

Leam Valley Messenger



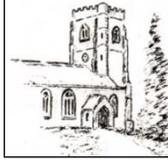
Flecknoe



Grandborough



Leamington Hastings



Willoughby

April/May 2020

Rev Anne Hinks, Priest-in-Charge of Leam Valley Benefice
The Vicarage, Willoughby
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Our services at all 4 churches in the Benefice are temporarily suspended because of the coronavirus and also have to be closed for your safety, but we are here for you in other ways through this time. Keep in touch with us.

Dear Friends,

We recognise what a very unusual and painful time this is for everyone, and we want to stress that we are praying for you all and are very grateful for all that you are doing.

It's an anxious time for those who are in isolation at home, those we depend on who go to work, or look after children at home; those in hospital, too.

It has always been true that the church is for everyone whether you are a church goer or not, a person of faith or not. So, we, as a church, are here for you.

As the challenge of the coronavirus grips the world, and as the government asks every individual and every organisation to rethink its life, the Church of England in all its parishes is called to serve God in a new way. Public worship will have to go on pause for a season. (Funerals will still take place, though in a much smaller, careful way.)

Our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold. But this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop. Far from it. By our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ is made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that will counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.

The church is rooted in the offering of prayer and praise, and overflowing service to the world. Please, therefore, join us in this great challenge; and pray for our government and nation, for each other, and especially those who work in our health and emergency services.

There is a lovely sense of peace in our churches in the quiet space. That peace is God's gift to us; so it is also for all of us at home too, or at work.

Alas, the churches which were open for a while have now been told to close. May your home give as much comfort as being in the restful peace of the church would have been. May God bless you there.

We are entering a period unknown in living memory in our church life. I understand the last time services were suspended was during the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918.

Even though this may be a difficult and demanding time in many ways for us all, I pray it may also be one where we have the chance to think and reflect on the way we live our lives and the things that are truly important.

As people of the Gospel of hope and reconciliation, I feel we have much to share with each other at this time, even if that cannot be done face to face or in the church. So, we as the churches in Leam Valley, with our Bishops and Archbishops, send you our wishes that God's blessing and strength may be with you as we step out into the unknown. We who minister here will be praying for you and caring about you, every day.

As always, I am on the end of an email and phone. For those who do not have it, my mobile number is 07854 329 892 and my landline is 01788 438 561, and email anne.hinks@outlook.com; and you are welcome to get in contact with me if you would like advice on issues during this time; or if you just need to chat.

And you can access services and other material online through our website www.leadvalleychurches.co.uk

My prayer for you today is that you may have peace instead of anxiety, and rest instead of fear; for our good Lord sees us all as his children, and he is with us.

With love, *Anne*

Anne Hinks, Priest-in-charge.

From the Registers

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

Arthur Timms whose Memorial Service took place at 4th February at St Peter's Church, Grandborough, followed by a cremation at Rainsbrook Crematorium.

Irene Williamson whose funeral will be held at All Saints' Church Leamington Hastings on Thursday 26th March.

Church News and Notices

“The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to follow the instructions given by the Prime Minister to stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

But they called on the Church to “continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable.”

It means all Church of England churches will close with immediate effect in line with the Government's instructions. There will also be no Church weddings or baptisms.

Funerals at the graveside or in crematoriums can still take place, but only in line with the Prime Minister's statement.”

Prayers - Should anyone have specific prayer requests, please contact one of the following by phone or email:

Name	Telephone numbers	Email addresses
Anne Hinks	01788 438561 Mobile: 07854 329892	anne.hinks@outlook.com
Barbara Clutton	01788 814994	barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk
Karen Hatch	01926 812363	ingrianna57@gmail.com
Dr Alec Parker	01926 812548	drdaparker@hotmail.com

Please note that until further notice, Healing services, Messy Church, Farmers' Markets, Soup and Social events, Thursday Club and any planned concerts have all been postponed for the foreseeable future.

Flecknoe

Sadly, we had to cancel our Mothering Sunday service. However, the effort that has been made to put this service together will not be wasted, we plan to postpone the service to Sunday 22nd November.

If you would like a prayer for any reason, message privately either Laura Seago or Andrew Grant (you don't need to go into any detail if you don't want to). We will continue to pray for all who have asked for a prayer. Remember there is always light in the darkness.

Grandborough

Farmers' Market - We had an excellent Farmers' Market in March and our stallholders were very pleased with the number of customers. We are extremely sorry to disappoint both our stallholders and customers by cancelling the market for the foreseeable future and hope they will all be happy to return when life becomes normal again.

Leamington Hastings

Snowdrop Weekend - A huge thank you on behalf of the Friends of All Saints' Church to all who were involved in the planning, execution and running of the Snowdrop Weekend in mid-February, and to those who came to visit. During what was one of the worst weekends for weather this year (so far!), we were very glad to see so many people enjoying what we had to offer here in Leamington Hastings and the happy atmosphere in the church. For those brave enough to wander around the village and churchyard, the snowdrops were looking good too! Thank you also to those who helped with feeding the 4 lambs in the church on the Sunday.

We raised the magnificent sum of £1,239.85 for the church fabric – thank you all again for your support!

Willoughby

Many thanks to all who helped make St Patrick's Evening such a success. Without the hard work put in by people, these events would not happen. £579.90 was raised towards the kitchen/roof project funds.

We can report the roof will be opened up to check and an architect is drawing up plans for when we can restart. Thank you to everyone who attended the meetings and hopefully later in the year we shall have an opportunity to progress further.

We must all do our best to keep safe at this time and follow Government and the Church of England guidelines So finally everyone please look after yourselves and keep smiling. We will get through these times.