



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

Sunday 1st December

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) Gift Service + Paul Brown, CE of The Y Centre	Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 8th December

9.30am	Family Crib Service	Revd Alison Prince
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Sunday 15th December

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Steve Delaforce
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Steve Delaforce
4pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	Revd Steve Delaforce

Sunday 22nd December

9.30am	Morning Prayer	Olga Harris/Gary Lee
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Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4pm	Christingle Service	Olga Harris/Hilary Ayling
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Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

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

Sunday 29th December

9.30am	Sing a Song of Christmas	Gary Lee
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Reverend Steve Delaforce - Focal Minister

Churchwardens

Sally Allen 0116 2375704 & Chris Watts 0116 2123763
St Leonard's Church Main Street, Swithland LE12 8TJ
For more details about our services and activities visit our
website: stleonardsswithland.org

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

A Christmas message from St Leonard's Church

As I reflect on Christmas past, I am reminded of the joyous and heartwarming memories of my childhood. Each year our small family from North London would join our cousins in South London, alternating between homes. It was a time of great excitement, filled with roaring fires, late-night playtime and baked potatoes cooked in the ashes. We'd eagerly anticipate finding our pillowcases filled with small gifts and fruit the next morning, followed by an afternoon of exchanging presents, thanking the giver and gathering around the television for classic BBC variety shows in black and white.

Reminiscent of those old fashioned shows, I am reminded of the timeless Two Ronnies 'Four Candles' sketch where the simple wordplay around 'fork handles' and 'four candles' brought laughter and cheer. Today, however, I would like to focus not on *fork handles* or *four candles* but on the symbolism of a single, small candle flame. Graham Kendrick beautifully captures this sentiment in his words:

*Like a candle flame, Flickering small in our darkness,
Uncreated light, Shines through infant eyes.*

For over a millennia Christians have believed that the birth of the Christ Child brings uncreated Christ light that can kindle a flame in our hearts, shining through the darkness and illuminating the lives of those around us. Each one of us can choose to be that single candle, spreading light and love to others every time it is lit.

As we gather with loved ones this Christmas, either with family from near and far or perhaps feeling the absence of dear ones, let us allow God's light and love to shine through us, bringing comfort and joy to every situation we encounter during this festive season.

On behalf of St Leonard's Church family, I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

The Rev'd Steve Delaforce



Pat Copson - 100th Birthday Celebration
Saturday 16th November 2024

Pat sends her grateful thanks to all who sent her lovely birthday card and for the amazing picture of the inside of St Leonard's Church with the view from where she sat for so many services over the years - it will always remind her of all her wonderful church friends.



CHRISTIANS IN THE FOREST ADVENT COURSE

"MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS" by LIZ BABBS

The course explores the themes of thanksgiving, obedience, surrender, intimacy, sacrifice and celebration. There are six studies - four Advent

studies plus two to lead us into the New Year. Each study is complete so don't worry if you cannot make them all.

Dates and venues as follows:

26th November at St Leonard's Church Swithland—leader Hilary

3rd December at the Baptist Church W/Eaves—leader Gary

10th December at the Methodist Church W/Eaves—leader Gareth

17th December at St Leonard's Church Swithland—leader Jennifer

Christmas Break

7th January at the Methodist Church W/Eaves—leader Hilary

14th January at the Baptist Church W/Eaves—leader Gareth

All at the usual time of 7.15pm for 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

For more information contact Gary Lee - garyhlee87@gmail.com

Join us for one of our
special
Christmas Services

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER - 9.30am

Family Crib Service



SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER - 4pm

Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by mince pies and mulled wine



SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER - 9.30am

Christingle Service



SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER - 9.30am
'Sing a Song of Christmas'

Find out about the history behind
your favourite Christmas carols.
Hear about God's Surprise and
shiver with Shakespeare. There
will be plenty of singing so come
along and join in the fun.