



Leam Valley Newsletter

April/May 2021



Dear Friends

I write this at the end of March as we mark the first anniversary of the Covid lockdown, none of us knew this time last year what the next twelve months would bring.

We have been worried for our families and loved ones, felt isolated and lonely – our lives have changed immeasurably.

But there have been some signs of hope for the future as we have celebrated the wonderful and tireless work of the NHS, of care workers and all who have volunteered in so many small and significant ways.

Justin Welby, our Archbishop summed it up when he spoke on the anniversary using these three words in his talk;

Reflect, support and hope.

We need to **reflect** on what we have been living through, to remember all the families who have been bereaved, and were unable to be with them in hospital, to say goodbye to them, or have the funeral service that they would have wished.

We also need to continue to **support** all those who continue to need our love and care, whether in practical ways, with sympathy and most importantly with our prayers. To support those families who have been home schooling, had wedding services postponed and have been unable to celebrate family occasions of birthdays and anniversaries – life has been difficult in many different ways.

But amidst all of this there is **hope** – the hope that the vaccine brings, helping to see a future with more freedom; the hope of longer days of light; the hope of new life of spring seen through creation all around us.

And most of all for us Christians – the wonderful celebration of Easter bringing the light of hope in the resurrection of Jesus, who conquered death and brought new light into the world.

Reflect, Support, Hope.

During his life Jesus spent time **reflecting**, taking quiet time away on mountainsides, on lakes to pray to God his Father. Jesus always **supported** others, his disciple friends, the many people he healed and those who were on the margins of society. Most of all Jesus brought us all the gift of **hope** that our future life will be better.

Understandably sometimes it's hard for us to feel that hope for the future; please remember that our church communities are here to help with prayer, and to welcome you back into our church buildings for services as we bring you God's love and hope for the future.

We are planning to hold a service in the autumn to remember by name all those known to our parishes that have died during this time of lockdown.

Please do contact me if I can help to bring you God's love, support and hope for the future, through prayer, listening or a chat.

With my love and prayers for you all. Barbara.

Prayer for the National Day of Reflection

*Dear God,
Be with us as we think about
All that has changed this year
And help us to trust that you are always with us. Be close
to us as we remember all those who have died, And help
us to trust that they are at peace with you.
Show us how to reach out to others
With kindness and care,
So that hope shines out in every heart and home.
Amen*

We offer our sympathy and prayers to all the families in the benefice who have lost loved ones during the last year and also to others known only to their families and friends.

Flecknoe

Work is due to start on our Church ceiling on Palm Sunday, immediately following our first service in church since closing in January for lock-down. From Monday 29th March panels on the church ceiling that have cracked will be over-boarded and replastered. This has become necessary following a fall of some of the original 19th century plaster near the entrance door where the plaster has separated from the lath. This and the cracking have been caused by settlement of the church walls over the last century.

This work will be followed after Easter with the repainting of the whole ceiling as well as all the wooden beams in the church roof. Overall this has become a much bigger job than originally expected and one we will struggle to afford, especially since we have lost much of our normal income during lock-down, so any donations towards the project would be most gratefully received.

Andrew Grant, Churchwarden and Hon Treasurer, 01788 891076.

Grandborough

Easter Sunday - We are looking forward to having a service in the Church on Easter Day and as usual we will have Easter flowers decorating the church for this occasion. We are hoping many of you will be able to come along and join us for this Holy Communion service at 9.00 am which will be led by Barbara Clutton.

Thank you - We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Phil and Kim Blundred, who prepared and sold a 'Pop up Curry' outside the Village Hall. This proved to be very popular, with a profit of £200 going to St Peter's. **Well done!**

Renovation – Unfortunately work on the church was postponed and will not be completed until later in the year.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week is 9th to 16th May this year. We will not be doing any door-to-door collections, however, Dorothy will be contacting you nearer the time to see if you would like to donate by e-envelopes. At the moment the necessary information has not been circulated to the co-ordinators.

Chapel

The Methodist Chapel are looking forward to opening up again, commencing with Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at 6.30 pm led by Rev Andy Hardwick. Services for May will be held at 6.30 pm and are as follows:

May 9th Rev Michael Haighton
 May 16th Chaplain Kate Hitchcox
 May 30th Rev Andy Hardwick (HC)

Willoughby

St Nicholas Church has been awarded the Faculty for the roof, now the hard part starts securing the necessary £130,000. Grants are being researched and help is sought with fund raising and ideas.

Architecturally the church is important because it represents many facets of life throughout the ages with its varied architecture, particularly the window designs. Work is also being carried out drawing plans for a much needed servery/disabled toilet. That too, is not without issue, as we have to ensure we complement the interior of the church.

If anyone has any ideas for fund raising or are able to spare time to help tidy the churchyard, keeping it the oasis of calm it has become, please contact Karen Nichols kjndon@aol.com or 07866572209.



Leam Valley Benefice Services for Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday March 28th – 10.30 am. - St. Mark's, Flecknoe, Palm Sunday blessing of palm crosses and Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday 1st April – 7.30 pm at St. Peter's, Grandborough. Holy Communion

Good Friday 2nd April – 2.00 pm at All Saints, Leamington Hastings. Reflective service of readings and music.

Easter Day 4th April

9.00 am - Holy Communion – St. Peter's, Grandborough
 10.30 am - Holy Communion – St. Mark's, Flecknoe
 11.00 am - Holy Communion – All Saints, Leamington Hastings
 12 noon - Holy Communion – St. Nicholas, Willoughby

Church Services			
11th April	Flecknoe	9.00 am	Holy Communion
18th April	Leamington Hastings	9.00 am	Holy Communion
25th April	Flecknoe Willoughby	9.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
2nd May	Grandborough Leamington Hastings	9.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
9th May	Flecknoe	9.00 am	Communion
16th May	Leamington Hastings	9.00 am	Holy Communion
23rd May	Leamington Hastings Benefice - Pentecost	10.30 am	Holy Communion
30th May	Willoughby Benefice	10.30 am	Holy Communion

Please note that any items to be included in the next Leam valley Messenger should be emailed to Dorothy Johnson by 18th May dorothyjohnson@outlook.com.