***VINE LEAVES from***

***ST. LEONARD’S, WORTLEY***

 ***SEPTEMBER 2024***

***‘DATES FOR YOUR DIARY’***

**September Sunday Services**

**1st September at 11am Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**8th September at 6.30pm Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**15th September at 11am Communion Service with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**22nd September at 11am Morning Praise with Ian Watson**

**29th September at 10.30am Joint Benefice Communion with Rev. Chris Herbert**

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**Monday 2nd Sept 5-6.30pm Open drop-in Vestry Session with Rev. Chris Herbert**

**Saturday 7th September Heritage Open Day, Tower Open 10am to 4pm**

**Saturday 14th September 7pm Illustrated Talk by Andrew Beevers and Supper**

**Wednesday 18th September PCC Meeting in Church 7.30pm**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY** **1-3pm** **Tea & Chat group in Church**

**Thanks to Leonard's Friends our historic Church is open for all to visit and to explore every Wednesday between 11am and 3pm**

***CHURCH CHAT***

August is always planned to be a ‘quiet’ month each summer, at least as far as social events are concerned, but as always real-life creeps in and St. Leonards has been busy with maintenance issues plus a baptism and a wedding to come towards the end of August, both happy occasions. Another happy occasion took place on 7th August when Andrew Beevers, our Tower Captain and major supporter of all things St. Leonards was presented with his British Empire Medal for services to Bell Ringing and the community. A few of us went along to Sheffield Town Hall to see Andrew presented with his medal by the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire; the event was hosted by the Mayor of Sheffield in her parlour; a relaxed and happy event with just two awards being made. As it happened both the recipients live in Ecclesfield and were known to each other, as the Lord Lieutenant commented, what a lucky place to have two such deserving residents! Needless to say, we St. Leonards folk feel very proud to call Andrew one of our own.

September is going to be a much busier month with several events planned in church , we do hope you will be able to come along and support some if not all our social gatherings and enjoy the, as always, generous and delicious refreshments on offer. **Sunday Services** at St. Leonards of course continue in their regular pattern as listed above and we hope that even if you have been unable to join us for a while or you are new to the area you will come and try being a part of the Wortley worshipping community**. A warm welcome is offered to all!!**

**Open drop-in ‘Vestry’ Evenings are now being held at St. Leonards on the first Monday of each month between 5 and 6.30pm** for all who wish to see Rev. Chris to discuss arrangements for baptisms, weddings, other church functions and business.

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

**ANNUAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**

**Church Open on Wednesday 4th September 11am – 3pm**

**and**

**on Saturday 7th September 10am – 4pm**

**The CHURCH, TOWER AND ROOF SPACE will be open to explore and there will be historic local items and documents to browse**

**Tea, Coffee and delicious Cakes to enjoy.**

**Something for everyone. No entry charge but donations always welcome!**

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***On Saturday 14th September at 7pm***

***WHAT SURPRISES ARE HIDDEN AWAY IN OUR CHURCH ?***

**An illustrated talk given by Andrew Beevers in which he will revealing some of the history hidden away in St. Leonards church and in the roof space over our heads. There are clues as to how the building has been changed and adapted over hundreds of years and indeed some mysteries yet to be solved.**

**Followed by a Pie & Peas Supper**

**Tickets £9.00 - booked in advance please -available in church**

**and from Joan Clark (0114 288 7435) and Wortley Post Office**

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**Friday 4th October at St. Leonards, Wortley – an old style Musical Evening featuring, among other performers, THURGOLAND SCHOOL CHOIR with lots of toe-tapping tunes and no doubt some ‘sing-a-long’ opportunities. Pay on the door -more details next month**

**Len’s Friends** **WEDNESDAY TEA AND CHAT GROUP**

Continues to welcome all comers each week. Come each week, or just occasionally when you can,we promise a warm welcome, tea, cakes and conversation with our happy group.

Come and join us **any Wednesday between 1 and 3pm**

**EDITOR’S NOTE All contributions to Vine Leaves at St. Leonards gratefully received: please send to** **anncampbell288@gmail.com** **or give to any PCC member or leave in Church contributing interesting or informative items for us all to enjoy**

**NEWS FROM THE BELFRIES**

**OF ST. LEONARD’S and ST. PETER’S**

**WORTLEY TOWER NEWS**

**Peal number 112** On Thursday 11th July members of the Yorkshire Association of change Ringers rang a peal at St Leonard's. In 2 hours and 55 minutes 5056 changes of Lessness Surprise Major were rung. This was the 112th peal on the bells since 1893 when they were installed in the tower.

As the bells had been ringing in the morning we held our evening practice using our ringing simulator. The bells are silenced by stretching 2 bike inner tubes around the bells and clappers. They hold the clapper in the centre so it doesn't hit the bell, therefore no sounds from the tower. In the ringing room computer software reproduces the bell sounds at the right time triggered by sensors on the bell wheels.

**Rotherham Practice** Once again we held one of our weekly practices joining in with our ringing friends at The Minster Church of All Saints Rotherham. We had a good time ringing on the 34 hundredweight 12. The bells at Rotherham are by John Taylor & co, originally a 10 cast in 1924. 2 more bells added in 1986 to make 12 and in 2022 a sharp second was added to allow the front 8 to be rung and sound right. Ringers do visit other towers and practices as part of the hobby. It makes it more interesting and provides an opportunity to ring methods that we otherwise wouldn't be able to do.

**In The Ringing World Again** Alice one of our latest recruits, managed to be featured in the Ringing World magazine this month with an article she wrote for our social media Facebook page. The magazine published some photographs as well. In her article she writes ‘I cannot believe the incredible journey I have been on. I've got to know some of the loveliest, most patient and supportive ringers. My eyes have been opened to a whole new world; The Ringing World. I can honestly say that this is only the beginning of my journey within an amazing hobby. Well done Alice.

**Did You Know** Our tower has glass louvres. Slate on the outside with a second set of glass louvres on the inside. Presumably to make for better weather proofing while at the same time providing some daylight in the belfry. We do know when the tower was built rain and snow getting in was a regular problem. The belfry floor is covered in lead sheet to prevent any rain getting down the tower. There are drain pipes set in the west and east side walls to allow the water to get out.

**TANKERSLEY TOWER NEWS**

Tentative plans are being made to reinstate a lost part of the tower. At the top of the tower, in the belfry is the remains of a flagpole. The bottom of the pole is still in place in the roof of the belfry. Held in place by iron bands bolts to the big timber beams that support the roof. We presume when the roof was replaced there was no plan to fit a new pole through the centre of the roof. Following recent discussions it has been agreed to explore the options for putting back a new glass-fibre flagpole. Churches do fly the Cross of St George Cross at times of the year such as Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, Remembrance Day (half mast), and at other times to celebrate special occasions

Flying a flag continually isn't usually done as flags don't last long when exposed to continual wind buffeting. It wears the edge away and they get shorter and ragged. It will look great from the motorway and a flag makes the church more visible and flying a flag lets people know that it is a special time and the church is active in the community.

**Learn to ring with us. At either Wortley or Tankersley** – Telephone Andrew our tower captain on: 07733005526, email: wortleytower@gmail.com or tankersleytower@gmail.com There are Facebook pages for Wortley and Tankersley bell ringers, Instagram feeds for both and Wortley ringers have an Twitter account now just called X, @Wortleytower. Andrew will reply to you and arrange a visit, tower tour and training sessions.

( Apologies for the duplicated report last month – Editor error!!)