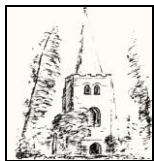


Leam Valley Messenger



Flecknoe



Grandborough



Leamington Hastings



Willoughby

February/March 2022

Welcome to the February/March Leam Valley Messenger

It is really exciting to be writing my first introduction to the Leam Valley Messenger. This edition covers a time that usually starts cold and dark outside and finishes with the daffodils coming up, telling us that Spring is coming. I like this time of year because it is filled with possibilities and potential. It is quite handy that I feel this way at this time in the year because I'm just starting out in a new role as your new Priest-in-Charge.

I am joining you with my wife, Esther and our two daughters Millie (10) and Magdalena (8). We also bring with us two ginger cats (Charlotte and Pumpkin). I like to think of myself as a 'Welsh Essex boy from Kettering' because I was born in South Wales, went to university in Colchester (where I met Esther) and grew up in Northamptonshire. We are joining you from Reading where I have been the Curate at St Catherine's, Tilehurst. Before that I was studying at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. All of this means that I am quite well practised at moving house and starting again in new places.

We moved into Thurlaston just before Christmas, so we were able to spend some time settling into our new surroundings and letting go of parts of our old lives before I started my new role. This process has been surprisingly freeing and liberating.

I do like a gadget so I have really enjoyed getting a new Internet Service Provider (I know that is a strange thing to enjoy). With our old one we were struggling to get a decent Wi-Fi signal in our old house so I've been really excited to start afresh with a new supplier who is doing a much better job of keeping us connected to the internet.

The process of moving house has also forced me to face some of my hoarding tendencies. Throughout November and December, Esther and I seemed to be constantly having conversations about what we did and didn't need to take with us to the new house. Trying to work out what a charity shop may conceivably be able to resell and what is only really fit for the tip, revealed quite how much worthless junk I'd been hanging on to for years.

I have also jettisoned my old e-mail address and set up a new one for my new role here. I like using my new one because it is not clogged up with old e-mails and it's not on lots of spammy circulation lists.

Moving to Rugby has allowed me lots of fresh starts. There were things that were getting in the way, taking up time and causing frustration which moving house has encouraged me to get rid of.

We all need a fresh start now and again. Whilst physically moving your life from one place to another isn't an everyday occurrence for most of us, this is a good time to think about fresh starts.

In March we move into Lent, which is traditionally a time of reflection as we think about our lives and ponder changes that God might be calling us to make. St Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (LBT):

When someone becomes a Christian, he (or she) becomes a brand-new person inside. He (or she) is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!

I am certainly very aware of this as I begin my new life with you here, and I hope that I am not alone in this as we see the seasons change from winter to spring and as Lent comes, bringing with it time and space to reflect on our lives. **Rev Phil Price**

Church News

Flecknoe

We welcome the arrival of Rev Philip Price and the start of a new era as part of the joint Draycote and Leam Valley Benefices. It is too early to know how this will impact on us, but we look forward to a new beginning.

After not being able to in 2021, we will be holding a BIG Breakfast this winter, but later than in the past. In part to let Covid infections fall, we have pencilled in the date of Saturday 30th April. We will firm up on this date in next issue of 'The Messenger.'

Grandborough

Tower Floor - We are delighted to say that work on the tower floor has now been completed and we are extremely pleased with the workmanship of our Builder and Architect. We now have a lovely new wooden floor which should last for many years to come.

We are very grateful for the various grants that we have received, enabling us to complete this project without any extra costs.

Farmers' Market - Our next markets are planned for 3rd February and 3rd March. We will have all our normal Stallholders as well as our Café selling homemade cakes and sausage rolls. All refreshments and cakes are £1 each. Come along, have a chat and meet up with some friends.

Messy Church - We are planning to restart Messy Church on 3rd March and hope all our regular children will be looking forward to coming back after 2 years with covid restrictions.

We are also hoping to welcome any new families who haven't been before. The cost is £1 for children over 4. We have crafts, worship, singing and a 2 course hot meal. We start at 4.30 pm and finish at approximately 6.30 pm.

Leamington Hastings

Thank you - A belated thank you to everyone who donated cakes and attended a pop up coffee morning in aid of the church. A total of £300 was raised. Apologies from the editor, unfortunately there was not enough space in the last Messenger to add this item.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - Zinnia Allen would like to thank all the residents of Hill who so kindly donated to the Appeal in November 2021. A total of £64.80p was collected.

Licensing Service for Phil - Rev. Phil Price was Licensed by Bishop John at Leamington Hastings on the 11th January, as the Priest in Charge for the Draycote and Leam Valley Churches joint benefice. Many came to meet and welcome Phil and we were able to enjoy some refreshments after the service.

Phil Led a joint service for all 8 churches of the benefice at Stretton on Dunsmore on Sunday 16th January, which was well attended. During February, Phil will be leading services at each of the 8 churches; so, plenty of opportunity to meet him. We wish him well in his new ministry and ask for your prayers for Phil and his family.

Willoughby

After a lovely month in December when the church welcomed over 200 people at the Christingle, tree festival and carol service, we are back to planning for this coming year.

The tea making and toilet facility now faces a shortfall of £7,000 due to increased building costs but we are determined this will happen. It will enable us to do so much more at the church.

Plans for a community garden are slowly taking shape and volunteers are always welcome.

Soup and Social will be held in the Village Hall on February 19th and March 26th. Come along, meet friends and make new ones. Homemade soup and puddings just £5 donation towards church funds. 12.00 - 2.00 pm.

Our **All Age Service** on 13th February at 11.00 am celebrates new life and beginnings. Farmers are busy lambing and we plan activities reflecting the celebration of this special time of year.

Tools with a Mission and Reading Glasses - Donations can now be dropped off at the church on the second Saturday of the month between 10.00 am and midday. Many thanks to those who have donated so far.

We are planning a craft activity in the church on 25th March from 5.00 – 7.00 pm when children can make Mothers' Day presents.

We plan to restart Pennies from Heaven boxes in March, so any loose change would be much appreciated.

Finally, our Heritage Lottery Bid is nearly ready for submission. Many thanks to all who have helped and continue to do so.

Church Services

30 th January	10.30 am	Grandborough Benefice Service	Holy Communion
6 th February	9.00 am 11.00 am	Grandborough Leamington Hastings	Holy Communion Holy Communion
13 th February	9.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Flecknoe Willoughby Grandborough	Holy Communion Family Service Evensong
20 th February	9.00 am 11.00 am	Leamington Hastings Grandborough	Holy Communion Welcome to Worship
27 th February	9.00 am 11.00 am	Flecknoe Willoughby	Breakfast Service Holy Communion
3 rd March	4.30 pm	Grandborough	Messy Church
6 th March	9.00 am 11.00 am	Grandborough Leamington Hastings	Holy Communion Holy Communion
13 th March	9.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Flecknoe Willoughby Grandborough	Holy Communion Family Service Evensong
20 th March	9.00 am 11.00 am	Leamington Hastings Grandborough	Holy Communion Welcome to Worship
27 th March	TBC	Mothers' Day	To be confirmed

At the time of going to print, I don't have details of where and when the Mothers' Day services will be held. When available the details will be on the relevant webpages and Facebook.

Please note the latest date for items to be included in the next Leam Valley Messenger is 15th March 2022. Please send to: dorothyjohnson@outlook.com.