



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

Sunday 2nd

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

Sunday 9th

9.30am	Family Worship 'The Lost Sheep'	Hilary Ayling
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Sunday 16th

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

Sunday 23rd

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Olga Harris/Gary Lee
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Sunday 30th

9.30am	Sunday Xtra Talk by a representative of The Exaireo Trust	
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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 2024*



Who is this King and where is he located at St Leonard's?
Join our Family Activity Trail on June 8th to find out more.

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





Every now and then, just as things are going really smoothly, someone nearby will utter the phrase, 'Minster Communities'.

Minster Communities is part of the strategy of the Diocese of Leicester for tackling the joint dilemma of falling numbers of clergy and a drop in the level of giving within our Churches whilst aiming to encourage the Church in its mission to the local community. It will see groups of Churches working together in a 'Minster Community' that shares clergy and other resources between the constituent parishes. Locally, we have been part of 'Phase One Discussions' taking place in what is crudely named Area Two.

The Mountsorrel parishes, of which I am priest-in-charge, are now moving into Phase Two of the Minster Community Conversations with other parishes in group C of the Area Two discussions. It is clear that, although still in Phase One conversations, Swithland is moving towards joining Quorn and other parishes in group D. It is therefore with mixed emotions that, after six years of Acting Rector, I have asked to be released from spiritual oversight to St Leonard's Church to enable both Swithland and the Mountsorrel parishes to move forward in their separate conversations.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many people within Swithland Church and parish over the last six years, journeying with you through good times and bad. I've married some of you and baptised your children. We've tackled Covid together and I've walked with some of you through the valley of the shadow of death. Saying goodbye will certainly not be easy.

You may be wondering now what the future holds for St Leonard's Church. I have been reassured by Bishop Martyn that Archdeacon Claire will be in touch with the wardens and PCC to pick up conversations about the future. My prayer for you as we prepare for this period of transition comes from St Paul's letter to the Philippians: *'I thank God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one*

began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart.' (Philippians 1.3-7). I will move on from St Leonard's confident that God will watch over you for the future.

Bishop Martyn has agreed that I should continue at St Leonard's until the end of August and we will formally mark this ending with a service of thanksgiving at 9.30am on Sunday 1st September. I do hope you will be able to come to this service when we can say our farewells together. But until then, we've still got work to do ...

With every blessing, Colin Resch



CELEBRATE THE SUMMER

**JOIN US AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON 8th JUNE**

The church will be open from 10am as usual
and from 3pm to 5pm we shall be serving a

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM TEA - £5

We shall also be launching our
FAMILY ACTIVITY TRAIL
when young and old alike will be able
to discover very many interesting features and facts
about the church which they
may never have
noticed before.





RIDE AND STRIDE

This year's Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride, its Sixtieth Anniversary year, is being held on Saturday 14th September. This is the first time the event has not clashed with the Swithland Show for a number of years so we hope some of those who could not participate previously, will be able to do so this year.

I think most of you are aware that any monies raised by the event will be spent on important repairs to historic churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout Leicester and Leicestershire. However, the money raised will be shared equally between our church and the LHCT. St Leonard's share will be spent on church running costs and various charity functions. In the near future we are planning to perform restoration work on the Danvers Tomb situated in the churchyard which is of major historical interest, not only to Swithland, but also nationally. We will therefore be approaching the LHCT to support this work, so the more we can raise will all help.

Ride and Stride is a lot of fun and anyone can participate, either by cycling, horse riding, jogging, simply walking or helping to man the church on the day. As well as visiting interesting churches, some that are only open to view possibly once a year, there is a lot of camaraderie between participants.

To take part in the event, you will require to create a route plan using the list of churches and chapels that will be open on the day. Riders and Striders ask their friends and colleagues to sponsor them - so much for each church or chapel they visit between 10am and 6pm on the day, or a lump sum. This is recorded on your sponsor form and you can take part as long or short a time as convenient. LHCT will shortly issue sponsorship forms, and a final list of churches and chapels open will be advised in August.

Sponsorship forms with monies collected, can be delivered to St Leonard's, Martin Greenwood, or, if preferred, participants can set up their own Ride and Stride fundraising page via the Trust's Giving Page found on the LHCT website.

Martin Greenwood - 07756 234 201

***** SAVE THIS DATE *****

Tuesday 2nd July

The Swithland Women's Group have planned a visit to
Barkby Hall Gardens

followed by an evening meal at the

Wheatsheaf Inn, Woodhouse Eaves

Details to follow, or for more information
contact Sarah May 01509 890547



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

"FIFTEEN MINUTES READINGS"

If you are using our daily "Fifteen Minutes Readings" and would like
to receive these for the month of June, please email the Editor -
maryselina@hotmail.co.uk



SUNDAY EXTRA SERVICE

9.30am on Sunday 30th June at St Leonard's Church

We shall be welcoming a representative from the Exaireo Trust to speak to us at this service and to tell us about the work that they do.

You may recall that donations from our Bluebell Service in May, which totalled £201, were to be given to this charity which is based in Loughborough and whose goal it is to support homeless adults so that they can become self sufficient in the future by giving them a place to live, access to healthcare, assistance with developing life skills and encouragement to return to work and live independently.

Unfortunately, it can be all too simple to pass judgement on a homeless person you see in the street and people frequently find themselves avoiding eye contact and turning away from what is becoming a common sight in our towns and cities. Realising that almost all of these people are not there of their own choice - they all have a narrative to tell and one that is almost never joyful and is far too often harrowing. It is crucial to understand that we, as individuals and as organisations, have the power to change and improve their lives.

The charity's first community home was launched in 2016 and currently more than fifty people are living in fifteen houses in Loughborough and Coalville. They also run a furniture reuse and recycle project, renovating and painting donated items which they go on to sell. They are currently looking for tools for this type of work as their current ones are either worn out or unsafe to use.

Do come along to our service (or take a look at the website) of this local charity, to learn more about their work and how we, as a community, can offer our help.

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH WILL BE OPEN

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

FOR VISITORS FROM 3pm TO 5pm ON

SATURDAY 13th JULY

Join us for tea and cakes and be entertained by the Thurcaston Handbell Ringers in aid of LOROS. 'Have a go' yourself and take the opportunity to visit our Bell Tower.



SATURDAY 10th AUGUST

Join us for tea and cakes and listen to the music of 'Jazz Manouche', a gypsy jazz band who will be playing for your enjoyment during the afternoon.



SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

Visit the Annual Swithland Flower & Vegetable Show and then call in on us for a refreshing cup of tea and cake.

Make a note of these dates in your diary.

Our Activity Trail leaflet and video presentation about the church will be available on each occasion and we shall look forward to making you welcome.



CLIMBING MY GRANDFATHER

*I decide to do it free without a rope or net.
First, the old brogues, dusty and cracked;
an easy scramble onto his trousers,
pushing into the weave, trying to get a grip.
By the overhanging shirt I change
direction, traverse along his belt
to an earth-stained hand. The nails
are splintered and give good purchase,
the skin of his finger is smooth and thick
like warm ice. On his arm I discover
the glassy ridge of a scar, place my feet
gently in the old stitches and move on.
At his still firm shoulder, I rest for a while
in the shade, not looking down,
for climbing has its dangers, then pull
myself up the loose skin of his neck
to a smiling mouth to drink among teeth.
Refreshed, I cross the scree cheek,
to stare into his brown eyes, watch a pupil
slowly open and close. Then up over
the forehead, the wrinkles well-spaced
and easy, to his thick hair (soft and white
at this altitude), reaching for the summit,
where gasping for breath I can only lie
watching clouds and birds circle.
feeling his heat, knowing
the slow pulse of his good heart.*

Andrew Waterhouse

Reading this poem puts me in mind of my own maternal grandfather, a genial, deep voiced steam engine driver by the name of Augustus (Gus) Turner. When I was aged 3 or 4 he seemed impossibly tall to me. He would lean down and pick me up so that I could inspect his bushy eyebrows and look into his laughing eyes. At other times when seated in his favourite chair, he would stick out a leg for me to clamber onto - then he would bounce me up and down while making steam train noises. When I suspected that grandfather Gus was running out of "puff" I would, rather like the child in Andrew's poem, climb my grandfather. Happy days!

Gary Lee



NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

The half yearly meeting of the Leicestershire Guild of Church Bell Ringers was held at Swithland on Saturday 27th April. The Guild gave us a very generous grant towards the restoration of our bells in 2019.

There was ringing from 3pm with some of our ringers taking part including John Roberts, Val Capewell, Jo Wilkins, Chris Newman and Janet Beeby. John was keen to ring some more complicated 'methods' with the more experienced Guild ringers. At the moment, the Swithland band are able to ring rounds and call changes and some simple 5 or 6 bell 'methods'.

Following the ringing, there was a short meeting where Guild business was discussed, including an update on safeguarding for all ringers. The Guild secretary and the Swithland ringers provided a magnificent tea with sandwiches, savouries and some marvellous cakes, all of which went down very well with the 20 or so members! There followed a picture quiz with three teams participating and I'm pleased to say that the team with the Swithland ringers won!! The prize was a box of chocolates which we shared with everyone.

All our learners are progressing well and Jane Cameron, who started last year, is ringing for Sunday services. We have two weddings this year, one at the end of May and one in early June.

Anyone who would like to know about the ringing terms mentioned in the report above is very welcome to come along to our Thursday evening practice at 8pm. Alternatively, the bell tower will be open for visitors on Saturday afternoon 8th June from 3pm to 5pm. Why not come and have a look? You don't have to be musical and all ages from 12 upwards can learn to ring.

Janet Beeby - Tower Captain



JEFFREY CECIL HARRISON

This photograph of Jeff appeared in the February issue of the LINK and was taken on the day he was presented with an award for his 51 years of serving at the altar of St Leonard's Church. Jeff and his wife, Valerie, who sang in the church choir, joined the congregation following their move to Swithland in 1972 and Jeff

became instrumental in preserving the tradition of the 8am Book of Common Prayer Service from that time onwards. He was particularly known for his often very moving addresses at Remembrance Sunday services and admired for his research which resulted in the production of the booklet 'Swithland's Soldiers Lost in the First World War'. After a relatively short period of ill health, Jeff died on the 24th April and a huge number of people whose lives he had touched, attended his funeral at St Leonard's on May 14th. The following are edited excerpts from the tribute of his son Max.

“Only 14 weeks after the start of the Second World War, on 14th December 1939, Jeffrey Cecil Harrison was born to Leslie and Lucy Jane Harrison in Leicester. Dad would often remind people, particularly those who might be offering him a second helping of food or a top up of wine, that he was a ‘war baby’. Never knowing when and where the next meal would be coming from. It was always said with that special twinkle in his eye, of course. It was a tough, humble start. The country was at war, his father went to serve in France as a Military Policeman and where they lived, they had to share the single outside toilet with the next door neighbours. Dad’s bond with his mother was very strong and he always spoke of her with great affection. There was a lot of love and devotion within his close-knit family. The whole experience for them during Dad’s first six years of war time life must have been awful but it shaped the wonderful man he grew to become.

As soon as he could ride a bike, Dad was out there earning some brass. He delivered groceries on one of those chunky old bicycles with the basket on the front. That strong work ethic and determination to get up the hills despite the heavy load, stayed with him throughout his life. He was willing to try his hand at anything. Always a positive attitude in the face of any, and all, adversity. When his beloved mother was diagnosed with cancer he nursed her and was by her side when she died. He was just 18. He was always dependable, caring, sensitive, loving and a man you could rely on.

Dad spoke fondly of his time at the Wyggeston Grammar School and the 4th Leicester Scout Group. Friendships for life were made there. He loved the arts, the outdoors, sport, team work, challenges and hard graft. He aspired to go to the London School of Economics but I think the lure of earning money and rewarding himself with the finer things in life was too great.

Dad married the beautiful Valerie Anne Bennett on 21st September 1963 at St Peter’s Church, Glenfield. He worshipped her. They lived life to the full in Oadby in the 1960’s. Laura and Lucy arrived, many games of rugby and squash were played, family holidays enjoyed and life long friendships and memories were made.. Nest building continued with their move to Swithland. I came along two weeks later, and 111 Main Street would be the family home for the next 52 years. Village life was embraced with great gusto. Dad was one of the founders of the annual Flower & Vegetable Show helping to raise thousands of pounds mainly by convincing people to part with their hard earned cash. “It’s against you, Sir” he’d say with a a wry smile as he upped the asking price to over £30 for 5 tomatoes and a Victoria sponge. Even more for a chocolate cake. Auctioning off the singing of the ‘Five Gold Rings’ line to the highest bidding table at the annual Swithland Men’s Club Christmas Dinner was another brilliant wheeze of his. Happy days indeed!

He was a tremendous wordsmith and a master of repartee. He had a love of monologues, particularly those of Stanley Holloway. Never one to let the truth get in the way of a good story he was quite the raconteur. The vision of him doubled up in stitches, struggling to talk, with tears running down his face as he recounted a tale to a captivated audience will stay with me forever.

Dad stayed in the transport industry all his working life. Which was all his life as he never did fully retire. He tried on a couple of occasions, but when you’re as determined and resilient as he was, you never give up. He was passionate and loved a challenge. Cycling from Land’s End to John O’Groats is no mean feat for anyone but he made it look easy, despite being in his 70’s. He was loyal and dependable. If a job’s worth doing it was worth doing well. He certainly didn’t do things by halves either. He survived cancer twice and had a total of 4 hips. Without complaint of course.

He remarked earlier this year, “I’m in the foothills of a mountain I don’t want to climb”. He climbed it bravely though and soldiered on to the summit. He is reunited with his beloved Valerie once again. This time forever. Look after each other. Rest in Peace”.