

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

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“I’m very thankful for those that I see in rural ministry, and also encouraged,” says Archbishop Sarah Mullally. Rural is different, and should be celebrated, “I always feel that the small rural parish church isn’t a failed church: it’s a flourishing, small, rural church.” *Quoted in the Church Times, April 10 2026.*

You can hire our church hall for either one-off occasions or regular meetings. Contact Emma Hunt
stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com

Benefice SERVICES: May 2026			
DATE	Wolston	Church Lawford	Ryton
May 3: Easter 5.	11.00am: Holy Communion.	9.15am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Messy Church.
May 10: Easter 6.	11.00am: Morning Worship.	5.00pm: Evening Prayer.	9.15am: Parish Communion.
Thursday, May 14: ASCENSION DAY	10.30am: United Benefice Ascension Day Service Holy Communion at St. Margaret's Church, Wolston.		
May 17: Easter 7	11.00am: Morning Worship.	9.15am: Holy Communion	5.00pm: Holy Communion.
May 24: Pentecost. (Whit Sunday)	11.00 am: Holy Communion.	5.00 pm: Holy Communion	9.15am: Morning Service.
May 31: Trinity Sunday.	11.00am: United Benefice Holy Communion at St. Leonard's Church, Ryton.		
June 7: The First Sunday after Trinity.	11.00am: Morning Worship.	9.15am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Messy Church.

DATE	Wolston.	Church Lawford.	Ryton.
June 14: The Second Sunday after Trinity.	11.00am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Holy Communion.	9.15am: Parish Communion.

At Ryton: Wednesday, May 13 and Wednesday, June 9: 11.30 am: 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.

THURSDAY MAY 28TH at 7pm in the CHURCH CENTRE.

Annual Church Meeting.

Friends of St Leonard's church,

This is your opportunity to support the PCC and to discuss the Annual Report for 2025.

Please come along and share your ideas.

From our Minister, the Revd Malcolm Ingham.

What is the world coming to?



I'm writing this article a little earlier than normal, which means that there will be an even longer lead-in time between it being penned and printed; and so, in the fast-changing world

in which we live, who knows what might have taken place by then?

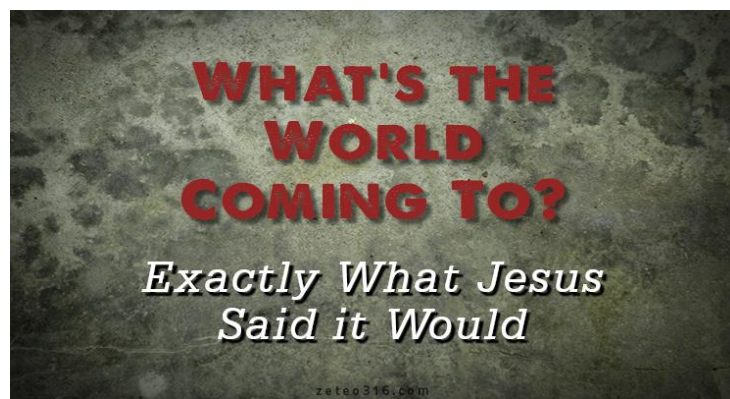
Generally, the answer that we would all lean towards in 2026 is "something less than good." The world seems to be unstable, uncertain, unpredictable.

At one time asking “what is the world coming to?” was simply a comment on TV programmes, clothing - or the hairstyles and musical preferences of young people (and let’s not forget, that included us at one point.) But now it is all about an economic crisis, the fracturing of once secure friendships and treaties, and the ever increasing possibility of global conflict.

So, what is the world coming to?

In the light of Easter, in the glow of the new dawn on Resurrection Sunday, in the secure knowledge that Jesus has risen and not only risen but ascended to reign at God’s right hand in glory (Ascension Day service at 10.30am on Thursday 14th May at St. Margaret’s), we can be certain that the world is coming to a glorious and wonderful recreation at God’s sovereign command.

In the 90’s, the alternative rock band REM sang that “It’s the end of the world as we know it” ; and whilst the Bible confirms that this will happen, it is not a cause for despair but for hope. The world that we know is one full of selfishness, greed, pain, war, anger, pettiness and struggle, but the Bible points us to a time when God will recreate the world according to his beautiful plan, where he will live with his people (God in our midst – can you imagine that?) and where “there will be no more death, or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”



Is the current chaotic world building towards that now ?
Who knows? The answer, Jesus tells us, is, no-one; only God knows the day and the hour, so don’t assume that I (or anyone else) is saying that it is.

But what I am saying is don’t worry, don’t panic, don’t let anxiety overwhelm you. Trust in the risen Jesus as your Saviour, trust in his Holy Spirit to guard your heart, and trust in God the Father who is sovereign over all creation, all countries, all rulers.

The new world, the new creation is coming- and God wants you to enjoy it for all eternity. In a chaotic world, isn’t it good to remember that we have a good and sovereign God?

Best wishes, Malcolm.

From the Church registers:

April 12 at St Giles' Church, Bubbenhall, the Baptism of **Elizabeth Ann King**
(Eliza)

May she grow up healthy, happy and kind.

April 27 at St Leonard's Church, Ryton, the Funeral of **Marietta Medcraft**.

May she rest in peace.

Church Floodlighting.

May 3: Birthday memories of **Doreen Sylvia Howard**.

May 7: Birthday Memories of **Daisy Jones**.

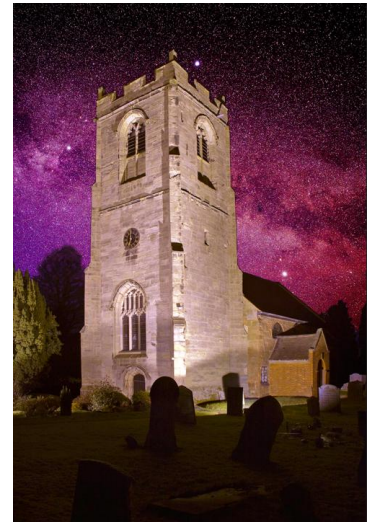
May 8: In Memory of **Ron Backholler**.

May 16: Anniversary memories of **Harry Treen**.

May 19: In Memory of **Ann Crosbie**.

May 22: In memory of **Doris Backholler**.

May 28: In memory of **Kathleen Perry**.



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 306224.**
- **God, the Bible and Everything (in 60 Minutes)**
Brace yourself for a hilarious one-man show with BBC comedy writer James Cary (Miranda, Bluestone 42).
In just 60 minutes, James unpacks the entire Bible—yes, the whole thing—with jokes, props, a big screen, and maybe a song.
Can he pack all this into an hour? Come and find out!
- **Saturday 16th May 7.30pm, St. Margaret's Wolston**
- **Tickets £8- More details soon.**



St. Leonard's Church Ryton-on-Dunsmore Did You Know?

Our lovely church was founded in 1080 and is one of the oldest churches in Warwickshire. Imagine the styles of villagers' costumes, over the ages, walking through the Norman doorway.

It costs nearly £2,000 per month to keep that door open.

This only includes essentials such as the Insurance, Heating, Lighting, Water, Cleaning, Churchyard Maintenance and Parish Share.

We want to keep that beautiful door open for our community- but we cannot do it on our own!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP US

1. Come and join our friendly congregation at one of our weekly services – children are always welcome.

2. Make regular donations through the envelope scheme or Direct Debit.

Sort Code: 09 01 54, Account Number 99403282, please put Appeal and your surname as the reference. Cheques payable to St Leonard's Church, Ryton

3. Make a one-off donation.

4. Support our fundraising activities.

5. Consider leaving a gift to St Leonard's in your will.

Find out more at www.stleonardschurchryton.org.uk

Open Day on April 12 **Barbara Marsh reports: *The Open Church was a happy event providing an opportunity for villagers to visit and explore our beautiful building guided by members of the PCC. It was lovely to see new faces among our visitors and to have the opportunity to chat over tea and cake.***

Lunch Club. Second Wednesday in the month at 12.00 noon in the Church Centre.

A 2 course meal costs £5 and transport is available. There is an opportunity for you to attend the short, said Communion Service at 11.30 am. Please contact Hazel on 02476 456711.

Coffee Morning



This is becoming a very popular event. Why not come and join us for coffee, tea, cake and biscuits in the Church Centre? The May meeting will be on May 27 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Please bring your friends. We suggest a £2 donation.

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

CHOIR The Ryton Choir is still happening!

From Choir mistress Barbara Marsh: *We meet on Wednesday evenings, meeting at 99 High St Ryton from 7 - 8pm.*

We're now called 'Ryton Village Voices' and sing a wide variety of pieces, from church music through sea shanties to popular classics. New members are always welcome.

Contact Ba on geoffandba@gmail.com Tel 02476 304295



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.

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.

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH PLANT & CAKE SALE



Saturday 16th of May, 2-4pm

Venue: St Leonard's Church



Tea & Coffee Available



All proceeds support medical research for children

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH : Sylvia Dixon writes:
We are having a Cake and Plant sale on Saturday 16th May 2-4pm at St Leonard's Church.
Please come and join us, refreshments available.
Thankyou.

St Leonard's Church Clock

Many people will be wondering what's happened to the church clock. Geoff Marsh writes:

The Church Clock has a problem!

When the clock was moved on an hour for the hour change last month its minute hand mysteriously stopped rotating.

Shortly afterwards the minute hand fell off the clock completely.

It turns out that the three foot long steel shaft which moves the hand has completely corroded through and broken.

Smiths of Derby, who carry out the annual maintenance on the clock, have been to investigate and at the time of writing we are awaiting their report and estimate of the cost for the repair.

As the repair will involve having to manufacture a new shaft and access the face of the clock to fit it either with scaffolding or ropes, we are concerned that it could be quite expensive.

The corroded and broken church clock minute hand.





Church Noticeboard: The main noticeboard was getting a bit dilapidated, and Geoff and Ba Marsh have kindly undertaken the task of renovating it. They finished the task earlier in April and convey their thanks to Councillor Dale Keeling for organising the new 'St Leonard's' sign and providing the wood for it and to Mick Sloyan of Stretton who did the engraving free-of-charge.

Geoff adds: *One piece of good news is that we have rehung the doors to the noticeboard so you don't now need a stick from the cherry tree to wedge them shut!*

Sincere thanks to Geoff and Ba for heading up this very successful project.

Thank you! 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)



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.

RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE

TWIRLS

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Thursday 21st May at 7:30pm



New Venue:

St Leonard's Church Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore



Members:
FREE



Visitors:
£6 – very welcome



Raffle
£1 per ticket or
£3 for 5 tickets

An interesting talk from **Silvertime Legal** about Estate Planning

“Tax, Care and The New Guy”

The talk is called “**Tax, Care and The New Guy**” and during the session,



• **Wills:** Why they matter and the different types available



• **Trusts:** How they can help protect your assets



• **Lasting Powers of Attorney:** Understanding their role in planning ahead



• **Sideways Disinheritance:** Issues that can arise from remarriage and how to avoid them



• **Inheritance Tax:** Breaking it down in simple terms



A combination of expert insight with real-world examples and a touch of humour * helping people feel confident about **important life decisions**.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles



Email: twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com

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

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 services: May 3 & June 7 at 5.00 pm.



**A reflection from Rosemary:
Is the Lord among us or not?**

When the nomad people of Israel, journeying through the desert, see themselves, their children, and their livestock beset with the terrible torment of thirst, it's no wonder that they

cry out their desperation to their leader Moses, and ask whether God has forsaken them.

Is the Lord among us or not? They demand.

It's a question we may well be asking ourselves today.

War in Ukraine, war in Iran, the cruel civil war in Sudan, why you ask yourself, why does God allow such things? War with its terrible toll of death, rape, suffering of so many ordinary people like us, people who just want to get on with their lives in peace.

Is the Lord among us, or not?

It's clear isn't it, that whoever and whatever God may be, he allows disasters to happen.

And it's not just wars: We see climate change causing disaster everywhere where prolonged drought is bringing about crop failure and the consequent death of cattle and people, especially the vulnerable aged and the very young. We see people here in Britain suffering from cancer, poverty, addiction, homelessness, cruelty.

So where is God in all this? Is the Lord among us or not?

Well, where else could God- the God that was born at Christmas, the Word made flesh that died on a cross- where else *could* a God like that be but in each wounded and maimed soldier, each violated woman and child, each shivering, desperate refugee? Where else but inside each bereaved mother and father, brother and sister, son and daughter, God grieving their grief with them?

That's what incarnation means, the enfleshment of God, the taking upon himself our human nature. It means that God is in those people – including perhaps each one of us- who have suffered and who are suffering and who will suffer.

There is a view often put forward in the Bible- and still around today-that disasters are God's punishment for sin.

And goodness knows, the world today has committed sins enough to deserve punishment. Think of our greed for gain, the times we put ourselves first and disregard the needs of others, our indifference to people and animals who are suffering, the way we abuse and pollute the world around us.

Yes, collectively and individually, we richly deserve punishment.

But to regard suffering as a punishment from God is, I believe, mistaken.

Crucifixion was a sadistic and agonizing form of punishment, and Jesus had done nothing to deserve it. The God who allowed himself to be crucified is always with and in the suffering victims.

As far as we know from the Gospels, Jesus didn't waste his time discussing philosophical questions like "The problem of Evil". Jesus didn't ask his Heavenly Father what He thought He was playing at, allowing people to be infected with leprosy, paralysis, mental illness, dropsy, withered hands or internal haemorrhages. Jesus rejected the disciples' assumption that a blind beggar's personal disaster was a punishment from God because he or his parents had sinned.

Instead, he healed the man's blindness.

What did Jesus do, when confronted with human suffering of any kind?

He just got stuck in, didn't he?

Just got stuck in and healed people, alleviated their suffering.

Jesus didn't agonize about where suffering comes from, or how a loving God can possibly allow it.

And Jesus didn't make judgements over whose sin was to blame for it.

Jesus got stuck in and cured suffering people.

Jesus: God incarnate, God-made-human, Word made flesh. Immanuel, the with-us God. The Lord among us.

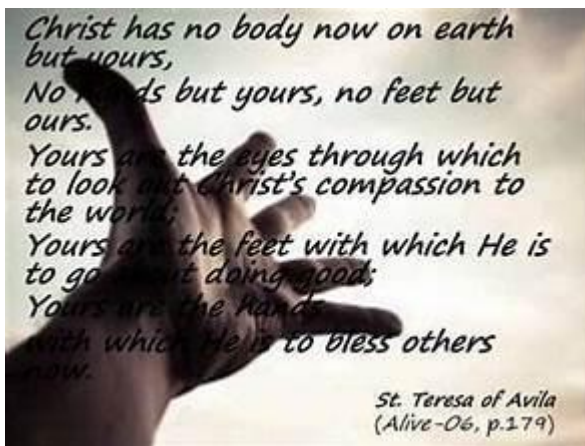
God is among us and in us all when we are doing what Jesus would do.

God is in the medical teams working round the clock in the field hospitals and the cancer wards.

God is in the good neighbours looking out for the elderly people in their communities.

In those who, with infinite patience and love, tend the victims of slavery and of addiction.

God is in you and me and in all the millions of ordinary people in the world,



when we allow ourselves to be moved to help those so cruelly afflicted by war or any general or personal disaster.

Because that's what Jesus would be doing, isn't it? Jesus is no longer with us in the flesh, healing people, caring for them comforting them, loving them. So it's down to us to be Jesus, be God, to

show the Holy Spirit working within us.

To show that, whatever our present and future disasters, the Lord IS among us.

He has no hands but our hands, as has been memorably said.

God suffers with every victim, as he suffered on that Cross.

And God acts through every deed of human kindness, through every generous response of compassion.

Yes, the Lord is among us and with us indeed.

Tailpiece:



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER BY MAY 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