

Leam Valley Messenger



Flecknoe



Grandborough



Leamington Hastings



Willoughby

December 2021/January 2022

We are very much looking forward to welcoming many of you into our churches for our Christmas Services and activities over December, full details in the rest of the Messenger. Please note that we will be taking all the Covid precautions necessary to keep everyone safe as they attend our churches.

As we come to the end of one year and are ready to begin the new chapter of 2022, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on what has been, and to look forward to what is to come in our benefices in 2022.

I don't think that anyone could have predicted the difficulties of 2021 as the pandemic altered all of our lives in many different ways. We all had to learn to cope with so many changes in all aspects of our lives, sadly some changes were irreversible with lives lost.

In our churches, many of us learned how to do church in a different way by zoom, sadly funerals were very restricted, many weddings were postponed up to three or four times or took place with only a handful of guests.

As the restrictions lifted, we have welcomed many couples into our churches for their weddings and we are looking forward to many other weddings booked for 2022 and 2023.

We look forward to other new starts in 2022 beginning with the exciting news of our new Priest, Revd. Phil Price taking up post at a special service at All Saints' Church, Leamington Hastings at 7.30 pm. on January 11th. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Revd. Phil and his family into Draycote and the Leam Valley to look after the 8 churches across the two benefices.

In a Deanery Confirmation Service in November, Ian Sewell was confirmed by The Bishop of Warwick at a special service at St Gabriel's, Rugby. We welcome Ian as he takes another step in his faith journey.

Sadly, it has been decided that Grandborough Methodist Chapel will be closing after 165 years of faithful worship in their small church, a building that has been a beacon of prayer, worship and singing – spreading God's love throughout our villages. We look forward to continuing to welcome our Methodist friends to all our services in our churches and ask for God's love and blessing for their future worship.

"Loving God, we lift before you all who have struggled with difficulties in 2021 and we ask for your healing love and blessing on each person."

"May the joy of the angels, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas"

With my very best wishes and blessings for a happy and healthy 2022.

Revd. Barbara



From the Registers

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the relatives and friends of:

Pamela Crabb whose funeral took place on 12th November at All Saints' Church, Leamington Hastings.

Church News and Notices

Flecknoe

Carol Service

We are planning to hold our Carol Service on Sunday 19th December at 6.00 pm. This will be back to our normal format after the restrictions we had to make last year. We will distribute wine and mince pies after the service. Please come along with all the family and make this a festive start to your Christmas celebrations.

Grandborough

Thank you

We would like to say thank you very much to all those who came along on two separate occasions to help cut the hedges round the churchyard and generally tidy up. This was very much appreciated.

Farmers' Market

Our next market will be on Thursday 2nd December from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. There will be complementary mulled wine and a raffle, with the draw taking place at 11.30 am.

We have been extremely grateful to all the people who have donated to the Silent Auction since we started in 2012. However, we have decided against a Silent Auction this year as we feel too many businesses have suffered big losses with the pandemic over the last 15 months or so, and did not want to make them feel uncomfortable by asking for donations.

The Stallholders that will be there with their Christmas Fayre are: Whittlebury Bakery, Flavours (Cheese, Pies, Pasties and cured Ham), The Jam Lady with jams and chutney, Bee Originals with local honey and beeswax products, the Lost Farm with Manx Loaghtan Lamb and Dexter Beef. Cym Baseley with fresh butter, ice cream and hand knitted items from her own sheep. The church stall with homemade Christmas Cakes, Christmas mince pies and sweets. Lindsey Bramley, from Grandborough 'The Tin Pot Flower Company,' will be joining us for the first time and will be selling Christmas wreaths and Christmas arrangements.

The Lost Farm will also be taking Christmas orders at the market.

We do hope you will be able to join us and after having a browse and making some purchases, enjoy a chat while having refreshments in the café.

We would also like to thank everyone for their support since we started up again in September.

Please take note that there will NOT be a market in January. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and hope to see you in February 2022

Messy Church

We had been intending to have a Christmas Party for Messy Church, but after a lot of thought, advice and careful consideration, feel that this may be unwise with the rising Covid cases, especially in younger children. We would not want to spoil Christmas for any of the families with anyone taking ill and passing it on to others. We feel it is too close to Christmas to take unnecessary risks. We hope you all understand that we think this is the safest way for the time being and hopefully we will be able to start again in February 2022. We are very sorry about this, especially as we had everything planned.

The Messy Church Team wish you all a very Happy Christmas

Addington Advent Service

The Trustees of the Advent Fund invite you to their service at St Peter's church on Wednesday 8 December at 3.00 pm. This will be led by the Right Reverend John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone welcome.

Rugby Food Bank

The Rugby Food Bank are running a **12 days of Christmas** collection to stock their Christmas Hampers that go out to every Rugby household in need of foodbank support over the run up to Christmas.

The 12 days of Christmas shopping list consists of:

Paxo stuffing; Tin of fruit cocktail; Crisps; Chocolate coins; Birds Custard; Selection Box; Jar of Chutney; Packet of sweets; Bisto gravy, Christmas Pudding; Packet of mixed biscuits, Packet of Nuts. These items need to arrive before the **13th December** in order that they can be packed into the hampers for distribution to the foodbank clients. For more information contact: www.rugby.foodbank.org.uk.

If you would like to donate any of the above items, the church will be open to receive them on **Saturday 4th December from 10.00 am until midday and Sunday 5th December from 9.00 until 11.00 am.**

Candlelight Service

Our traditional Candlelight service on Christmas Eve will be held at St Peter's at 6.00 pm. Please come and join us for this special service led by Archdeacon Sue Field. Everyone welcome.

Grandborough Methodist Church

It is with deep regret and great sadness that it has become necessary for us to close the Chapel. Services will cease from 28th November, apart from a carol service on 19th December at 6.30pm. There will be a final, farewell service next year. We would like to thank all those who have worshipped with us and supported us through the years. God Bless.

Women's Institute - On Wednesday 8th December the WI will be meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm for a Christmas Pudding Supper. For more details contact: Elise Oliver on 07801 928464 or Margaret McAulley on 07713 113922.



Leamington Hastings

Christmas Charity Concert

At All Saints on **Saturday 4th December at 7.30 pm** in aid of Myton Hospice and The Friends of All Saints Church. Tickets cost £15 and are available at friendsofallsaintslh@gmail.com Parking is free and seasonal refreshments are included. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Carol Concert

On Sunday 12th December at 4.00 pm. Please come and join us to sing some favourite carols and hear the wonderful story afresh. Seasonal refreshments will be included.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

The service at Leamington Hastings this year will be at 11.00 pm on Christmas Eve. Please note time change.

Willoughby

The year seems to have flown past as we now approach December and St Nicholas has a busy month ahead.

Christingle - On 5th December at 4.00 pm we will be making the Christingle oranges during the service. Christmas trees will be in church as part of our Christmas tree festival.

Christmas Tree Festival - On Friday 10th December (6.30 to 8.30 pm) and Saturday 11th December (5.00 to 7.00 pm) we will have our Santa trail round the village. See the decorated houses and Christmas Tree Festival in the church. Refreshments will be served. There will be a raffle, teddy competition, glow sticks and the opportunity to make a Christmas card.

Donations will go to the church building fund. Children under 16 will receive a pre-Santa present.

An outdoor tree will again be in the churchyard. Help us decorate by making/bringing a tree decoration.

Carol Service – This will be held on 19th December at 4.00 pm and we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies.

During the week of 13th December the Posada will be travelling round the village moving from family to family on its way. A Posada represents Mary, Joseph and the donkey's journey to Bethlehem. It will start its journey at three schools before moving into the village. The last family to have it will deliver it to the church, arriving in time for the carol service. We hope you will join us.

We have a collection bin in the church where you can leave your old used reading glasses to be recycled. Tools with a Mission is now on hold until the New Year.

The kitchen/toilet project has a shortfall of £10,000 due to increased building costs. We are working hard to overcome this. Plans are underway for a very busy future as we organise Heritage activities and events. We will soon be in a position to submit our request for funding to the Heritage Lottery fund.

We will need volunteers to help in the community garden to clear it and help it to take shape. Some hedging needs to be replaced and this is expected soon from the Woodland Trust.

Finally very many thanks to all our supporters and volunteers.

We hope you have a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



Windmill Singers – A friendly, mixed choir based in Southam have begun rehearsals again. All ages, voices and abilities are welcome. It is not essential to be able to read music and there is no audition. The repertoire is varied and should suit all tastes. Enjoy singing? It's more fun with others! Come and give us a try.

For more information telephone either Yvonne Diment (Choir Secretary) on 01926 812481 or Nick Jakeman (Musical Director) on 01788 81622. For those of you who are unaware who the Musical Director is, Nick is one of our parishioners and lives locally in Grandborough Fields.

Southam District Advertiser are currently looking for a new delivery person for their monthly round in Grandborough. Any interested parties can add their names to the waiting list via their website www.districtadvertisers.co.uk.

Leam Valley First Responders - Are you aware of the Leam Valley Community First Responders. We form part of a co-ordinated approach to saving lives in your area. We are volunteers who live within the Leam Valley Area and work in partnership with the West Midlands Ambulance Service responding to 999 calls. We will attend a wide range of trauma or medical emergencies including: - cardiac arrest, heart attacks, strokes, road traffic accidents and more.

We are a non-profit organisation and fundraise in our own right, holding talks and demonstrations, first aid at events, selling items at craft fairs/fetes. If you would like to book a talk or demonstration, or our attendance as First Aid at an event, or even if you would like to donate, please get in touch. All enquiries and donations will be very much welcomed and appreciated. For more information, contact: Susan.waddington@btinternet.com.

Church Services			
5th December	Grandborough Leamington Hastings Willoughby	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Christingle
8th December	Grandborough	3.00 pm	Addington Fund Advent Service
12th December	Flecknoe Birdingbury Leamington Hastings Grandborough	9.00 am 10.30 pm 4.00 pm 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Carol Service Evensong
Saturday 18th December	Grandborough	4.00 pm	Christingle
19th December	Leamington Hastings Grandborough Willoughby Flecknoe	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.00 pm 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Welcome to Worship Carol Service Carol Service
24th December	Grandborough Willoughby Leamington Hastings	6.00 pm 9.30 pm 11.00 pm	Candlelight Service Holy Communion Holy Communion
25th December	Grandborough Flecknoe	9.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
26th December	Grandborough	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Said) with Draycote Group
2nd January	Grandborough Leamington Hastings	9.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
9th January	Flecknoe Birdingbury Leamington Hastings	9.00 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Induction Service rehearsal
Tuesday 11th January	Leamington Hastings	7.30 pm	Installation Service for Revd Phil
16th January	Stretton (Joint service with Draycote group)	10.30 am	Holy Communion
23rd January	Flecknoe Willoughby	9.00 am 11.00 am	Breakfast Service Holy Communion
30th January	Grandborough Benefice Candlemas	10.30 am	Holy Communion

Please note the latest date for items to be included in the next Leam Valley Messenger is **15th January 2022**.

Reports should be sent to: dorothyjohnson@outlook.com

The Editor would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and good health and happiness in 2022.