

March Services during Lent and Holy Week

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

Sunday 3rd

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

Sunday 10th

Mothering Sunday

9.30am	Family Worship	Revd Colin Resch
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The parable of the Prodigal Son

Sunday 17th

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

Sunday 24th

Palm Sunday

9.30am	Palm Sunday Service	Olga Harris/Gary Lee
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Holy Week

Monday 25th

7.30pm	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Steve Delaforce
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followed by stripping of the altar

Friday 29th

Good Friday

10am	Morning Prayer, Litany and Ante Communion	Olga Harris, Gary Lee/ Hazel Byford
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Sunday 31st

Easter Day

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



St Leonard's Church

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

THE LINK

*With St Leonard's in Swithland
in March 2024*



Swithland Memorial Hall

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



AN INVITATION

Leicester Cathedral has now reopened and as a thank you for welcoming their choir to the Bluebell Service in Swithland Woods last year, is extending an invitation to the parishioners of St Leonard's Church to join



a Choral Evensong Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 17th March.

This will include a chance to look round the Cathedral and to share tea and cakes after the service. Everyone is welcome to attend - please make your own way there.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 1st MARCH 2024

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated all over the world and each year is written by Christian women of a different country. It is the turn of Palestine this year and our service will be held at

St Leonard's Church, Swithland

at 2.00pm on Friday, 1st March

The theme is "I beg you bear with one another in love"

All men, women and children are invited and the service will be followed by refreshments. Do join us. We would love to see you.

**** FIFTEEN MINUTES READINGS ****

If you are using our daily 'Fifteen Minutes Readings' and would like to receive these for the month of March, please email the Editor - maryselina@hotmail.co.uk who will forward them to you.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SUNDAY 7th APRIL

The meeting will follow our morning service and take place at 10.30am. At the meeting parishioners will appoint churchwardens and elect three members of the Church to serve on St Leonard's Parochial Church Council (PCC).

We will also receive the Annual Report and answer any questions you may have about the life of our church here in Swithland.

Nomination forms will be available in the church porch prior to the meeting and completed forms can be left in church or given to Revd Colin Resch before the meeting commences.

Please join the meeting and have your say



St Leonard's Church Annual

'BLUEBELL SERVICE'

is on **SUNDAY 5th MAY at 3pm**

in Swithland Woods by the Great Pit

when our choir will be joined by

The Kibworth Brass Band

All donations for the
The Exaireo Trust
a Christian charity based in
Loughborough to support
the homeless.

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 term time.

Everyone welcome!





Sunday 10th March at 9.30am

We look forward to seeing you on this special day
for our Family Worship Service
when our talk will be all about the parable of
the Prodigal Son.

Do come along and receive a flowering plant to
take to your own mother or someone you love.



The 'Sure Hope' of the Resurrection

The resurrection is the absolutely vital completion of the work that Jesus began on Good Friday. Its importance is illustrated in the following poem by Ann Flint -

*Some of us stay at the cross
Some of us wait at the tomb
Quickened and raised with Christ
Yet lingering still in the gloom.
Some of us bide at the Passover feast
With Pentecost all unknown.*

*The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place
That our Lord has made his own.
If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross
His work had been incomplete
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb
He had only known defeat.*

*But the way of the cross never stops at the cross
And the way of the tomb leads on
To victorious grace in the heavenly place
Where the risen Lord has gone.*

The wonderful sure hope that we have as followers of Christ is that we share in Christ's resurrection. (Romans 6:5)

Benjamin Franklin captured this hope well when he wrote his own epitaph - "The body of B Franklin, printer, like the cover of an old book its contents torn out, and stripped of its lettering and gilding, lies here, food for worms. But the work shall not be wholly lost: For it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and more perfect edition, corrected and amended by the author."

May I wish you all a Holy and thoughtful Easter filled with 'Sure Hope'.

Gary Lee



The Christians in the Forest Lent Course 'Living Faith - Invitations from the Cross' by Krish Kandiah



Our Lent Course continues into March, so join us to discover how the words Jesus spoke as He was crucified were invitations to each of us - invitations to a dynamic, living faith in Him. Each of the Bible study sessions explores one of the sayings of Jesus from the cross, and looks at how we can respond in ways that will not only transform our relationship with Jesus, but potentially the world around us. In his direct and honest style, Krish Kandiah reflects on how the Gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion present His invitations to us, and how He calls us to forgiveness, service, hope, adoption, empathy and trust.

5th March - Invitation to Hope - St Leonard's Church, Swithland
12th March - Invitation to Adoption - Methodist Church, W/Eaves
19th March - Invitation to Empathy - St Leonard's Church, Swithland
26th March - Invitation to Trust - Methodist Church, W/Eaves

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

Gary Lee - garyhlee87@gmail.com

SWITHLAND CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP

Fourteen members attended our Annual Dinner at the Wheatsheaf on Monday 22nd January where we had an excellent meal all seated around a large table - a very pleasant evening.

Our February meeting was held at the Memorial Hall when our speaker was Mark Temple on the subject of 'The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie'. Mark's extensive knowledge of Agatha's life and all the books and plays she had written, made for a very entertaining evening. She had a fascinating life for someone who didn't have an education until she was sent to a finishing school in Paris at the age of sixteen. This was described as a time to 'hunt for a husband' and Agatha was engaged 3 times during this period! Eventually she married Archie Christie who wasn't even one of the 3 mentioned. Her mysterious disappearance was followed by a second marriage to Max Malloran and this sparked her interest in Egypt and the Middle East, which is reflected in the settings for several of her books. Mark also gave us a small quiz during the talk - but we didn't get many of the answers!

Our next meeting is on **Monday 4th March, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall** where our speaker is **Di Beste** talking about the work of **The Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation at Ulverscroft**. Many of you may have already visited the restaurant, with spectacular views over Charnwood Forest, for coffee or lunch and will know that there are an interesting variety of charity shops supporting the work of the Foundation and also an extensive Model Railway which is open on certain days of the week.

As always, partners, friends and villagers are always welcome to come along to our meetings. The speaker usually talks for around 45 minutes and this is followed by refreshments.

We will let you know about the arrangements for our Garden Outing later in the year.

Sarah May 890547 - Val Capewell 890551 - Janet Beeby

**St Leonard's Church is now open
every Saturday between 10am and 4pm
to enable visitors and passers by to call in.**



Saturday 16 March 2024 7.30pm (Doors 7.00pm)
Woodhouse Eaves Baptist Church, Main Street LE12 8RZ
Tickets £5 in advance or on the door (free for those who can't afford the fee)
The evening will include an interval with refreshments available.
More information and tickets: www.resoundworship.org/dseh



Great News! Last year Resound Worship treated us to a live performance of their album 'Doxecology'. Now they are back with another live performance, this time of their latest album 'Downcast Souls - Expectant Hearts - Songs of Lament and Hope' on -

**Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm
at the Baptist Chapel Woodhouse Eaves**

Tickets are £5 in advance or on the door -
(free for those who can't afford the fee)

For more information and tickets visit:
www.resoundworship.org/dseh

**It's sure to be a sell out, so book early to
avoid disappointment as they say.**



Easter Thanksgiving Tree

When you see our Easter Tree in Church please use one of the cards provided to write a note of thanks for all the blessings you feel you and your family receive at Eastertime and throughout the year, or the names of loved ones you would like to remember.

The cards will be collected and blessed at our Easter Sunday service.

DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP DAILY



On Saturday 10th February, nineteen of us from St Bart's Quorn and St Leonard's Swithland, gathered at St Joseph's Tearoom to participate in a series of talks designed to help deepen our daily spiritual practices. Little bits of information were shared on seven key spiritual tools as it is recognised that no 'one size fits all'. The day provided space for several unexpected and tricky questions to arise which were answered wonderfully by some of the participants from a 'grass roots upwards' approach. We are stronger and more capable together!

During the lunch break, delicious food was served at the Tearoom for most of us while a few brought their own, and there were animated discussions which spontaneously developed about minster communities, ideas for future worship services together, just basking in the ambience of a 'heart and soul' warming open log fire, which we managed throughout the day. The study day also provided a first opportunity for Dawn and Steve to work collaboratively in developing the talks and delivering them.

During Lent on both Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings there are follow up workshops at St Bart's Church for anyone wanting to try out or share their experience of working with these spiritual practices.

Dawn Daly & Steve Delaforce



Some Anglican Churches now offer Celtic Services. Here Revd Steve Delaforce gives us an overview of

"CELTIC WORSHIP"

WORSHIP STYLE:

Congregational singing: Plays a central role, encouraging active participation from worshippers with traditional instruments.

Communal atmosphere: Emphasis on building community and celebrating shared faith experiences.

Celebration of creation: Reflects a deep reverence for the natural world, often incorporating elements of nature into worship spaces and liturgy.

Openness to improvisation: Elements of spontaneity and musical creativity are welcomed.

Spirituality: Focuses on a personal encounter with God and an embodied experience of faith, drawing inspiration from Celtic monastic traditions and Celtic Saints.

CHARACTERISTICS:

"Thin Places": Belief in places where the veil between the physical and spiritual realms is thin, allowing for deeper connection with God. This connection can be found in natural settings like mountains, rivers, or ancient sites.

Reverence for Creation: Seeing God's presence in all of creation, leading to environmental stewardship and appreciation for the natural world.

Celebration of Seasons: Following the rhythms of nature with seasonal festivals and rituals, connecting spirituality with the cycle of life.

Storytelling: Using stories, myths and legends to transmit wisdom and values, reflecting the rich oral tradition of Celtic cultures.

PERSONAL SPIRITUALITY:

Contemplative Prayer: Practices like silence, meditation and nature walks are used to cultivate inner peace and connect with God.

Imagination and Creativity: Encouraging the use of imagination and artistic expression in spiritual practice.

Emphasis on Joy and Celebration: Finding joy in everyday life and celebrating special occasions with music, laughter and community.

Affirmation of Life: Embracing the fullness of life, including its joys and sorrows, as part of a sacred journey.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact steve.delaforce@gmail.com

Many newcomers to Swithland may well be unaware of the background to the uniquely attractive building which is their Village Hall. Here, Janet Beeby gives us some interesting information about it. Editor.

Swithland Memorial Hall
A brief history taken from “Swithland Church and Estate”
by Canon Anne Horton and Bob Osborne

The village Memorial Hall was formally opened in 1920 and was built as a permanent memorial to those inhabitants who died in the Great War. It was a chalet type building with generous grounds for village events. The 7th Earl of Lanesborough formally gifted the site of the Hall to the trustees of the Swithland Memorial Fund in 1929.

The Hall was built using the labour of parishioners, including Jack Leatherland, the father of the late John Leatherland of Pit Close Farm, who helped in digging the foundations.



Archibald Turner

Archibald Turner was a major benefactor whose contribution to the building of the Hall is recognised by a wooden plaque on an interior wall of the Hall. Fundraising events were also held, so nothing changes even today!

He was the first of ‘new money’ who moved into the village and renovated an old slate worker’s cottage at 1 Main Street, originally known as The Cottage, now Swithland Manor, at the triangle. His firm was described as ‘elastic and hosiery’.

The War Memorial which stands in the grounds of the Hall bears the names of the parishioners who gave their lives in two World Wars and who we commemorate every Remembrance Sunday with two minutes silence and the playing of the Last Post. It was unveiled and dedicated on Sunday 4th December 1921 by Captain R Gee, VC, MC, MP.

The Trust Deed of the Memorial Hall covered a variety of uses. The Rector was given exclusive use of the building on every Sunday for religious purposes, and meetings to address the spiritual, moral, social or intellectual wants of professing members of the Church of England!

The trustees also permitted the building to be used for lectures, concerts, dramatic performances and other public or private entertainments, meetings, classes and for Parliamentary elections - **but under no circumstances were any intoxicants to be sold on the premises or any gambling to take place!**

Still today the maintenance and day to day running costs of the Hall and grounds are financed solely from lettings and fundraising events. This is the responsibility of a small Management Committee. The Hall and grounds are very popular for children’s parties, family celebrations, community events and charity functions. It is used on a regular basis by St Leonard’s Primary School and also the school PTA.

Please come to the Community Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th March from 10am-12noon. This will be a good opportunity to meet neighbours from both ends of the village and also to see the facilities we offer.

We are planning to introduce an updated booking system this year, but in the meantime, for any booking enquiries, please contact Margaret Hardwicke - 01509 890354.

The Memorial Hall Management Committee
invite you to a

**COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING
IN SWITHLAND MEMORIAL HALL
ON SATURDAY 16TH MARCH
from 10am to 12noon**

**ALL VILLAGERS WELCOME
DO COME ALONG
AND BRING YOUR
FRIENDS**

A colorful illustration of several coffee cups in various colors (red, green, blue, pink) and pastries (donuts) arranged together.