

St Leonard's Church, Ryton-on-Dunsmore:
Newsletter February 2026

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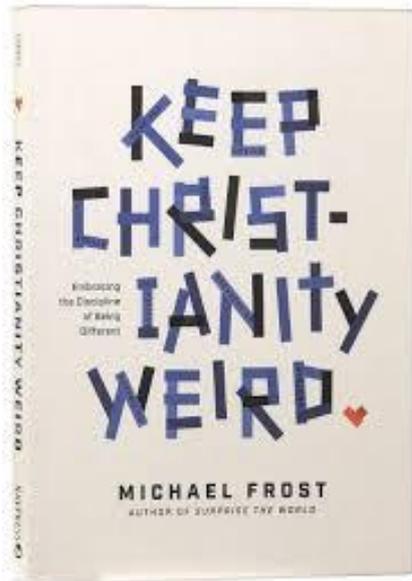
Benefice SERVICES: February 2026

| DATE | Wolston | Church Lawford | Ryton |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| February 1 For Candlemas. | 11.00 am: Holy Communion. | 9.15am: Family Service. | 5.00pm: Messy Church. |
| February 8 | 11.0am: Morning Worship. | 5.00pm: Evening Prayer. | 9.15am: Parish Communion. |
| February 15 | 11.00am: Morning Worship. | 9.15am: Village Worship. | 5.00pm: Holy Communion. |
| Wednesday, February 18 ASH WEDNESDAY | To be announced. | | |
| February 22 Lent 1 | 11.00am: Family Service. | 5.00pm: Holy Communion. | 9.15am: Morning Service. |
| March 1 Lent 2 | 11.00 am: Holy Communion. | 9.15am: Family Service. | 5.00pm: Messy Church. |
| March 8 Lent 3 | 11.00am: Morning Worship. | 5.00pm: Evening Prayer. | 9.15am: Parish Communion. |

At Ryton: Wednesday February 11 and Wednesday, March 11: 11.30 a.m: Holy Communion. This service is of course open to everyone- not just Lunch Club members.

At 10:30 on Thursday morning every week there is a service of Holy Communion at St. Margaret's church, Wolston. Also, of course, open to everyone.

From our Minister, the Revd. Malcolm Ingham.



We're weird.

There's something strange about Christians, no, really. I'm happy to admit it. You see, although we all find it hard at times, what makes us weird is that we love one another.

In the first century pagan world, it wasn't the brilliant theological arguments that won people over, the stunning architecture of their meeting halls, or the cutting edge songs that they incorporated; it was love. Tertullian lived in North Africa around 160–220 AD and he had a goal – he wanted the people who lived around Christians to see just how weird we are, because this is

what Tertullian longed for non-Christians to think when thought about us: “Look . . . how they love one another (for they themselves [pagans] hate one another); and how they are ready to die for each other (for they themselves are readier to kill each other).”

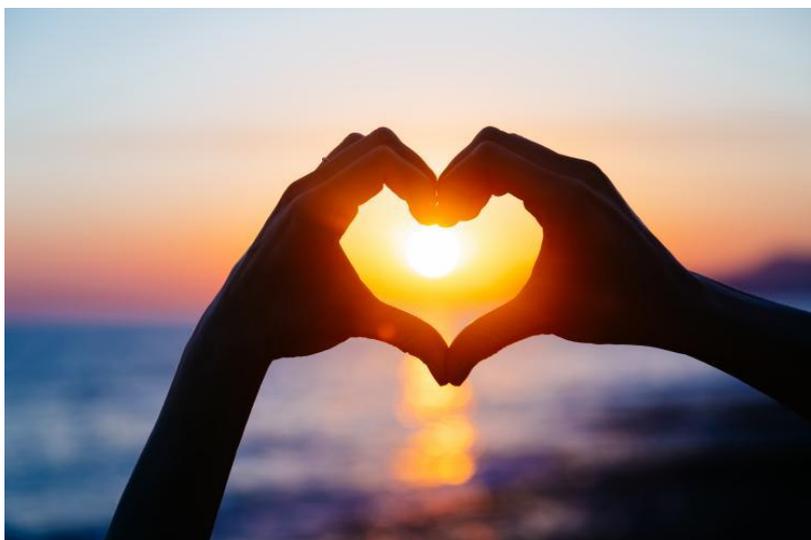
In a world where flags become weapons, where allies become aggressors, where friends become enemies, there never was a better time for Christians to demonstrate our weirdness – our love for one another.

You see, Tertullian was merely repeating what Jesus himself had said. In the upper room, after the Last Supper and before his arrest, crucifixion and resurrection Jesus addressed his disciples, and this is one of the things that he told them: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (Matthew 13:34-35).

February urges us to find that one unique person who makes us whole, - actually, I'd argue that's Jesus- but look, when it comes to loving people, Christians are called to love one another. What marks us out as Jesus' disciples is not that we're super spiritual, not that we're more holy than anyone else, not that we've got our Christian life sorted.

No, what marks us out as follower of Jesus is that we love all the other followers of Jesus we find ourselves amongst.

Because Jesus loves them the same as he loves us - and that's a great witness to a world currently tearing itself apart.



I'm going to say with absolute certainty that it isn't appropriate to send every Christian you know a dozen red roses this month, but if you follow Jesus, if you have set him apart in your heart, then make sure there is room in there as well for your fellow disciples.

Why not find a way or a word to express that to one or two, so that the watching world sees with shock that these Christians really do love each other just as Jesus loves us. Let your heart point to Jesus.

Best wishes, Malcolm

Our local Air Ambulance have sent their thanks for the donation of £50 made as a result of the St. Leonard's Carol Service in December. Thank you to all who came, enjoyed the service and contributed.

From the Church registers: No entries for December or January.



Shrove Tuesday: February 17 at 7.30 pm.
Quiz evening in St Leonard's Church Centre.

We are holding our traditional Shrove Tuesday puzzles and pancakes evening in the Church Centre on the 17th February.

Entry £5 including pancakes. Teams of 4-6 members. Bring your own drinks - but tea/ coffee in the interval will be provided free of charge.

Contact Carolyn Reily (07879 024756230) or Barbara Marsh (02476 304295/ 07813618035) for details.



The Mummers were out in Ryton, Bubbenhall, Baginton and- for the first time- Wolston on December 19.

“Old Father ChrisMAD” (sic) The Revd David Wintle, sent this report:
The Ryton on Dunsmore Christmas Mumming Play was written down from the memory

of "two young parishioners" by the Rev'd Alfred Starkey (who will also be remembered as the founder of the original Ryton Star football team), and published in 1898. Since 2002 it has been performed every year in the pubs of Ryton, Bubbenhall and Baginton by a local group. This year the tour took place on 19 December; the Knightlow Morris Men danced at the Blacksmiths' Arms before the first performance, and Wolston was included for the first time. A modest £85.20 was collected and divided between the four churches. At the moment we are "cash only", but we hope next year to enter the electronic age and boost our collection.

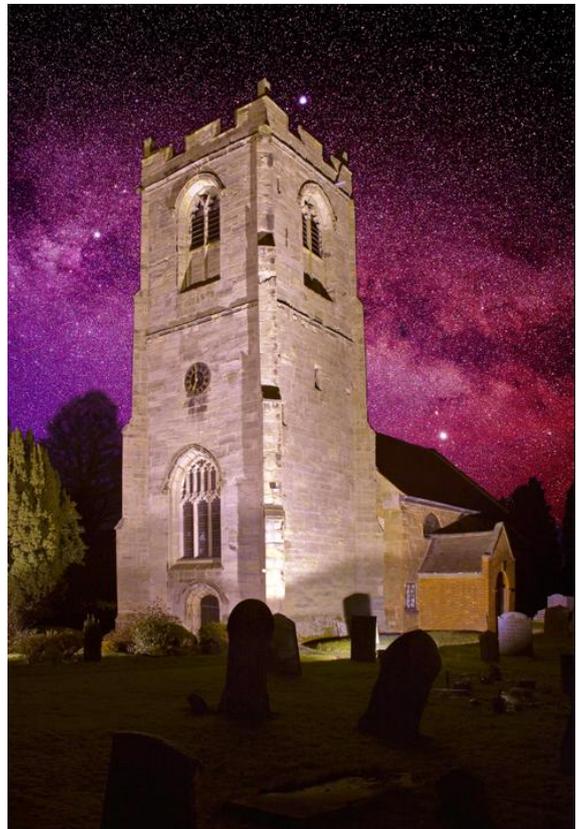


David also reported on Wassailing Ryton Wassail began when the Community Orchard was planted in 2011. This year's Wassail happened on the evening of 19 January. The Knightlow Morris Men danced, and then a noisy procession wound its way to the Community Orchard, where the trees were woken up with songs and shouts and the bashing of pots and pans, and the Wassail cup was passed around. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

St. Leonard's Church Floodlighting

February 15 Birthday Memories of
**Connie West and
Meg Jephcote.**

- **Many thanks to June Backholler for devising and organising the Floodlighting scheme over many years.**
- **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, or from Janet Smith on 02476 30622.**



LUNCH CLUB ON FEBRUARY 11th at 12 noon.

We will be meeting again after a break in January. Cost is £5 for a 2 course meal and drinks. Also there is a free raffle. If you would like to join us please contact Hazel on 02476456711. Transport is available.



COFFEE MORNING . 10 - 12 Noon.

We look forward to welcoming you for coffee or tea and a chat on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The February gathering will be on **February 25th. Please bring your friends.**

Contact Hazel on 02476 456711 about Lunch Club and Coffee Mornings.



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Thank you!

- Approximately £570 was raised for the Tree of Light: Thank you for your generous contributions.
- And a heartfelt thankyou to the ladies who gave time and money with their beautiful arrangements to celebrate Christmas.
- 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)
- **November 22: Christmas Fayre.** Thank you to those who organised this popular event, contributed to and manned the stalls and set up beforehand and cleared away afterwards. And thank you to all who supported our Parish Church by attending the Fayre. Around £1300 was raised for church funds.

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.

Our churchyard: Tidy up sessions.



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



You are respectfully reminded please to remove Christmas wreaths placed on graves in memory of loved ones as soon as possible. The Churchyard Tidy-up team will in February start removing and disposing of any wreaths that remain. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Thank you to Tidy-up volunteer David Butler for clearing the entrance from the car park and planting the area with snowdrops.

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 February 1 at 5.00 pm.



Why, Granny? A reflection from Rosemary.



One of my favourite people is my grandson Edward. Edward is grown up now, with a baby daughter called Eliza.

I recently came across an old photograph of him when he was three, and was at the stage where children keep asking “Why”.

You know the kind of thing: Why is grass green? Because, Edward, it’s got stuff in it called chlorophyll. Oh. Why? So it can make its food and grow nice and juicy.

Oh. Why? So the sheep can eat it. And the cows? And the cows. And the horses? Yes, Edward, and the horses. Oh. Why?

Most of us have known, or still know, small children who are going through that stage. And they go on and on and on, don't they, and each answer you give leads to another "Why?" Partly they really want to know, and partly it's a game, a lovely game to get the attention of their elder brothers and sisters, their parents and their long-suffering grandmas and grandpas.

Another thing that three-year olds, and their grandmas, enjoy, is playing with sand. Take a glass full of sand. Pour it from one glass into another. And ask yourself a question: How many grains of sand are there in this glass? What do you think? Have a guess. Estimates vary, but probably between one and a half million and three million. That's in a glass. How many on a beach, do you think? How many grains of sand on all the beaches in the world? Just listen to this. It's taken from an article by Russell Stannard, emeritus professor of physics at the Open University.

"The Earth", he writes, "is one of nine planets belonging to the Sun. The Sun is a great ball of fire, so large that a million Earths could fit inside it. The Sun is a medium-sized star, situated in the outer suburbs of the Milky Way galaxy. The galaxy contains 100 billion stars. That's 20 stars for every man, woman and child on Earth. But that's just our galaxy: There are others. How many? One hundred billion galaxies. That is 20 galaxies for every man, woman and child on Earth.

"If you add together all the stars of all the galaxies", Professor Stannard continues, "the total number of stars in the universe is approximately the same as the number of grains of sand on all the beaches on the whole of our world.

"Some of the galaxies lie so far away from us, he continues, that it takes almost 12 billion years for their light to reach us- even though light travels at 300,000 Km per second. The universe is seriously BIG"

The sheer size of the universe boggles your mind, doesn't it? But the really big question, the really important question, is the question that Edward, and all three year olds, ask.



Image: Hubble space telescope.

WHY? Why is grass green? Why is the sky blue? Why is the universe so vast? Why is there a universe at all? Why is there something rather than nothing? What's it all for? And where, what and who is the power that makes it all exist?

Edward's baby daughter Eliza is just four months old. I really look forward to the time when she is three and starts asking impossible questions.

Lord, when we think about the vastness of the universe, we are amazed. When we look at the intricate veining of a dragonfly's wing, or the delicate symmetry of a snowflake, we are amazed. What's it all for, Lord? Why are we here Lord?

Who are you, Creator God?

Ryton on Dunsmore History Group.

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.



John Church writes: We can now take all ink cartridges, laser and toner cartridges, although we only get paid for the chunky types; the others are disposed of without going into land fill.

If anyone has the chunky printer cartridges that we can recycle, please let me have them- there is a plastic box for them just outside the Ryton Church Centre door. At Bubbenhall, please leave your cartridges at the back of church, or with Craig Greenway.

Stop Press: I have just received notification from recycle 4 charity that we will be receiving £25.00 for our recycled printing cartridges.



Tailpiece: How not to resist temptation: the dress.

The vicar was furious when he came across a receipt for a dress his wife had bought for £750. "How could you do this!" he exclaimed. "You know we're not that well off, it's a wicked extravagance!"

"I don't know," she wailed, "I was standing in the shop looking at the dress. Then I found myself trying it on. It was as if the Devil was whispering to me, 'Wow, you look great in that dress. You should buy it.'"

"Well," the vicar persisted, "You know how to deal with him! Just tell him: 'Get thee behind me, Satan!'"

"I did," replied his wife, "but then he said 'It looks even better from behind.'"

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER BY FEBRUARY 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.