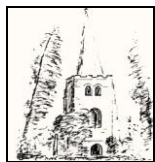


## Leam Valley Messenger



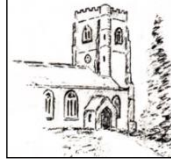
Flecknoe



Grandborough



Leamington Hastings



Willoughby

June/July 2021

Dear Friends

*“And all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”*

These are some words spoken by Julian of Norwich, in 1373. Julian of Norwich was an anchoress (an anchoress took vows to live a solitary life of prayer and meditation) who lived in an enclosed cell attached to a church in Norwich. She was effectively walled in, no door but 3 windows, one looked into the church so she could take part in the services, one looked onto the road outside so she could pray for people and the third window to an inner room so a servant could pass her food and clothes and take out her slops.

St. Julian is one of my favourite saints and I have been reflecting on some of her words during our enforced lockdown and solitude. It seems that there are some resemblances to what we have been through during our time of “Covid enclosure”. We have had to look out at the world and our daily life in a different way, many of our lives have been significantly altered, we have been more enclosed, more isolated, possibly lonelier. We have seen things in a different way – often through a computer screen, window, or telephone – we have not had a doorway into our normal world.

Although all our lives have altered – one thing has remained constant – God’s love. God’s love can bring hope to each one of us, hope that our future will be safe and well.

Sometimes it is hard to appreciate God’s love, particularly when we have loved ones who are bereaved, ill, stressed, and lonely and we are not able to support them as we would want. God’s love is there, there in our prayers, there in the practical support that we are now able to give and in giving thanks for all in the who support us and particularly in the work of the NHS.

Our church services are gradually getting back to normal, although we are of course continuing to follow the Government Covid guidelines, it is wonderful to welcome friends back into our church buildings again. Hopefully restrictions will ease more as we go through the summer, and we will be able to hold a full range of services. Please do check our benefice website [www.leafvalleychurches.co.uk](http://www.leafvalleychurches.co.uk) for up-to-date news.

The lockdown has also given us the gift of time – time to contemplate God’s creation all around us, just as Julian of Norwich did, she reflected on the beauty of a hazelnut and how every single thing came into existence because of the love of God.

*Lord of all creation,  
Each Day is a gift from you.  
Give us eyes to see the beauty of your world,  
Ears to hear the sounds of your creation,  
And grace to use your gifts wisely and well. Amen.*

With my prayers and God’s love to you all, please do contact me if I can help or support you in any way.

Barbara Clutton [barbaraclutton@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraclutton@hotmail.com). 01788 810372, 07808 137550

## Church Notices

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

**Samuel Henry Wadland** from Broadwell whose funeral took place on 26th March at All Saints, Leamington Hastings

**Roger Johnson** whose ashes were interred on 24th April at St Nicholas, Willoughby.

**Susan Skinner** whose funeral took place at St Nicholas, Willoughby, on 29th April.

**Colin Whittaker** whose funeral took place on 16th May at St Peter’s, Grandborough.

## Flecknoe

Many thanks to all who have generously contributed towards the cost of the repairs and repainting of our church ceiling. We have now received £3,000, but would still welcome further contributions to get to our target of £5,000. Many areas of the Victorian lath and plaster proved to be in a poor state of repair such that we had to overboard and skim more than half the existing ceiling panels. The new plaster was not adequately covered by the single coat of paint our architect had said would be sufficient, meaning that a second coat of the specified expensive Classidur Traditional paint was needed. Overall the project cost almost £6,000 more than the total funds in our church bank accounts.

The church is now open every day and our book swap is available to use. If passing, visit to see the newly restored church ceiling.

Hoping that final restrictions are lifted in June. We are planning a coffee morning on **Saturday 10th July from 10.00 am to 12 noon** at Hillcrest House. Please come along and take advantage of once again being able to socialise freely.

## Grandborough

### Christian Aid Week

Dorothy would like to say a special thank you to the 13 people who donated by e-envelope to this very worthy cause, raising the sum of £331 and for 6 cash payments amounting to £74, making the total £405. Added to this is gift aid of £70.25.

### Date for your Diaries

Charmaine is planning to serve 'Scones and Tea' in her garden at Gilgen, Church Road, on Sunday, 25th July from 1.00 pm, and will be delighted to welcome anyone who can come along. The proceeds will be divided between St Peter's Church and the Village Hall.'

### Grandborough Trust

Grandborough Trust was created during the 19<sup>th</sup> century to bring relief to those in need in Grandborough parish. In those days the vicar knew where those needs lay but now financial hardships may be behind closed doors, unknown even to neighbours. The Trust is not as wealthy as others, but Trustees are eager and willing to award small grants of all kinds to individuals to help ease financial burdens, particularly during this current situation. In the past for example the Trust has helped pay for new glasses, the repair of a broken window, for the fixing of a boiler and petrol and parking costs for hospital visits. Educational grants have also been made for books, school trips and even gap year expeditions. **Please let us help you.**

You can apply in writing to the Clerk of the Trust at 3 Hargrave Close, Grandborough CV23 8DS, by email to [mail@grandboroughtrust.org.uk](mailto:mail@grandboroughtrust.org.uk) or you can contact Tracy Pawsey on 01788 810997 to discuss the next step. Each application is treated in strictest confidence. **In the past, today and in the future Grandborough Trust is here to help.**

### Leamington Hastings

As we gradually try and get ourselves back to normal, we are delighted to say we had our first wedding in All Saints for well over a year on 21st May. A further 2 (one wedding and one blessing) are planned in July. Although attendances are still limited, the sound of wedding bells and the joy that surrounds these events is a real tonic!"

## Willoughby

The long lockdown is over and the church is ready to welcome back the community. The servery and toilet plans are progressing after some issues and will go to tender. In order for St Nicholas to serve its community it is important that this work is carried out. We still have some way to go as permission from the Diocese has to be sought and granted.

St Nicholas' churchyard has had an interment of ashes, Roger Johnson in the memorial spoke and the plaques are all being replaced as existing ones are faded.

The family of Sue Skinner, a one time resident of Willoughby, greatly appreciated the people who lined the path to the church to bid a farewell. Our thoughts go out to both the families.

Church Services			
6th June	Grandborough	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	Leamington Hastings	11.00 am	Holy Communion
13th June	Flecknoe	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	Willoughby	11.00 am	Family Service
	Grandborough	6.00 pm	Evensong
20th June	Leamington Hastings	9.00 am	Meditative Service
27th June	Flecknoe	9.00 am	Breakfast Service
	Willoughby	11.00 am	Holy Communion
4th July	Grandborough	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	Leamington Hastings	11.00 am	Holy Communion
11th July	Flecknoe	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	Willoughby	11.00 am	Family Service
	Grandborough	6.00 pm	Evensong
18th July	Leamington Hastings	9.00 am	Holy Communion
25th July	Flecknoe	9.00 am	Breakfast Service
	Willoughby	11.00 am	Holy Communion

There is to be a wedding on July 17<sup>th</sup> and it is lovely that the church is beginning to be used again. The pandemic and lockdowns have impacted on many.

July 24<sup>th</sup> sees a flower festival in the church. Offers of help would be gratefully received. Other activities are planned that day and details will follow.

Please contact Karen Nichols with any issues or queries concerning the church. [kjndon@aol.com](mailto:kjndon@aol.com) or 07866572209.

Please note the latest date for items to be included in the next Leam Valley Messenger is 15th July. Reports should be sent to: [dorothyjohnson@outlook.com](mailto:dorothyjohnson@outlook.com).