

# People and Parish

October 2018



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- If we don't hear crying, the church is dying

60p or £6 per year



**The Parish Church of St Leonard  
Heath and Reach**



Team Rector: Vacant

## The Parish of St Leonard, Heath and Reach

[www.saintleonardschurch.com](http://www.saintleonardschurch.com)

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Office hours: 10.30am—12.30pm Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	

### GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Little Fishes	Mums & Toddlers, Monday 1.30 pm in the hall Contact: Parish Office
Choir	Sundays at 10.15am in Church, Contact: Jane Newman, 01525 237421
SLAP	St Leonard's Amateur Players, Contact: Mrs Nicole Waldoock, 01908 608304
Men's Breakfast Group	Termly, Saturdays at 8.30am. Contact Neil Forsyth on 01525 377047
Magazine Editor	Neil Forsyth, 01525 377047, <a href="mailto:stleonardsmag@gmail.com">stleonardsmag@gmail.com</a>
Magazine Advertising	Contact Parish Office 07502 320025

All copy to reach Editor by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, please

# Thought for the Month



God loves us more than we can possibly imagine. Certainly more than we deserve. This love is intimate, personal, and **passionate (hence we call it ‘the Passion’)**. God knows each and every human there has ever been or will be, and loves them as they are, in all their stupidity, sin and evil. God loves us as we are, and knows more about us, and our wants, needs, and desires, than we ever can.

All those important ideas like Atonement and Repentance, always need to start from here. In other words, we never need

**to change God’s mind about us. We do not need to persuade Him to love us, or bribe Him to love us, or chivvy Him into loving us.** And He does not love us because we are good, or clever, or pious, or because we try to love Him. He loves us because we are His children: selfish, stupid, idiotic etcetera, but still His beloved children. He loves us, **whether or not we deserve it (we don’t), and whether or not we love Him, or even believe in Him at all.** We cannot stop Him loving us (but we can make Him sad and angry, and His judgement is very real – see below).

**However, because God’s love for us cannot be destroyed, we always need to remember that ideas of Repentance and Atonement and the like, are never about changing God’s mind about us. God’s mind about us is made up already, which is why He sent Himself as the Son to save us in the first place.** Instead, Atonement, and Repentance and all those other essential things, are about changing our stance and attitude towards God (and also to ourselves and His creation), or about changing our condition and existence. They are about helping us to see that God exists, and that He loves us and offers Himself to us in diverse ways, and about helping us to be fulfilled in Him.

**This means that we do not need to earn God’s favour, or earn His salvation. He offers everything to us.** We just have to become capable of seeing this, and of accepting His offers. In other words, we need to become as lovely, and holy, and self-less, as He is. **‘Living a Christian life’, or ‘being good’, or ‘behaving properly’, is always about our learning to become as much like God as we possibly can be (given our severe limitations).** We need to become selflessly loving, of Him, and of ourselves, and of His world.

**There are any number of ways of learning to recognise God’s offer, and accepting it.** It is certainly a (more than) life-long process, in which we go backwards and forwards all the time.

Praying, worshipping, reading the Scriptures, participating in the Sacraments and being an active part of the Christian family are some of the best ways that God has given us of learning and becoming more God-directed. There are doubtless many others.

**But it is important to remember that ‘living a Christian life’ is not something we do in order to gain a reward at the end. ‘Living a Christian life’ ought to be our loving response to the love with which God showers us. And the ‘reward’ that Christians are often supposed to desire: that is, salvation and eternal life with God – is not a reward at all. Rather, it is the experience we are granted if we walk ever more closely in The Way of fuller life.**

**The more we turn towards God (‘repent’) and learn to recognise Him, and try to be like Him – loving Him, and ourselves, and His creation, as much and as selflessly as he does – the more we will find ourselves deeper in His presence, or perhaps, the less there will be to block His love from flowing in and through us (the blockages we call ‘sin’). Our lives will approach ever more closely the fullness of His love for us, and we will come to experience that more and more.**

**Thus ‘heaven’ is the name for a creature’s existence when it is purely focused on God, and lives in pure, unmediated love. ‘Heaven’ is the end condition of an existence that focuses more and more on God and which is drawn ever deeper into Him. ‘Heaven’, or ‘being saved’, is not a reward for good behaviour, like a celestial gold star; it is what happens when we see God in His fullness, and there is no more sin and selfishness in us. (I think this may be what Jesus meant when He said that the Kingdom of Heaven was here, now: He meant that it could be glimpsed and experienced in Him, and in His presence: that He was the Kingdom, because He was in that state of blissful love, while also present on earth).**

I should probably make it clear at this point that heaven is not a state of existence we can achieve by hard work and prayer, or cleverness and devotion: with God’s gracious help we can make progress, but God’s presence in this world is of necessity mediated: the world would be immolated in Him if it were not so. I think the best we can hope for here are occasional glimpses of that heavenly perfection of love in experiences like the Sacraments, when the veil between worlds is twitched away for a moment and we experience God’s perfect love, or perhaps even in aspects of the lives of saintly people, when they seem – albeit imperfectly – to reflect God Himself in one aspect of their lives.

Father Bernard

## *The Parish Registers*



### Baptisms

25th August Edward Louis Pereira

25th August Max Albert Pereira

2nd September Arwen Iris Margaret Rouse

16th September Nellie Witt

### Marriages

None

### Funerals

None

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# *The Villager*

by Geoff White

Last month I wrote about the village at the time of the census in 1841 and some of the poor villagers who lived there. John Grant Lawford, the Curate of the parish (a clerk in **holy orders**) lived in **"The Cottage"** in Reach with his two sisters and was able to employ two female and one male servants. He was born in Laughton Buzzard, described as a Gent and educated at Wadham College, Oxford. He moved from the village on August 24th 1842, when John Charles Orlebar took over the living. He was also from a local family, his Grandfather being Vicar of Wavendon, and on moving into the village, John had built a new rectory, **"Heath Mount"**, sited where Chiltern Gardens is now.

In his fifteen years stay, what did he achieve?

The education of the poor would have been given by the Sunday Schools, which, in the nineteenth century, were based on the Anglican or Methodist traditions. The object of the schools was to teach the children to read and write mainly by reading the Bible, although walks were encouraged and good work was rewarded. Punishment was given for misbehaviour, including administration of the cane and isolation in a basket hung from the ceiling.

In the census, it was noted that at **"Duck End"** there lived Sarah Atwell, aged about fifty years, shown as a school mistress, and on Bird's Hill North also lived another, Fanny Parker, of the same age. I do not know where or what they taught but on September 12th 1822, a Baptist Chapel was built on Bird's Hill and there was a strong congregation of one hundred and fifty people out of a village population of about seven hundred.

In 1833 the village had both a Baptist and a Methodist Sunday School and in 1846 Heath school was built on Bird's Hill, midway between Heath and Reach and partly funded by the National Society, an Anglican Foundation.

One of the first pupils was Mary Simmonds, whose mother Eliza, when returning home from taking Mary to school and entering her house in Brickhill Road, she saw a thief going out of her front door taking her rosewood tea caddy. The intruder was caught and served three months on the county jail with hard labour.

The Revd. Orlebar should have been used to hearing of robberies as his father was a Justice of the Peace and in the village there lived the police constable, Benjamin Orchard. The Vicar's Church Wardens were George Inwards and John Mortimer, both farmers who kept servants. They were also Overseers to the poor and were responsible for collecting the rates which were levied for the upkeep of the church.

The Vicar did not think that the Vicarage was as grand as his father's or his grandfather's and in February 1852 asked for permission for a new parsonage to be built on one and a half acres of glebe land which adjoined the new burial ground and this was erected and is still known as **"The Old Vicarage"** to many of the older villagers and reminds us of the Revd. Orlebar's years in the parish.

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The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's REALLY in trouble.

Lord, keep you hand around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

When I was a child, I thought nap time was a punishment. Now it's like a mini-holiday.

When people ask me why I look the way I do, I tell them I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

The student, when asked by the teacher to write an essay on "The effects of Laziness", turned in a blank sheet of paper.

## **Leighton Buzzard Voluntary Patient Transport (LBVPT) service is ready to transport you to your Hospital outpatient clinic appointments.**

LBVPT was set up to provide voluntary transport for elderly and vulnerable people to and from their outpatient appointments at the three local hospitals- Luton & Dunstable, Milton Keynes, Stoke Mandeville. We are pleased to now be able to extend that service to include Bedford, Amersham and High Wycombe hospitals; and we will take individuals to attend hospital appointments at Saturday clinics.

All our services are subject to a volunteer driver being available on the required day. This service has been operational since 1 April 2017 and is available to you if you do **not** qualify for NHS non-emergency transport, or you are unable to get to your hospital appointments by any other means, such as public transport.

One feature greatly appreciated by people using LBVPT that is not yet provided elsewhere is that the driver will accompany you from the car to your appointment; wait there with you if you wish, or come back to collect you later, and then accompany you home to your door.

LBVPT asks for a voluntary donation to cover the cost of providing the service.

Further information on using this service can be found by:

- \* calling our call handler on 07873 497633
- \* sending an email to [lbvpt@outlook.com](mailto:lbvpt@outlook.com)
- \* looking at the website at <http://www.lbvpt.co.uk>

We look forward to hearing from you if you need to use our service!

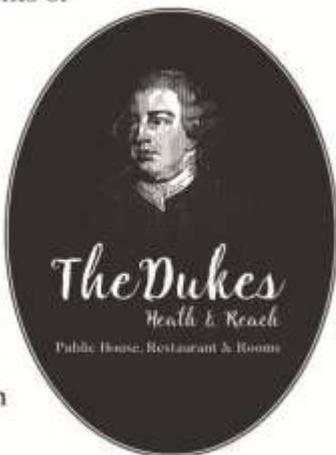
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This poster can now be found in most, if not all, French churches.

The translation is: "By entering this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is less likely that He will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to him. If you want to see him, send him a text while driving."

## An Invitation to a Service of Healing with Holy Communion

There are two opportunities in September and October to deepen our awareness and encounter with inner healing. The first was on Sunday afternoon, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm at St. Leonard's, a slide presentation called Freedom Work: on *forgiveness, reconciliation and healing*. This will help to clarify and deepen understanding of the world of inner healing.

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October there will be a Holy Communion service 3pm with prayer for inner healing and anointing. There is now a healing ministry team in place to conduct the service and offer follow up prayer.

Jesus desires that we live life in all it's fullness here and now, (John 10:10) hence the need for on going spiritual healing. I am not saying we have to be happy all the time, but I am saying that Jesus offers us deep inner peace as a bedrock to our lives. Another **core verse that invites spiritual healing is John 8:31 "if you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free". It is always Christ who heals and his healing involves the whole person.**

The fullness of life which is Christ's wish for us is only possible if we are able to accept ourselves as Christ made us and are convinced that we are truly precious in his sight. This is called healing of the self image and is the first step towards healing of our relationships with others through forgiveness and the healing of our memories through changing the way in which we remember the past. There is no question of a special technique: it is simply a matter of willingly and honestly bringing all our past hurts and resentments before Christ and asking him to heal them while giving us the power to forgive.

When inner healing does not take place in response to our prayer it is almost always because of a variety of barriers which we place in its way such as lack of self acceptance or lack of genuine repentance. Our focus is on inner spiritual healing so as to be free to live the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

In the presentation called Freedom Work on September 30<sup>th</sup> I discussed in detail five barriers to inner healing which are: lack of self acceptance, unrepentance, unforgiveness, guilt and shame. To rid ourselves of any of these we need to understand them. Toxic thinking poisons the mind and the heart. Inner spiritual healing is the antidote. We can truly be freed from negative thoughts and restored into the image and likeness of God.

Please put the dates and times in your diary and come along to both events, and if you know anyone who needs inner healing please invite them.

Rev. Noel

# HAPPENINGS!

Thursday 11th October  
COFFEE MORNING  
in the Church Hall  
10am-12.00noon



Saturday 13th October  
**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
in the Church Hall from 8.30am

Sunday 14th October  
HARVEST BRING & SHARE LUNCH  
in the Church Hall at 1pm

Sunday 21st October  
Afternoon of Quiet Reflection  
With Revd. Noel McGeeney  
At Pochard Lake



Saturday 24th November  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
in the Church Hall from 1pm

For more information on any of these events,  
phone 01525 377047

**St Leonard's Church**  
Heath and Reach



**St Leonard's Holiday Club**

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Thursday 25th October  
10am -12noon

*Activities for 3-10 year olds*  
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Topic: Our Wonderful World

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# *Remembering World War 1*



St Leonard's is remembering those on the Heath and Reach War Memorial on or around the 100th anniversary of their death.



22937 Acting Lance Corporal Frederick Joseph Rolls  
1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment  
Aged 22 years, he was killed in action  
on 8th October 1918 and is buried in  
the Naves Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Frederick was the son of Thomas and Sarah Rolls of Heath & Reach. He was a domestic servant possibly at Sand House which later became the Tavistock Inn on Watling Street (it burned down in the 1980s). The Battalion also known as the Church Lads Brigade, was part of the 59th Brigade assigned to the 20th (Light) Division on the Western Front. Frederick was killed in action in the second battle of Cambrai during the One Hundred Days Offensive which brought an end to the war.



83889 Private Sidney Baines  
18th Squadron Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry)  
Aged 31 years, he died on 19th October 1918 and is  
buried in Damascus Commonwealth Cemetery,  
Palestine (Syria)

Sidney was the son of William and Annie Baines of Heath and Reach and was a sand pit labourer before the Great War. He is one of three soldiers remembered on our war memorial as serving in Palestine rather than the Western Front, as the British Empire fought the Ottoman Empire.

The squadron became part of the 22nd Mounted Brigade serving in Sinai and Palestine and Sidney died in the final days of the campaign, possibly following the capture of Damascus and just 11 days before the Armistice of Mudros was agreed on 30th October, ending the conflict in the Middle East.

## **If we don't hear crying, the church is dying**

There you are, sitting in the Sunday service and your child – a baby or a toddler – is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them and you try to pacify them with food or toys but nothing works. Eventually, to resort to the last thing you wanted to do – you pick them up and, before many watching eyes, you make the march out of the service. All the while, you're a little embarrassed and maybe a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have constantly to worry about my child."

But wait! I want you, mothers and fathers, to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The elderly woman who often feels alone, beams with a smile at the sight of you **wrestling with your little one**. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be but she smiles because it brings back precious memories. She may have received bad news this week about her health but seeing the vitality of young ones removes her fears – even if it's only for a moment.

Then the older man, who always seems grouchy, notices you too. He's always talking about how children today have no respect or sense of good but he sees you and your young family in church regularly. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

So parents, bring your children to church. If we don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it may be for you as a parent who is half asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement and you're starting off your children's lives just as you should.

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be on

Thursday 8th November



## A Warden's Tale

As unbelievable as this might be, many of us have already seen Christmas advertising popping up. Book your table for Christmas dinner!!! Order your tickets to visit Santa on line!!! (or at least you can try until the website fails). Whatever happened to enjoying life as it unfolds rather than jumping ahead? Why not sit back and observe what is in front of us instead of looking ahead for **something that isn't even there yet?**

We can look NOW and begin to see the changes of Autumn. Soon there will be glorious changes in colour all around us. All those crunchy leaves under foot and the glorious smell of damp foliage on those woodland walks. I saw a lovely post on Facebook recently that said:

**'The trees are about to show us just how beautiful letting go can be' (unknown).**

How wonderful to know that we can learn so much about ourselves by looking at the glory of the created world. As I said last month, I will wait patiently until I can get out my jumpers, boots and coat and enjoy the next season gifted to us. Change really can be a beautiful thing.

A big change for me has been my becoming a Service Assistant. This is a privilege in that I take my turn to support Fr Noel during the main Sunday service. I was very nervous but can only describe the experience as a joy and, if I can do it, anyone can. Yes, that is an invitation as all members of **a family have a role to play and church family is no different. 'The whole is more than the sum of its' parts' as they say in engineering and it is the same for us too. Lots of roles to be undertaken** and we can all enjoy taking part.....once the nerves wear off!

Still on the theme of seasonal, this Michaelmas my fellow churchwarden, Brother Bede commemorates yet another anniversary of his life long commitment (solemn vow) as a member of the Anglican Consecrated Life. For those of you who do not know, this is a rapidly growing branch of Anglican celibate religious life, wherein members can become hermits, solitaries or, as with Bede, extremely active in the life of the church and community. Many such consecrated people are members of the Franciscan Order. Bede however, is a member of a Benedictine community and they wear a traditional long black habit. Mind you, I keep telling him he is getting out of the habit of wearing it these days! So if you see a man with a beard walking up the road in a long **black dress.....that's Brother Bede!**

**Having said all that, inevitably, we at St Leonard's Church also have to look ahead, albeit too far** and maybe too soon, towards Christmas. We will be planning our special services and looking forward to welcoming everyone to join us in celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus. Before then we will be celebrating the harvest with a special lunch and appreciating the provision of our food and those who work so hard to bring in the harvest.

Mind you, before joining us in our Christmas celebrations please make sure you enjoy the beauty of Autumn! Not to be missed.

Val Cooper

## TUSK

Ruby eyes  
Like gemstones set in grey granite  
Search the canopy for sweet green leaves  
Mighty trunk  
Used only to haul down branches  
Scent obliterated by heat and dust  
Gleaming tusks  
A testimony to the years  
Gouge the barren brown soil for tender shoots  
Massive ears  
Ever alert to the first sign of danger  
Cooling but forever battling the relentless flies  
Thunderous feet

### **Flattening forever Africa's crust**

Sounding the imminent arrival of the herd  
Impenetrable skin  
Protecting the survivor since the Ice Age  
The animal with no natural enemies  
Family man  
Caring for young and faithful to its mate  
A natural icon to the world

### **Man's gun**

Designed to overthrow nature  
Firing hide-penetrating bullets accurately  
Gentle giant  
Brought to its knees in an instant  
Tusks ripped out before the last breath  
The enemy  
Man and his greed forever thus  
Caring for nothing except his own gratification

Derek Hardman

*Note: Since this poem was written in 2002, 54000 elephants have been killed in Africa by ivory poachers.*

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A helpline for older people

0800 4 70 80 90

**“Like child abuse, loneliness carries a stigma, especially for an older generation too proud to ask for help. I hope by creating a helpline for older people The Silver Line will enable them to break through the stigma of loneliness, and thus save lives and comfort and protect older people in need.” Esther Rantzen.**

The Silver Line is a free confidential helpline which provides; information and signposting to services, community and voluntary support across the country; a friendship service to combat loneliness; and a means of empowering those who may be suffering abuse.

If you are feeling isolated or lonely, there is not only the helpline, but a telephone befriending service, where you are matched to a trained volunteer, who will phone on a weekly basis for friendship at a time convenient to you. So if you feel that you would benefit from the services of The Silver Line, please do not hesitate to call our 24/7 helpline on 0800 4 70 80 90.

**‘If you think it is for you, it *is* for you’.**

## **St Leonard's Parish Prayer**

Living God, you have given us St Leonard  
as an example of one who extended himself  
to relieve the difficulties of others;  
help us to know in our hearts the love you have for us all  
so we may reach out in genuine empathy  
to those in our community  
who feel lonely, isolated, or overwhelmed by grief or loss.  
Help us to grow together as a people  
united in concern for each other and love for you. Amen



ONYX

ONYX - The dynamic six piece band for your special event, wedding reception, anniversary celebration, dinner dance or corporate function.

Choose your favourite songs from our extensive playlist for those magical moments to make your special occasion simply the best.

ONYX will ensure you and your guests dance all night to celebrated hits from the last five decades.

[nicole.waldock@tesco.net](mailto:nicole.waldock@tesco.net)

01908 608304

[Facebook.com/on77yx](https://www.facebook.com/on77yx)

### **St Leonard's Visiting Team**

We are a small group who enjoy meeting people and having a chat (maybe over a cup of tea!).

If you or anyone you know is housebound, or might enjoy some company occasionally, please call Kelly on 07502 320025 and she will put us in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Anne Chapman*

# Rota Reminders



On or For Sun	Coffee (after 11am service)	Cleaning
7th October	A Palmer & L Page	
14th October	A Chapman & S Halstead	R Young & S Darms
21st October	S Darms & A Payne	
28th October	H&R Ramsbotham	A Chapman & S Halstead
4th November	J&T Mellodey	
11th November	J Thomas	V Cooper
18th November	S Buttery & E Dickinson	
25th November	A Palmer & L Page	G&M White

## A Slimmer's Psalm

Strict is my diet, I must not want

It maketh me to lie down at night, hungry.

It leadeth me to pass the refrigerator,  
It tireth my willpower.

**It leadeth me in the paths of starvation for my figure's sake.**

Yea, though I walk through the aisles of pasta,  
I will buy no chocolate éclairs,  
For they are fattening.

The cakes and pies they do tempt me.

Before me is set a table with green beans and lettuce, it filleth my stomach with liquids,

**My day's quota runneth over.**

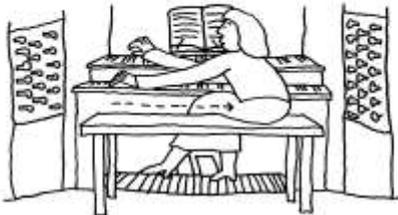
Surely, calories and weight charts will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the fear of the scales forever!

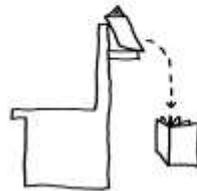
*Sent by Revd. Nicola Martyn-Beck*

## CHURCH CLEANING

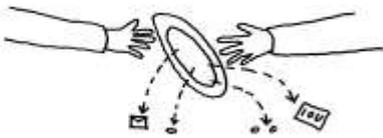
THE PERILS OF OVER-ZEALOUSNESS



AN UNSECURED ORGANIST



SLIDING HYMNBOOKS



SLIPPERY COLLECTION PLATES



DAZZLING BRASSWORK





**Monday to Friday**

**9am—12pm, 12pm-3pm or 9am—3pm**

An independent preschool offering places for children from 2 years old, providing a range of activities to support children's learning through play

Contact Margaret Smithers, Early Years Teacher

Email: [hbpreschool@aol.com](mailto:hbpreschool@aol.com)

Phone: 01525 237172



## THE HEATH BAND



Would you like to learn a brass instrument?  
Do you already learn and would like to join a group?

Then come and join

### THE HEATH TRAINING BAND

At the Heath Barn, Eastern Way, Heath and Reach on  
Wednesday evenings (term time only)

Free tuition: 6.45 to 7.45pm - instruments available

Band practice: 7.15 to 7.45pm

For more information contact: [info@heath-band.co.uk](mailto:info@heath-band.co.uk)

[www.heath-band.co.uk](http://www.heath-band.co.uk)



[heath-band](https://www.facebook.com/heath-band)



[@heath-band](https://twitter.com/heath-band)

# Worship at St Leonard's

7th Oct	19th Sunday after Trinity
08.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00am	Family Service
9th Oct	
07.30pm	Holy Communion
14th Oct	20th Sunday after Trinity
08.00am	Holy Communion (Order 1 traditional)
11.00am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
16th Oct	
07.30pm	Holy Communion
21st Oct	21st Sunday after Trinity
08.00am	Holy Communion (Order1 traditional)
11.00am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
03.00pm	Holy Communion with prayer for inner healing and anointing
23rd Oct	
7.30pm	Holy Communion
28th Oct	Last Sunday after Trinity
08.00am	Holy Communion (Order1 traditional)
11.00am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
30th Oct	
7.30pm	Holy Communion