**We don't know how many angels exist.** The Bible doesn't tell us how many angels God created. But apparently, there are a lot of them! John says, "I heard all round the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11). Every biblical reference to the total number of angels suggests that they are beyond counting.

**Angels carry out some of God's plans.** There are numerous ways in which angels carry out God's plans on earth. They frequently bring God's messages to people (Luke 1:11-19, Acts 8:26, 10:3-8). They carry out some of God's judgements, smiting the leaders of the Assyrian army (2 Chronicles 32:21) and striking King Herod dead because he did not give God glory (Acts 12:23). When Christ returns, angels will come with him as a great army accompanying their King and Lord (Matthew 16:27, Thessalonians 1:7, Luke 9:26).

**Angels directly glorify God.** The Psalmist declares "*Angels glorify God for who he is in himself, for his excellence. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word!*" (Psalm 103:20 and 148:2). Angels also glorify God as they witness his plan unfold. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, a multitude of angels praised God and said "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14). Jesus tells us, "There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10) indicating that angels rejoice when someone turns from sin and trusts in Christ.

**Angels are messengers and Angels are examples for us.** Angels show us what perfect obedience looks like. Jesus teaches us to pray, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10) **and in heaven God's will is done by angels, immediately, joyfully and without question.** Their delight is to be God's humble servants, faithfully performing their assigned tasks, great and small.

Our desire and prayer should be that we will do the same.

**Gary Lee**