

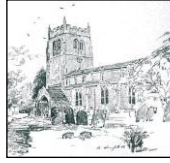
Leam Valley Messenger



Flecknoe



Grandborough



Leamington Hastings



Willoughby

August/September 2021

Life seems full of changes!

As I write this at the end of July, our churches are gradually able to relax some of the Covid rules which we have been under for the last 18 months or so. It is wonderful that we are now able to sing hymns and share refreshments following our services.

Our church communities are also here to give support during both the joyful and difficult times in our lives, both through prayer and providing a confidential listening ear when times feel difficult.

I am also so pleased that lifting of some of the restrictions have also made it easier for couples to be married in church, sadly some couples have had to rearrange wedding dates three times – but eventually they are able to say their wedding vows before God in church surrounded by their family and friends. This benefice has 4 weddings in 2021 (although I am taking another 10 in other churches). So, I am constantly reminded of the wedding vows said by the couples “For better, for worse” and “In sickness and in health” and I reflect on how relevant these words have been during the pandemic. Lots of people have been affected by loved ones being ill or isolated. For many people life has irreversibly changed with the loss of a loved one, particularly when the opportunity for funeral services has been limited.

We will be holding a benefice “Remembering” service at 4.00 pm on Sunday 7th November at St. Peter’s, Grandborough. This will be a quiet reflective service, where there will be the opportunity to remember by name anyone who has died over the past couple of years, and to light a candle for them.

Please do remember that these are your village churches, and you are all really welcome as we gradually re-commence our services.

We continue to pray as we seek a new vicar to lead us forward and hope that the right person may be guided to lead our village churches into the future. In the meantime – please do ring me or any of our reader ministers, or church wardens if we can offer any prayer, guidance, or a listening ear through these changing times in our lives.

A prayer from Riembold Niebuhr (1892-1974) to help guide us through changing times;

God, give us grace to accept with serenity

The things that cannot be changed,

Courage to change the things that should be changed,

And the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

With my love and prayers for you all, **Barbara**

From the Registers

Weddings: We congratulate the following couples whose weddings took place recently.

Emma Final and Neil Armstrong on 17th July at St Nicholas Church, Willoughby.

Hannah Louise Pugh and James David Batsford on Friday 23rd July at All Saints’ Church, Leamington Hastings

Baptisms: We welcome **Olivia Victoria Clare Jordan** into the life and membership of the church family. Victoria was baptised at All Saints’ Church, Leamington Hastings on Sunday 25th July

Flecknoe

Very many thanks to all who have so generously donated towards our church ceiling appeal. We have now reached and passed our target to raise £5,000. In total 34 households, about half the village, have donated an excellent total of £5,415. This is a brilliant achievement, and the PCC are most grateful to you all for saving St Mark’s Church from insolvency. It has been a difficult 18 months as we have been restricted from holding services and therefore have lost income and yet we have not received any support from the government.

We plan to hold a coffee morning at Hillcrest House on Saturday 4th September from 10.00 am to 12 noon. This is in place of the coffee morning we scheduled for 10th July but had to postpone when Covid restrictions were not lifted as expected. People of all ages are welcome to come along. A chance to meet and chat after so many months of restrictions.

Our Harvest service will be held on Sunday 26th September at 5.00 pm and is planned to be followed by our Harvest Supper in the Village Hall at 6.00 pm, an event missed in 2020.

Grandborough

Thank You - Charmaine would like to thank everyone who supported ‘Scones and Tea’ in her garden at Gilgen on Sunday 25th July. It was a delight to be able

to meet up with friends and have a chat after the various periods of lockdown. The total sum raised amounted to £549.75 and this will be shared between St Peter's Church and the Village Hall.

Churchyard Clean-up - We would welcome support from anyone in the village who has an hour or two to spare on Saturday 4th September from 10.00 am to 12.00, to help cut back hedges and generally tidy up in the churchyard. Please bring your tools with you, hedgecutters, wheelbarrows, etc. All ages welcome.

Farmers' Market - It is 18 months since we had our last market in March 2020, and all being well, we plan to restart the Market on Thursday 2nd September, when we feel the time will be right and it will be safe to open up again. However, we would like to ask everyone to still be mindful of social distancing and wearing a mask. Weather permitting, it is our intention to have seating outside for our Café. There will be some changes, in as much as we want to simplify things and handle as little change as possible, so to make it easier, everything on the menu will be £1, and we would appreciate if you could try to have the correct money. We look forward to welcoming you from 10.00 am – 12.30 pm.

Messy Church - We plan to have our first meeting on Thursday 7th October. More details in the next Leam Valley Messenger.

Leamington Hastings

Exploring Faith or interested in Confirmation

Do you have questions about God and faith???

Would you like to explore what your faith means in a relaxed, friendly and non-threatening environment???

If so, please do come along and be with like-minded people to explore and develop your own understanding of who God is in your life.

You could be thinking of Confirmation, but need to explore what it means to you.

For more information, please contact:

Revd. Canon Barbara Clutton, Associate Minister on 01788 810372 or 07808 137550 or Karen Hatch, Reader on 01926 812363 or 07837 108946.

Willoughby

The long summer days beckon invitingly. And nowhere more so than in our lovely churchyard. Take time to visit and wander round. There are early plans to clear the overgrown area at the back and replant and also strengthen the bank.

Flower Festival - We would like to thank everyone who helped decorate the church with floral displays for the festival held on 24 July. The church looked

beautiful and we were delighted to welcome so many people to St Nicholas, raising over £700 for church funds, for which we are very appreciative.

Harvest Festival - Please keep the 12th September free. A Harvest lunch is planned in the Village Hall after the service. Details will follow. Tickets will be £7.50 for adults and £5 for children.

Bell ringing is to restart. If anyone wants to try their hand to learn you are more than welcome. It is planned to be held on Friday afternoons from 2.00 pm. Contact Kim Gibbard for details 891191.

Soup and Social - We are hoping to restart again in October in the Village Hall.

We are still waiting feedback about the plans submitted for kitchen/servery. Thank you to all who completed and returned the surveys.

A quick reminder that a steering group is being formed. The idea is to look at how St Nicholas can engage and involve people in the rich Heritage of the area where we all live. It is hoped to put together a National Lottery Heritage Grant bid.

According to UNESCO: *Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. Willoughby as a village boasts many examples of Heritage.*

Church Services			
1st August	Leamington Hastings Benefice	10.30 am	Holy Communion
8th August	Grandborough Benefice	10.30 am	Holy Communion
15th August	Flecknoe Benefice	10.30 am	Holy Communion
22nd August	Willoughby Benefice	10.30 am	Holy Communion
5th September	Grandborough Leamington Hastings	9.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
12th September	Flecknoe Willoughby Grandborough	9.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Harvest Service Evensong
19th September	Leamington Hastings Grandborough	9.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion WtW
26th September	Willoughby Flecknoe	11.00 am 5.00 pm	Holy Communion Harvest Service
3rd October	Grandborough Leamington Hastings	9.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
7th October	Grandborough	4.30 pm	Messy Church

Please note the latest date for items to be included in the next Leam Valley Messenger is 19 September. Reports should be sent to: dorothyjohnson@outlook.com