St Leonard's Church, Ryton-on-Dunsmore:
Newsletter November 2026
Vicar: ***Vacancy.***

Reader: **Mrs. Rosemary King.** **Tel: 01788 573067**
Mobile: 0787766612 email: rosiking2963@gmail.com

Churchwardens: **Mr John Church.** **Tel 07522 868523**
email j.church108@icloud.com

Ms Emma Hunt. stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com

General enquiries: **stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com**

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

Benefice SERVICES: November 2026			
DATE	**Wolston**	**Church Lawford**	**Ryton**
November 1 **ALL SAINTS' DAY.**	**11.00am:** **Family Service**	**10.00am:** **Family Service.**	**9.30am: Family Worship.**
November 8 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.**	**Remembrance Service** **Time tbc**	**Remembrance Service** **Time tbc**	**10.15am:** **Remembrance Service**
November 15 **Second Sunday Before Advent.**	**11.00am:** **Morning Worship.**	**9.30am: Holy Communion.**	**9.30am:** **Morning prayer**
November 22 **Sunday next before Advent.**	**11.00 am:** **Holy Communion.**	**6.00 pm:** **Holy Communion.**	**9.30am:** **Holy Communion.**
November 29 **Advent Sunday.**	**11.00am:** **Advent Praise.**	***Please join Wolston and/or Ryton.***	**4.00pm:** **Tree of Life Service.**
December 6 **Advent 2.**	**11.00am: Family Service.**	**10.00am:** **Family Service.**	**9.30am:Family Worship**
December 13 **Advent 3.**	**11.00am: Morning Praise.**	**6.00pm:** **Songs of Praise.**	**11.30am: Parish Communion.**

At Ryton: our next weekday Holy Communion at Ryton will be on Wednesday, November 11 at 11.30 am. 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.

Our Vicar, the Revd Malcolm Ingham, transferred to a new parish on October 1st. His email address and phone number are no longer active. Please send enquiries to stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com
We're sorry to be losing him and wish him every happiness in this next stage in his ministry. Please look out for the inevitable changes in service times and other events in the months ahead when we shall be without a Vicar.

Betty Page R.I.P. We are sorry to report the death of our dear friend Betty Page. Betty was for many years Churchwarden at St Leonard's, and served in that capacity with Richard Mann, who also died recently. They are both sorely missed as lifelong members of St Leonard's community, loyal friends and faithful Christian believers. Betty's funeral will be at 2.00pm on Tuesday, October 27 at St Leonard's Church.

Thank you.
Ros and Phil would like to express their thanks for the kind words, beautiful cards, and floral displays in church on the occasion of Betty's passing and subsequent funeral. The love and kindness from the village she loved has been overwhelming. Thank you. Many thanks too to our former Rector, Father David Wintle, for the moving funeral service.

Your 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	j.church108@icloud.com	07522868523
Emma Hunt	stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com	

Parochial Church Council Members

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

Rosemary King Lay Reader rosiking2963@gmail.com 07877666123
David Wells Treasurer
Carolyn Reily Secretary carolyn.f.reily@gmail.com 07879 756203

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 Tel 02476 304295

Your help needed please.. to collect bottles for the Christmas Fayre.

From Hazel: We still need to gather bottles for the bottle stall at the Christmas Fayre. - wine, spirits and soft drinks. Please get them to church via friends and PCC members before November 18th.

St Leonard's Harvest Supper was a very enjoyable and successful event held on Friday 9 October, 2 days before our Harvest Festival Parish Communion on October 11. We are extremely grateful to Gill and John Church for organising- and cooking for- this event. Gill writes:
"John and I would like to thank everyone for their help before, during and after the Harvest Supper yesterday. Everyone seemed to enjoy and appreciate the whole evening.
We made £228 from ticket sales for the meal and £92.20 from the raffle, making a total of £320.20"

At the back of the picture, you can see the Ryton Choir performing at the Harvest Supper. Choir leader Ba Marsh reports:

"We sang four contrasting, four part songs, beginning with:

Lady of Autumn - a timeless, simple folk song evoking the changing of the seasons. Followed by
Feeling Groovy (strictly known as 59th St Bridge song - Simon and Garfunkel) which, to our delight, people joined in with,
enthusiastically.
Then we sang
Trees - an evocative four part setting of the poem by Walter de la Mare contrasting the special qualities of nine different trees
and finally, we sang a Zulu song which we all particularly enjoy, called
Light of Love. This has a lovely rhythm and chorus, and focuses on our senses and the joy and love we feel through them. It includes lines such as 'I can feel the rain of blessing', 'taste the fruits of freedom', 'smell the flowers growing', 'feel the earth's heart beating'.
We were very pleased to make a contribution to a very happy and successful evening."

Contact geoffandba@gmail.com 02476304295

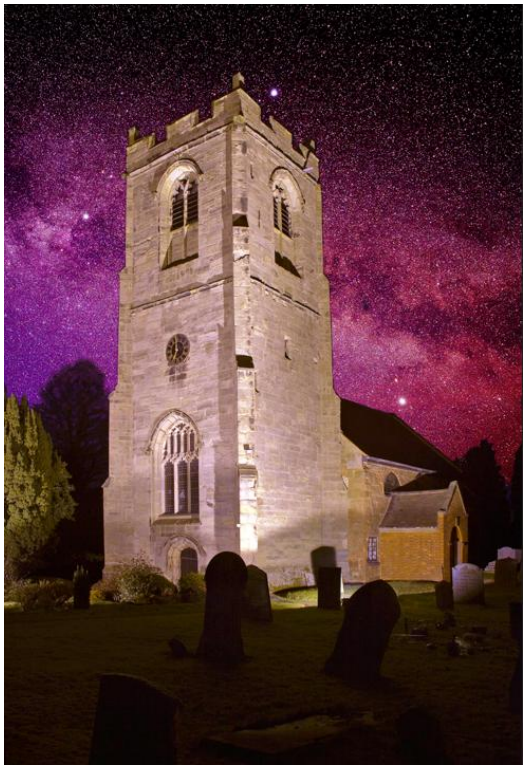
From the Church registers:

October 27

At St Leonard's Church:
The Funeral of **Betty Page.**

May she rest in peace.

Church Floodlighting.



October 27: Loving memories of **Betty Page.**
November 4: Birthday memories of **Tony Capp.**
November 8: Remembrance Sunday.

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.

Many thanks to June Backholler for devising and organising the Floodlighting scheme over many years.

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

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 in March, 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.

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

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)

Recycle your ink 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 £40.75 for our recycled printing cartridges.

The History Group will be arranging an exhibition about the First and Second World Wars in the Village Hall immediately after the Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial. They will be offering refreshments: Tea and Coffee and Bacon Batches. All proceeds from the refreshments will go to the Royal British Legion.

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

Wednesday November 11th on Knightlow Hill at 6.30 a.m:
Wroth Silver ceremony.

Breakfast afterwards at the Royal Oak, Brandon.

This is said to be Britain's longest running annual ceremony being recorded as 'ongoing' in 1086 and on this site since 1170.

The ceremony takes place at the Wroth stone, the base of an old wayside cross, on the mound at the top of Knightlow Hill (just off the A45 between Stretton and Ryton) every 'Martinmas Eve before sun-rising'. That means on 11 November every year (**in 2026, Wednesday November 11)** at first light, the Wroth Money is collected from the parishes of the Hundred of Knightlow (this includes Ryton and Bubbenhall) by the Agent to the Duke of Buccleuch. In practice that is about 6.45am but it varies with the first light of dawn.

WARNING: Any parish that fails to pay the due amount (one or two pence) is historically subject to a fine of **20 shillings for every penny missing**, or the forfeiture of a **white bull with a red nose and ears**. This penalty is no longer exacted.

Anyone is welcome to attend, free of charge. Many people will be regular attenders and will be bringing their children and dogs.
The actual collection from the 25 parishes only lasts about four and a half minutes so do not be late!
Many people will already have been to the local pub, The Royal Oak in Brandon for the traditional drink of rum and hot milk. The bar usually opens at 6.00 am

After the ceremony, most people will return to The Royal Oak for breakfast and speeches. Please note that breakfast tickets need to be pre-booked directly with the Royal Oak. (£19.50 per ticket in 2026) including a rum and hot milk to drink the health of His Grace and a churchwarden pipe - supplied) from the bar at The Royal Oak (**Phone Direct:** 024 7654 2304)

Churchwarden's clay pipe

Email Booking: info@theroyaloakbrandon.com

People will be departing by about 8.45am. Further information on : http://www.wrothsilver.org.uk/

Wroth Silver ceremony at dawn

LUNCH CLUB

This will resume on November 11th at 12 noon. A 2 course lunch with tea or coffee costs £5.
Transport is available. Please let Hazel know a few days beforehand if you would like to join us.
There will be a short communion service at 11.30am for those who would like to take part.

<u>COFFEE MORNING</u> - 10am to 12 noon.

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday November 25th. Please bring your friends for a natter.

The December Coffee Morning will be one week earlier than usual on December 16th. There will be a small raffle and a festive feel. We look forward to seeing you.

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

<u>Our churchyard: Tidy up sessions.</u>

<u>Contact Steve Witter on 07887 833369 or Linda on 07850 411260 for details.</u>

Congratulations and many thanks to members of the tidy-up team who turned out in the intense heat during the summer to bring order to our churchyard.

<u>A message from Steve Witter:</u> The weather has been against the Churchyard volunteers with rain when we don't need it and also 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 07887833369) 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 Linda on 07850 411260. 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 : **Woodbine Willie- The Padre We Can Claim.**

On Remembrance Sunday, as we remember the dead of two world wars, and those they left behind, we might also remember one of our local curates. The Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy arrived at St Andrew's Church, Rugby in 1908. He quickly became well known for preaching in the open air around the town, as he believed he was called to minister chiefly to people outside the church.

He was generous to a fault- it was said that his housekeeper had to keep his salary for him, or he would give it all away.
The Great War made him a national figure. As a chaplain on the Western Front, he handed out Woodbine cigarettes as well as the sacraments, and the soldiers named him "Woodbine Willie". At the Somme he served under fire, and won the Military Cross for running into no man's land to help the wounded. He was a small, asthmatic man with a voice like a foghorn, but not one to stand on rank.

One of the remarkable things about Woodbine Willie is what he *didn't* say. He offered no tidy answers about the war, no comfortable God 'on our side' no rubbish about it being 'sweet and right to die for one's country'. He wrote and preached of a God who suffers with his creatures, and his down-to-earth poems, *Rough Rhymes of a Padre*, were read by men in the trenches. His was a faith that stands at the foot of the Cross, and does not look away.
After the war he spent himself in the cause of the poor, working for the Industrial Christian Fellowship. He died in March 1929, aged 45, having given away nearly all he had. Archbishop William Temple judged him the finest priest he had ever known.

Plaque on the house in Windsor Court, Rugby, where Woodbine Willie lived when he was curate at nearby St Andrew's Church.
On Remembrance Sunday we pray for the fallen and those they left behind. Let us give thanks too for the padre who ministered to them.

Woodbine Willie's moving verses "Rough Rhymes of a padre "are attached to this email.

TWIRLS WOMENS' INSTITUTE: Secretary Karen McCulloch reports:

Our first fundraiser in the Church Centre with a Wine-tasting was a great success. We are very pleased and 25 guests had a great time.

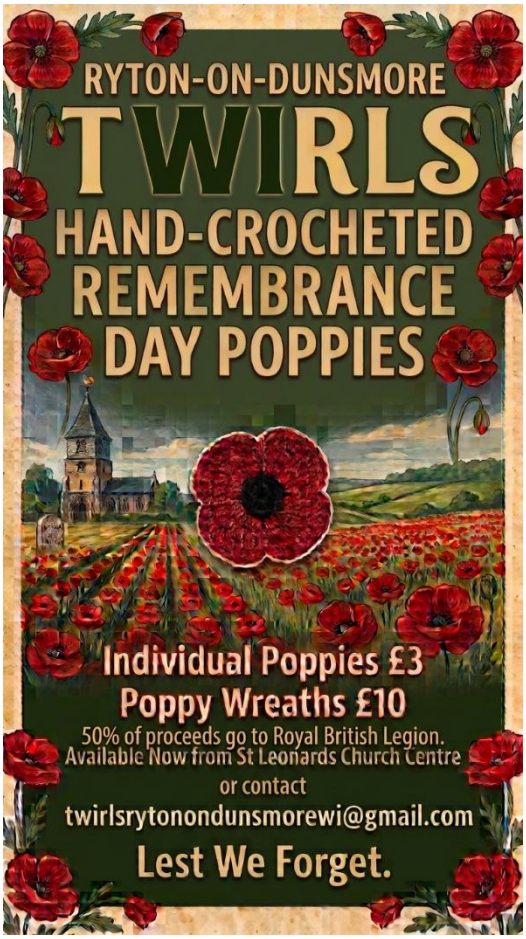
We noticed that some of the hand crocheted poppies and the poppy wreath have also sold. We will replenish with another Poppy wreath and keep an eye on if more poppies are needed, but we are very grateful for having the poppies on sale there.

Posters will be going up around the village shortly saying they are available from the Church Centre or to contact us if anyone does not have access into the Church Centre.

I have attached the poster for our November TWIRLS meeting to create festive crafts (see above). We are still advertising the Wreathmaking too for end of November, so we are now booking for that too.

contact Karen on 07710388199 or email twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com

For your diary:



Advent Sunday: November 29

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 29th 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.

Christmas Film Night

At St Leonard's Church

On Friday 4th December at 6.30pm.

£5 Per Person
£15 for a Family of Four

Hot drink and Mince Pie Provided.

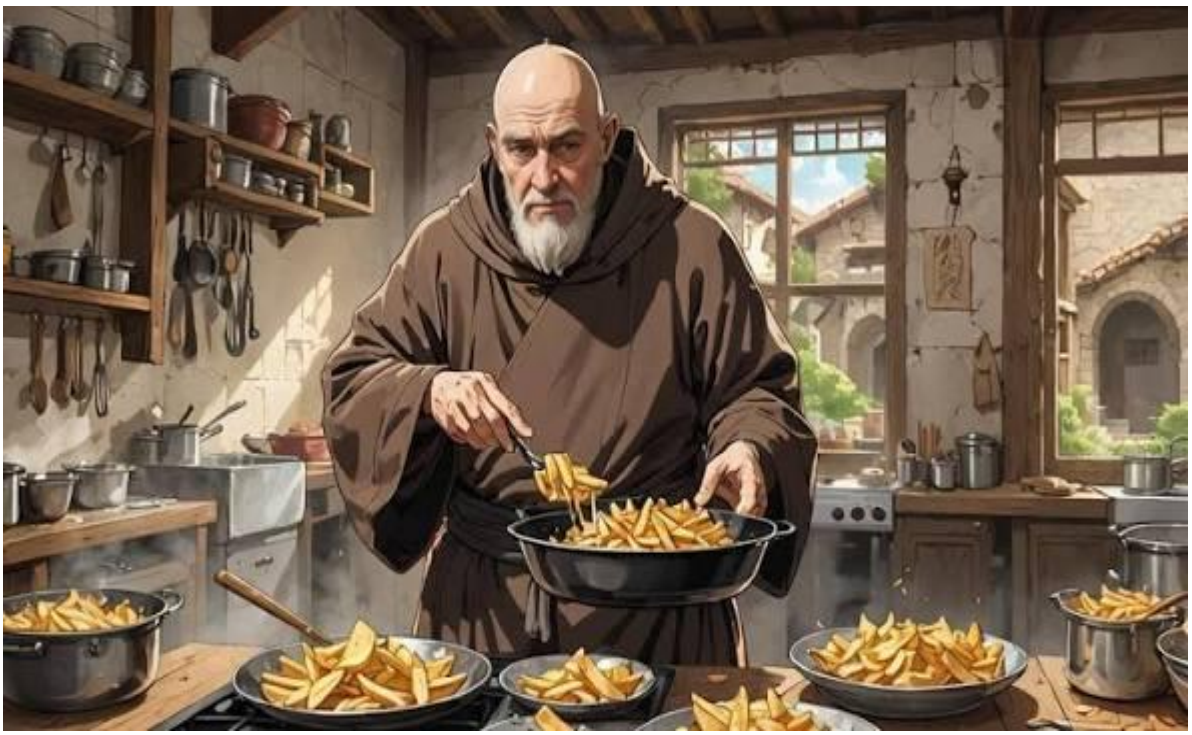
Popcorn available on the night

Tickets limited, first come first served.
Tickets in advance.

Email
stleonardschurchryton@gmail.com
or Dm St Leonard's Church's Facebook page.

Tailpiece : An old but good monastery joke:

I was doing a tour of a monastery and as I passed the kitchen, I saw a monk preparing potatoes. "Are you a friar?" I asked. "No, I'm the chip monk" he replied.



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE DECEMBER-JANUARY 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.