

St Leonard's Church, Ryton-on-Dunsmore: **Newsletter November 2025**

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Benefice SERVICES: November 2025

DATE	Wolston	Church Lawford	Ryton
November 2	11.00 am: Holy Communion.	9.15 am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Messy Church.
November 9. Remembrance Sunday	10.45am: Remembrance Service	10.45am: Remembrance Service	10.00 am: Remembrance Service.
November 16	11.00 am: Morning Worship.	9.15am: Holy Communion.	5.00pm: Holy Communion.
November 23	11.00 am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Holy Communion.	9.15 am: All-age Worship.
November 30 Advent Sunday.	11.00 am: United Benefice Service at Wolston. 4.00 pm: Tree of Light service at Ryton.		
December 7	11.00 am: Holy Communion.	4.00pm: Christingle.	9.15am Messy Christmas workshop.
December 14	4.00pm: Christingle. No Morning Worship.	6.30pm: 9 Lessons and Carols	9.15am: Holy Communion.

At Ryton: Wednesdays October 8, November 12 11.30 am: Holy Communion. Do please join us for a quiet, said service lasting about half an hour. This service is of course open to everyone- not just Lunch Club members.

At Wolston: Midweek service of Holy Communion every Thursday at 10.30am.

From our Minister, the Revd Malcolm Ingham:

Are you ready for Christmas?

Maybe you're one of those really organised people – you bought all this year's presents in last year's January sales. You picked up the wrapping paper when it was on offer the week after Christmas....

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..... you ordered your turkey early.... and booked your supermarket Christmas delivery as soon as it became available. Maybe that's you. Maybe that's not, don't panic, there's still time, it's only November.

But even the best laid plans can sometimes go awry - we once had our turkey order cancelled because of Bird Flu and besides, even if you have Christmas all sorted, what about Easter? Have you thought about that?

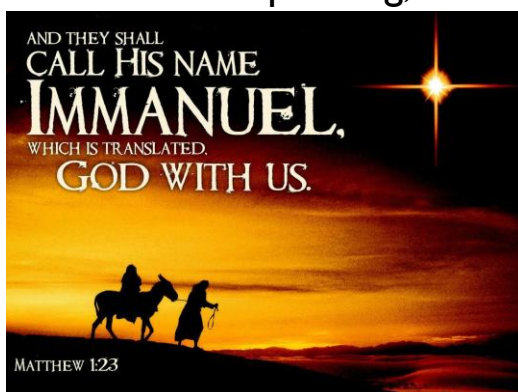
Look, I'm sorry if I've sent some of you into a meltdown by talking about Christmas already, but did you know that God was planning Christmas and Easter way back - back even before the creation of the universe?

You see, nothing we do ever takes God by surprise, God always knew that the human beings he lovingly made were going to go their own way, rebel against him and, frankly, make a bit of a mess of things. God always knew that we would need him to save us from sin and its consequence which is separation from him for all eternity, so, more than stocking up the food cupboard, or stockpiling tinsel, God planned to come amongst us, to show us who he really is and to pay the price for our rebellion, to take our just punishment upon himself so that we could be forgiven. The Bible reminds us in Matthew 1:23 that this is what is called "Immanuel, which means God with us" – the very thing (or person) that we remember and celebrate at Christmas.

But that's also why, when we read the Old Testament of the Bible, we can see it pointing us to Jesus again and again and again. It's not a coincidence; it was always God's amazing plan.

Isn't it reassuring that God doesn't just throw things together and hope it will work? God meticulously and perfectly plans everything he does, and nothing derails his good and perfect plans.

So, if this is the month that you do a bit of early Christmas shopping, or make your Christmas pudding, or write some Christmas cards to get ahead, then, as



you do, remember that, as 1 Peter 1:12 reminds us, God was planning to send His Son to live with us and to rescue us before even the stars burst into life or the galaxies swirled into existence.

Now, that is some forward planning, God must think a lot of you!

Best wishes, Malcolm.

**SOUP AND PUDDS - Saturday
November 8th at 12 noon. Cost
£5 per person.**

**This is a fundraising event for St
Leonard's Church- close to St
Leonard's Day on November
6th.**

**There will be a raffle between
soup and pudding.**

**It is important that you let
Hazel know a few days before if
you plan to come along.**

**We need to set enough places
and make sure we have
sufficient food.**

See the poster.

Contact Hazel on 02476 456711



**The next Coffee Mornings will be on
November 26 and December 17**

Hazel writes:

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting this venture. The next opportunity to join us is on November 26th between 10 and 12 noon. We plan to meet a week earlier in December, on December 17th.

The December coffee morning will have a Christmassy theme and we will have a small free raffle at 11.30ish.

We suggest a £2 donation for coffee/tea and cake or biscuits or more if you think the service merits it!

Come along and join us, and bring your friends!

November 9- Remembrance Sunday.





From the Church Registers:

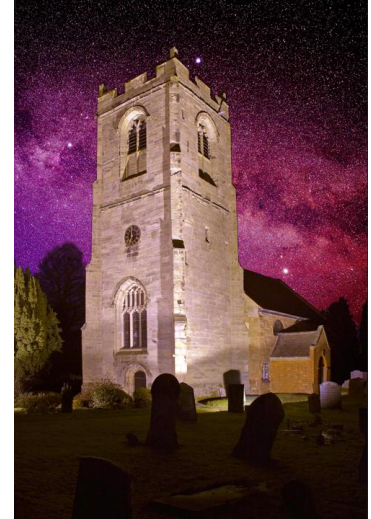
No entries in October.

Church Floodlighting.

October 31: Birthday memories of **Rita and Joy.**

November 6: **St. Leonard's Day.**

Would you like to floodlight our beautiful church in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event? If so, please contact June with the details. Voluntary donations in aid of church funds are welcome: details from June.



Action Medical Research. Thank you for supporting our Quiz Night.

Sylvia Dixon writes: Action Medical Research would like to say a big Thankyou to all who came and supported our quiz last Friday. Thanks to you all we raised an amazing £1,060 .

Well done, Action Medical Research team for organising this much-enjoyed and very successful event in support of a very worthy cause. Editor.



Flowers in church.

Thank you to Janet Smith, who faithfully keeps up the tradition of “Auntie Jean”, so beloved by all and makes sure that there are always beautiful flower arrangements in church. We would like to invite others to cover some weeks, perhaps in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special anniversary or other happy event. You can arrange this either by coming into church to do the arrangement in person, or by making a donation and Janet will do it for you. Suggested donation amount: £5-10. Contact Janet on Tel. 02476 306224, mobile 07471 416636 to arrange your date(s)

Thank you for helping to keep St Leonard's beautiful with fresh flowers.

November 30: Advent Sunday.

Tree of Light St Leonard's Church

At the beginning of Advent,
a nine-foot spruce tree,
covered with bright white lights,
will be put in place by the Church porch.



The lights are in memory of departed loved ones.

If you would like a light lit in memory of
a loved one or loved ones,
please contact Janet Smith on 07471 416636
Email: stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com



A donation for each light
will be gratefully received

On Sunday 30th November, at 4pm,
there will be a service in church, at which
the names of those remembered with a light,
will be read out,
and the lights will then be switched on

After the Service there will be refreshments
in the church centre
The tree will be lit every night until
Epiphany - 6th January.

At Ryton: Tree of light service 4.00pm.

**Please hand your request
and donations to Janet Smith
at 4, Bagshaw Close,
or post them in an envelope
through the door of
Margaret Capp at 40,
Bagshaw Close.**

**Janet will collect if
requested, Tel. 02476
306224, mobile 07471
416636**

LUNCH CLUB- November 12 and December 10 at St Leonard's Church. at 12 noon.

Hazel writes:

Our next Lunch Club will be on November 12th at 12 noon. **There is an opportunity to come to a short Communion Service beforehand at 11.30 am.** Our Christmas dinner will be on December 10th. Cost will be £7.50. Please let Hazel know if you wish to join us. Numbers are limited by the space in the Centre. There will be **no** Lunch Club in January. If you would like to come along, please let Hazel know (024 76456711) by November 9. Thank you. Free transport available.

You are welcome to join us for a short, said service of Holy Communion beginning at 11.30am in church.

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, RYTON

Saturday
22nd
November



10am - 12
noon
in the
Village Hall

We are not
able to take
card
payments
for this
event. Cash
only-
Apologies.

Christmas Fayre

Come and enjoy all of your favourite stalls:

home-baked cakes, pickles, tombola, bottle
stall, a raffle & more!

There'll be coffee & tea with biscuits,

bacon rolls

& hot-dogs!

£1 entry fee



Could we please ask for donations to the bottle stall – (by 16th November), donations to the cake stall and Christmas crafts for the Christmas Fayre.

Our churchyard: Next tidy up session will be on November 15.

The Churchyard Tidy Up normally takes place on the third Saturday of each month from 10am - 12pm.

The November tidy-up is due on Saturday November 15 from 10.00m -12.00 noon.

The work is undertaken by volunteers who give their time to keep the churchyard in an attractive and pleasant state. The jobs include mowing, strimming, hedge cutting, cleaning seats, clearing paths, pruning and weeding. We have the tools to use, all we need now is a few more volunteers. You don't even have to have 'green fingers' to support the team. If you can help, please contact Steve Witter on 07887 833369 or just turn up on the day. Refreshments will be provided. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who volunteers and helps to keep the churchyard tidy. Your help is very much appreciated. If you would like to help this year, we normally meet for tidy up sessions on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am - 12 pm. If you can't manage our regular meeting times but would like to help at a different time, please get in touch with Steve. There are a few people that do this, and it is very much appreciated. THANK YOU.

Ryton Evergreens 50+ Club

We are a very friendly group, who meet on the First Tuesday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm in the village hall.

Transport and Refreshments are provided; we would love to welcome new members.

We have Talks, Quizzes, Games and Raffles- please come along.

For further information contact Bill on 07790 078774 or Doug on 07599 280178.

Messy Church- 1st Sunday of the Month at 5.00 pm

making and doing
talking and singing
fun and thoughtful
friendly and welcoming
something for all ages . refreshments
Come and join us!

Next service November 2 at 5.00 pm.

Don't miss Messy Christmas, on December 7!





Messy church activities noticeboard.

Ladies' Guild: Diamond anniversary. Celebration and farewell.

With a mixture of admiration for all the Ladies' Guild has achieved in its 60 years, and sadness that it will no longer be a much-loved feature of Ryton village life, we announce that November 6 will see their final meeting and 60th birthday celebration, and a date to be decided in January their celebratory dinner.

TWIRLS – Women's Institute

Meet every third Thursday of the month at Ryton Village Hall. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Further details from Claire Jones The Old Post Office Church Road Ryton-on-Dunsmore CV8 3ET 07721 560349

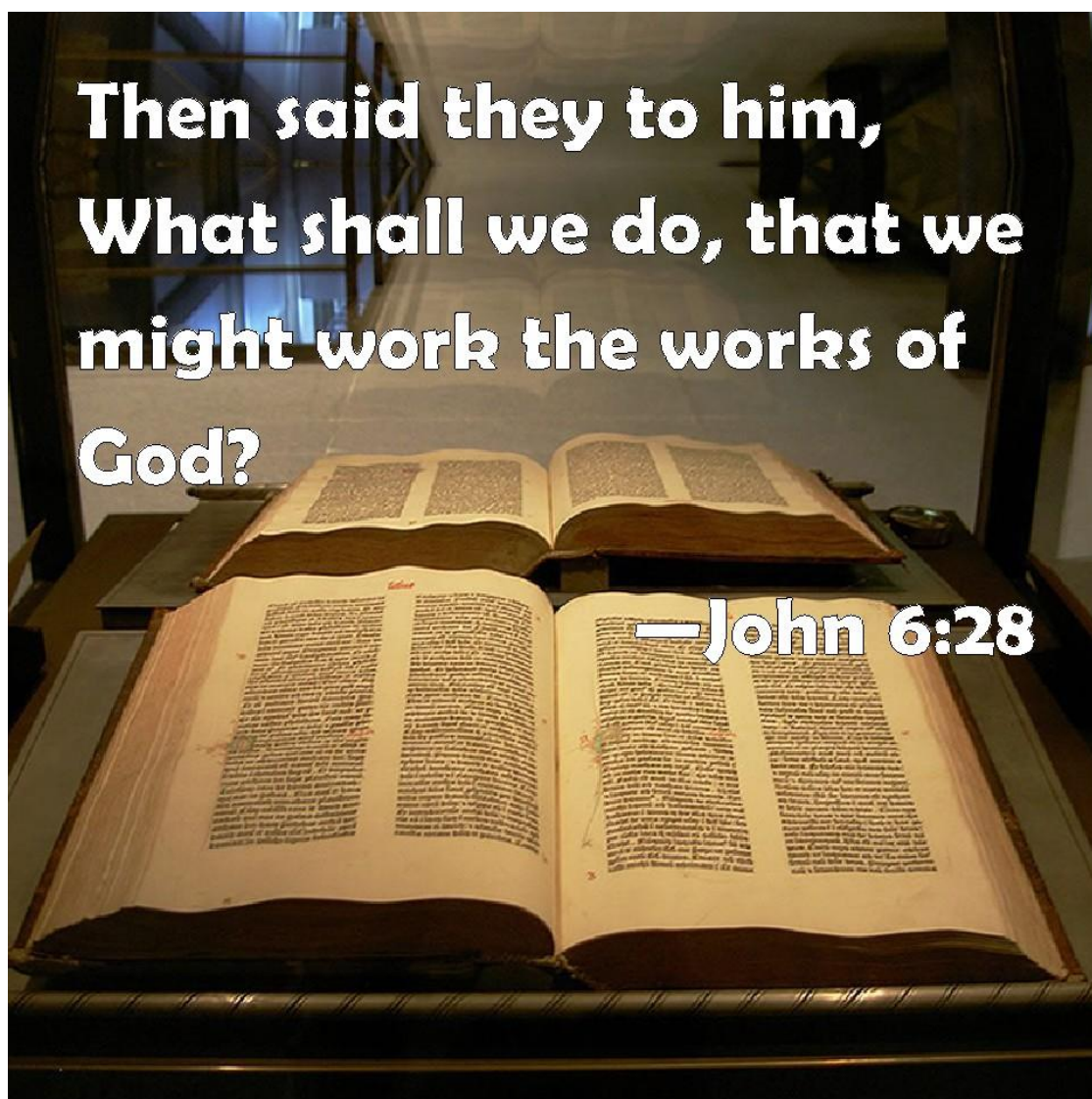
twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com

Ryton on Dunsmore History Group 2025.

We hope you will join us and help support your history group, preserving Ryton's rich and historical heritage. For more information, contact Steve Garrett, on 07587699234 or e mail carrotfromryton@gmail.com

Admission £15 per annum or £2.00 on the night.

What must we do? A reflection from Rosemary.



“What must we do?” the crowd asked Jesus. (John 6: 28-29)

Trying to live a good Christian life can be absolutely exhausting, can't it? If you're a Christian, you're meant to visit the sick and those in prison, put on endless coffee mornings to raise funds for your local church or for Christian Aid, join the teams that keep the churchyard tidy and the church clean, ring the bells, organise events for young people, welcome newcomers to the parish, make jam and cakes for the church bazaar, attend PCC meetings and Deanery Synod: the list is endless. And you're also supposed to be nice to the vicar, indeed be nice to everyone. And never forget to say your prayers.

Being a church member can make you so busy that there's a danger of losing sight of what it's all there for, why we have a church anyway.

A clergyman friend of ours, hassled as most of the clergy are with too many things to do and remember, too many appointments, too much paperwork, too many parishes to look after- this friend said one day recently: “when all's said and done, all that really matters is God.”

“Believe in me and in him who sent me” was Jesus’ reply to that crowd. So what must we do?

The crowd in the Gospel story are, it seems, activists. Good works people. What must we do? they ask Jesus.

And when he gives them what must have seemed to them this somewhat unsatisfactory answer: “Don't do anything, just believe in me,” they persist in questioning him.

What do you do then, they ask.

Come on, they're saying, where are your credentials?

What sign do you do, that we may believe you?

What work do you perform?

This exchange comes almost immediately after John's account of the feeding of the five thousand.

So I suppose the people are after more spectacular miracles of that kind, public displays of Jesus's divine power. Show us some more party tricks like that, they're saying, and then, maybe then we'll believe. Believe that you're the son of God, that you came down from Heaven as you claim.

But that's not the way Jesus works, is it?

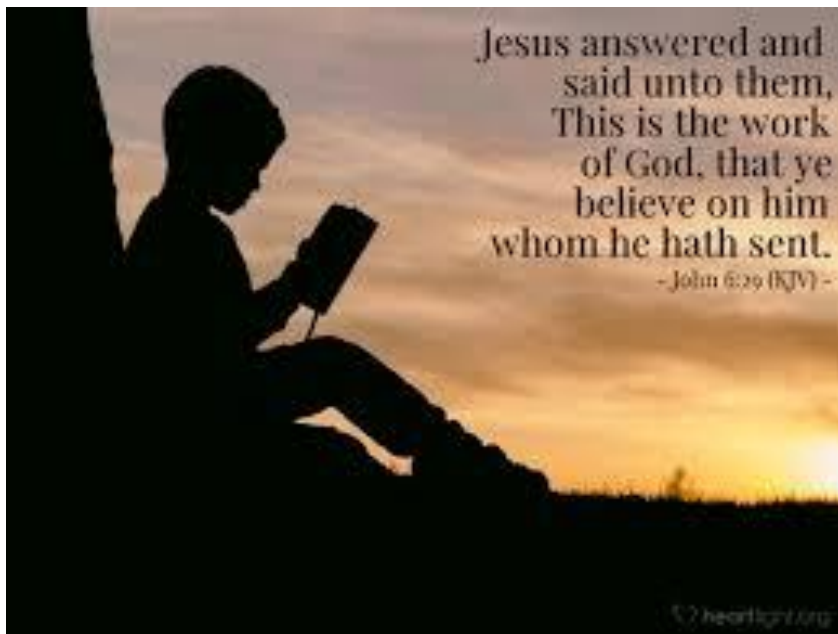
He doesn't indulge them with another spectacular miracle; instead he makes this amazing claim.

It's not what they do-not what we do- it's believing in him that counts.

And for Jesus himself, too, it's not what he does, not the spectacular miracles he performs, it's what he is that matters.

“I am the bread of life”, he says. “ My Father gives you the true bread from Heaven, the bread that gives life to the world, and I am that bread.

When you read further on in this Gospel, you see that these statements Jesus makes - that he is God's bread, the bread that came down from Heaven to satisfy people’s spiritual needs –(just as, in Moses' time, the manna that God gave the people in the desert had satisfied their physical hunger)- these statements don’t reassure his hearers- rather they antagonise them. Especially when he goes on to talk about giving people his flesh to eat and his blood to drink. The people who had been eagerly following him now leave him in droves.



So what must we do to perform the works of God?
Only believe, says Jesus, that's all we need to do. Only believe, and all the rest will follow.
The discernment to know God's will,
the energy and obedience to do it.
The love for others that reflects God's love for us.

The readiness to forgive as he has forgiven us.
The sheer overbrimming gratitude for all that God gives us every day.
Above all for the gift of faith, for our belief in Jesus whom the Father sent.
And don't forget:

“When all's said and done, all that really matters is God.”

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday November 8th, Soup and Puds, 12- 2pm

Sunday November 9, Remembrance Service in Church and at war Memorial: 10.00am.

Saturday November 22nd, Christmas Fayre, 10 - 12 noon.

Sunday, December 21, Carol service in church at 4.00pm.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER BY NOVEMBER 20th PLEASE!

Do you receive your Newsletter by email?

Please encourage others to do so too!

- Email version normally reaches you before the printed version.
- Less work for our committed band of volunteer deliverers, (to whom we are most grateful)
- Easier to read.
- No charge.
- Email version often contains material which there wasn't room for in the printed version, e.g. extra news, pictures, cartoons, jokes...
- Environmentally friendly if you choose not to print it out, instead saving it to refer to when you want to.

Rosemary's email is rosiking2963@gmail.com If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, but aren't yet on the recipients' list, please just get in touch.



Tailpiece:

Church Mouse?

The Lord is my programmer,
I shall not crash.
He installed His software
on the hard disk of my heart;
All of his commands are user-
friendly.
His directory guides me to the right
choices for his name's sake.

Even though I scroll through the problems of life,
I will fear no bugs, for He is my back-up.
His password protects me.

He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies.
His help is only a keystroke away.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the
days of my life;
And my files will be merged with His and saved
forever.



(from the magazine of Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre)