

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

**Newsletter July-August 2026**

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**The Norman door to St Leonard's Church , where so many generations of Rytonians have come to worship. Follow in their footsteps over the ancient threshold, join your Ryton heritage at a service in your parish church.**

**You can hire our church hall for either one-off occasions or regular meetings. Contact Emma Hunt [stleonardschurcryton@gmail.com](mailto:stleonardschurcryton@gmail.com)**

## Benefice SERVICES: July- August 2026

DATE	Wolston	Church Lawford	Ryton
<b>July 5: Trinity 5</b>	<b>11.00am: Family Service.</b>	<b>9.15am: Family Service.</b>	<b>5.00pm: Family Worship.</b>
<b>July 12: Trinity 6</b>	<b>11.00am: Morning Worship.</b>	<b>5.00pm: Evening Prayer.</b>	<b>9.15am: Parish Communion.</b>
<b>July 19: Trinity 7</b>	<b>11.00am: United Benefice Holy Communion with Bishop Sophie at St Peter's Church, Church Lawford.</b>		
<b>July 26: Trinity 8</b>	<b>11.00 am: Holy Communion.</b>	<b>5.00 pm: Holy Communion.</b>	<b>9.15am: Morning Service.</b>
<b>August 2 Trinity 9</b>	<b>11.00am: Morning Worship.</b>	<b>9.15am: Family Service.</b>	<b>5.00pm: Family Worship.</b>
<b>August 9 Trinity 10</b>	<b>11.00am: Morning Worship.</b>	<b>5.00pm: Holy Communion.</b>	<b>9.15am: Parish Communion.</b>
<b>August 16 Trinity 11</b>	<b>11.00am: Morning Worship.</b>	<b>9.15am: Holy Communion</b>	<b>5.00pm: Holy Communion.</b>
<b>August 23 Trinity 12</b>	<b>11.00 am: Holy Communion.</b>	<b>5.00 pm: Holy Communion.</b>	<b>9.15am: Morning Service.</b>
<b>August 30 Trinity 13</b>	<b>United Benefice Service at St. Margaret's Church, Wolston.</b>		

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wolston</b>	<b>Church Lawford</b>	<b>Ryton</b>
<b>September 6 Trinity 14</b>	<b>11.00am: Family Service.</b>	<b>9.15am: Family Service.</b>	<b>5.00pm: Family Worship.</b>
<b>September 13 Trinity 15</b>	<b>11.00am: Morning Worship.</b>	<b>5.00pm: Evening Prayer.</b>	<b>9.15am: Parish Communion.</b>

**At Ryton:, Wednesday, July 8 and Wednesday, August 12: 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.**

**From our Vicar, the Revd Malcolm Ingham.**

**Something to declare?**



Are you packed and ready for your holidays? What to take? That's the big question- will you need T-shirts and sun tops or woolly jumpers and waterproofs? Swimming gear or camping equipment – or everything just to be on the safe side!

It's tricky to squeeze it all into a weight sensitive suitcase and, of course, you can't, you can't take it all with you and, honestly, would you really want to?

I remember a Christian leader remarking that as he got older his possessions grew less and less, from a four-bedroom house, to a retirement bungalow, to a room in a care home and eventually a few items in a plastic bag in a hospital room.

Even then, as he faced his own mortality, he knew that those last remaining possessions were staying behind when he finally died. He wasn't taking any of it with him.

I like to be prepared, I always pack a few items of clothing in my hand luggage just in case my suitcase gets lost, but when I finally leave this life and go to be with God forever, I too will leave everything behind, we all will. So, what is our most treasured possession when it comes to the ultimate journey that we will all take? A passport? Sunscreen? A spare set of underwear? No, the Bible tells us in Romans 10:9, “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

When everything else is lost or left behind, faith stays with us and faith in Jesus – his love, his sovereignty, his grace and his mercy will mean that in that moment we will receive everything good through God’s unmerited grace to those whose trust is in him.

So, whatever you put in your suitcase this summer, pack your heart with faith, hope and love.

Best wishes, Malcolm



### **From the Church registers:**

Friday, June 19 at St. Leonard’s Church: Memorial service for **Stuart Young.**

*May he rest in peace.*

## Your new PCC members and Church Wardens.

At the Annual General Meeting on May 28 the following were elected to be Churchwardens and to serve on the Parochial Church Council for the next year:

### Church Wardens

John Church	<a href="mailto:j.church108@icloud.com">j.church108@icloud.com</a>	07522868523
Emma Hunt	<a href="mailto:stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com">stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com</a>	

### Parochial Church Council Members

Gill Church	<a href="mailto:gmchurch50@gmail.com">gmchurch50@gmail.com</a>	07522 868524
Mike Spencer	<a href="mailto:aimike@btopenworld.com">aimike@btopenworld.com</a>	07912 521084
Linda McAlpine	<a href="mailto:lindarangers@yahoo.co.uk">lindarangers@yahoo.co.uk</a>	07850 411260
Ba Marsh	<a href="mailto:geoffandba@gmail.com">geoffandba@gmail.com</a>	07813 618035
Megan Bargewell	<a href="mailto:meganbargewell@gmail.com">meganbargewell@gmail.com</a>	
Janet Smith	<a href="mailto:janolwyn@hotmail.co.uk">janolwyn@hotmail.co.uk</a>	02476306224

Rosemary King Lay Reader	<a href="mailto:rosiking2963@gmail.com">rosiking2963@gmail.com</a>	07877666123
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David Wells Treasurer

Carolyn Reily Secretary	<a href="mailto:carolyn.f.reily@gmail.com">carolyn.f.reily@gmail.com</a>	07879775 6203
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### Lunch Club.

Have you ever thought about joining us for 2 course meal with a soft drink and a coffee or tea and a raffle ticket, all for £5? The next meals will be held on July 8th and August 12th at 12 noon in St Leonard's Church Centre.

Please ring me the week before if you would like to come along.

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.

Next Lunch Club July 8 at 12.00 noon. Please contact Hazel on 02476 456711.

## Coffee Morning



This is another popular gathering in the church centre. It is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month - July 22nd and August 26th - between 10am and 12 noon. Bring your friends and neighbours. We suggest a £2 donation for coffee, tea and cake or biscuits. We look forward to seeing you.

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

## Church Floodlighting.

July 4: Birthday Memories of **David Backholler.**

July 10: Birthday Memories of **Stephen Paul Perry.**

July 10: Birthday Memories of **Graham Warner Smith.**

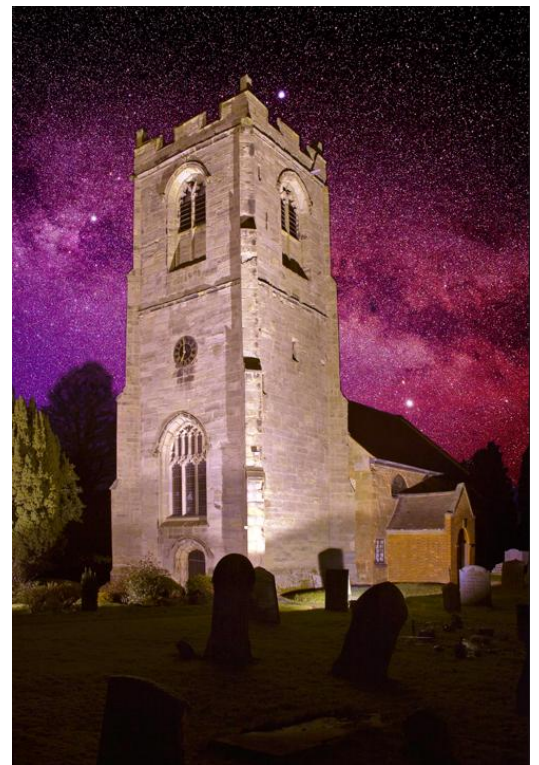
August 7: Anniversary Memories of **Lucy Craig.**

August 15: Birthday Memories of **Ann Crosbie.**

August 25: In Memory of **John Hathaway.**

***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.**



## June 13: Ryton Festival.



**Congratulations to the Ryton Festival Team for organising this popular and well- attended event on June 13. And thanks to all those parishioners and well-wishers who donated cakes and bottles for the St. Leonard's church stall, and of course to those who set it up and manned it on the day. The stall raised nearly £700 for church funds.**

### **CHOIR The Ryton Choir is still happening!**

From Choir leader 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](mailto:geoffandba@gmail.com) Tel 02476 304295



## **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](http://www.stleonardschurchryton.org.uk)**

### **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.

### **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](mailto:carrotfromryton@gmail.com)

## 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.***





**Our churchyard: Tidy up sessions.**

**STOP PRESS:**  
**Congratulations and many thanks to members of the tidy-up team who turned out in the intense heat yesterday (June 27) to bring order to our churchyard.**

**A message from Steve Witter:** The weather has been against the current Churchyard volunteers with rain when we don't need it and now excessive sunshine. Anyone that can spare an hour would be welcome to turn up on the third Saturday of the month or drop Steve Witter a message (on 07887 833369 ) and he can add you to the WhatsApp group so you get all the updates.



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.*



### **A reflection from Rosemary: Health Warning.**

There's a rumour about that schoolchildren aren't allowed to play conkers any more. And that they aren't allowed to play snowballs in the winter, or make a slide on the ice, as I expect many of us used to when we were children. And it's true that some schools do ban those activities at playtime.

The reason of course is that in any of those games, a child might get hurt. A conker might shatter and a bit might fly in a child's eye. Similarly, a snowball might cause injury, and a child might fall and hurt herself while sliding on ice.

Some of us might consider that such measures are only sensible, after all we don't want children to get hurt. But others probably think that such bans are being over-protective, and that we're so to speak wrapping children in cotton-wool, instead of letting them take a modest risk or two when having fun.

The Health and Safety Executive has been around since I think the early 1980's, and as a society we have every reason to be grateful to them.

It's a watchdog organisation that keeps its eye on such matters as safety in the workplace, and it's no coincidence that industrial injuries have decreased by half since the Health and Safety Executive was set up. Incidentally, they strenuously deny making any rulings about conkers and snowballs.

So the Health and Safety Executive are most definitely a Good Thing. That doesn't stop us, however, from finding some of their regulations irksome, nanny-ish and sometimes just plain silly.

Imagine the letter you might get from Health and Safety people if you submitted the Bible to them for inspection.

Something along these lines, maybe:

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are in receipt of your interesting narrative and are pleased to offer the following preliminary risk assessment.

- In general, many of the activities described contravene the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work act, and the proprietors and managers of the areas described would be failing in their duty of care in numerous instances. To take a selection of examples:
- Genesis 1:2 "**Moving on the face of the waters.**" Is the participant known as God wearing a safety harness and buoyancy aids during this activity?
- Genesis 3 "**The Garden of Eden.**" The "serpent " referred to should be caged or otherwise restrained, with reference to the appropriate animal welfare authorities.
- **Jonah and the big fish.** Engorgement and disgorgement from a large aquatic animal is an entirely non-standard activity and should be discouraged, being highly hazardous.
- Genesis 19 "**Sodom and Gomorrah**" An ongoing sexual harassment training programme and homophobia-awareness courses are clearly needed in these cities.  
The pillar of salt episode raises numerous safety issues, particularly concerning irreversibility.
- The portion of the book entitled "**New Testament**" contains countless breaches of best practice and contravenes the law in matters of hygiene, safety and other areas.
- For example, **turning water into wine**, as described in John 2, is almost certainly a breach of the Customs and Excise rules on home fermentation.
- **Dividing five loaves and two small fishes**, to feed a large number of people, as described several times in what are termed "Gospels", as with any food preparation for large-scale consumption, should take place in a sterile, ventilated and properly supervised kitchen environment.
- **Walking on water** and similar activities require training, certified lifeguards and proper lighting, especially if carried out at night.
- **Baptism** and other ceremonies in free-flowing water should take place only with the written consent of those involved.

The Bible is a dangerous book. Dangerous, that is, if you take it seriously. But dangerous in quite different way from the way my imaginary Health and safety Executive correspondent imagined it.

It should come, as they say, with several health warnings. Like the cigarette packets. Something like this, maybe:

- **This Book may seriously damage your pride.**

If you take the time and make the effort to read your Bible, you will realise that God is God and you are not God and that therefore you are NOT the centre of the universe. God is.

- **Reading the Bible makes you open to infection.**

If you read the Bible seriously, it is extremely likely that you will be infected by the love of God, both for you personally and for all his creatures. This virus is highly contagious, and will result in you loving God back, and loving all the people and creatures that he gives life to. This will lead to unselfishness, self-sacrifice and in some cases, martyrdom.

**WARNING: Side effects may include...**

- Extreme Generosity: May cause a sudden urge to give away possessions.
- Loss of Anxiety: Frequent reading reduces worrying about the future.
- Spontaneous Kindness: Side effects include loving your enemies.
- Radical Lifestyle Changes: Might lead to quitting bad habits immediately.
- Altered Worldview: Side effects include seeing everyone as equals.

The Bible is dynamite. Because if we really let it get to us, it will change our life.

No wonder most of us never open it.

***A prayer: Lord God, thank you for the Bible and for the sacred writings of all religious traditions. Give us the courage to make ourselves open to our sacred writings, and to allow them to change our lives as you would wish them to be changed. AMEN***

***IN his youth, the playwright George Bernard Shaw was a confessed atheist, famous for the paradoxical sentence : “ I am an atheist, and I thank God for it.”***

***Later in life, he read the Bible, and changed his views, saying::***

***“The Bible is the most dangerous book on earth. Keep it under lock and keys. DO NOT LET YOUR CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO IT!***

# TWIRLS

## RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE



Thursday 16th July at 7.30pm



St Leonards Church Centre,  
Ryton-on-Dunsmore, CV8 3ET

MEMBERS  
**FREE**

VISITORS &  
FRIENDS  
**£6**

RAFFLE  
£1 per ticket  
or £3 for  
5 tickets

*Come and Spice Up Your Life!*

Join us for a special evening with **Nadira**, founder of **Love at First Bite**, for a gentle and heartfelt talk about the journey behind her business.

Discover how her love of Indian home-cooked food grew into a way of connecting, comforting, and giving through flavour.

Enjoy an intimate evening of stories, passion, and the joy of cooking from the heart!



*Bring your own  
drinks and nibbles*

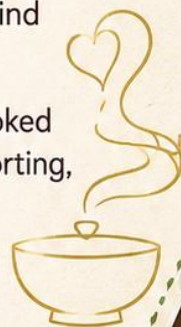


To confirm attendance, email  
[twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com](mailto:twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com)



or text **07710 388199**

*All Ladies Welcome!*



# TWIRLS RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE FUNDRAISER



## UNSUNG HEROES

### Wine Tasting

WITH *Donna*

with Cheese and biscuits



**FRIDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
7pm till 9pm



ST LEONARDS CHURCH CENTRE  
RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE  
CV8 3ET



**£27**

PER PERSON  
PAYABLE ON BOOKING



**RAFFLE**

*Prizes!*



**EVERYONE**  
OVER 18 WELCOME!



Join us and try some amazing wines from unexpected places and test your knowledge with a fun quiz.



SPACES ARE LIMITED, TO BOOK CONTACT:  
twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com  
07710 388199

CONNECT WITH DONNA  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA AT  
justaboutwine2024



## Recycle your used printer cartridges

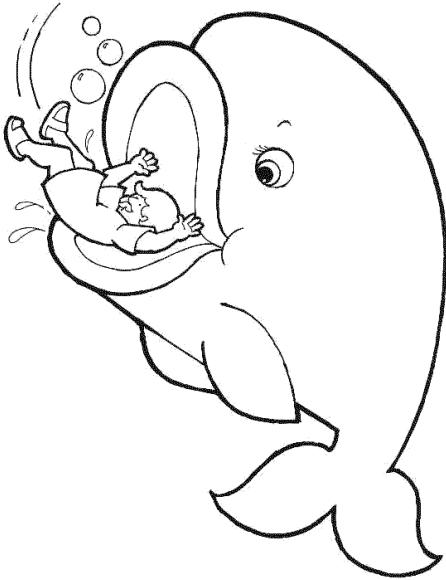


**John Church writes:** We can now take all ink cartridges, laser and toner cartridges, although we only get paid for the chunky types; the others are disposed of without going into land fill.

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.

**We recently received notification from recycle 4 charity that we will be receiving £25.00 for our recycled printing cartridges.**

## Tailpiece:



**Atheist:** "Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"

**Christian:** "I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven, I'll ask him."

**Atheist:** "But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

**Christian:** "Then you ask him."

## **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER BY AUGUST 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.