

# Draycote & Leam Valley Messenger

## NEW LOOK MESSENGER

Welcome to the all-new *Draycote and Leam Valley Messenger*. The idea behind our new look is that we present information about our key activities and services in a way that you can attach to your notice board or fridge at home.

There is so much going on across our benefice that it's no longer possible to fit everything into a single magazine as we used to. Rather than trying to do the impossible we're going to try something a bit different. *The Messenger* is still your first port of call in finding out what is happening across our Benefice, but it's no longer your only one.

Every issue will list our upcoming Sunday morning services (see opposite) and flag any special upcoming services and events (see below), but alongside *the Messenger* you'll need to have your eyes and ears elsewhere to find out about the many other activities that we have going on.

If you are online there are 3 key places to look:

- Our Facebook Page
- Our website ([www.draycoteandleamvalleybenefice.com](http://www.draycoteandleamvalleybenefice.com))
- Our weekly e-mail newsletter (e-mail [revphilprice@outlook.com](mailto:revphilprice@outlook.com) to sign up for it)

If you aren't online don't worry. As well as *the Messenger* we will be putting up more posters around our Churches and villages sharing what is going on.

But of course the best way to find out what is happening is to come along to the services and events listed in *the Messenger* which will generally include verbal notices and will always include a chance for a chat with someone in the know.

## SPECIAL LENT & EASTER SERVICES

### 14th Feb 2024 (Ash Wednesday)

9.30am Birdingbury: Morning Prayer and Ashing  
6pm Leamington Hastings: Communion and Ashing

### 28th Mar 2024 (Maundy Thursday)

7.30pm Stretton: Communion followed by 'the Watch'  
6pm Willoughby: Maundy Thursday Communion

### 29th Mar 2024 (Good Friday)

10am Grandborough: Good Friday Allsorts  
3pm Frankton: Good Friday Reflective Service

### 31st Mar 2024 (Easter Sunday)

9am Leamington Hastings: Easter Sunday Communion  
11am Stretton: Easter Sunday Praise Party

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

### Sunday Feb 4th 2024

9am Frankton - BCP Morning Prayer  
9am Grandborough - Celtic Communion  
11am Leamington Hastings - Communion  
11am Birdingbury - Allsorts

### Sunday Feb 11th 2024

9am Flecknoe - BCP Communion  
9am Bourton - Celtic Breakfast  
11am Stretton - Communion  
11am Willoughby - Allsorts

### Sunday Feb 18th 2024

9am Frankton - BCP Communion  
9am Grandborough - Breakfast Service  
11am Birdingbury - Communion

### Sunday Feb 25th 2024

9am Bourton - BCP Communion  
9am Flecknoe - Celtic Breakfast  
11am Willoughby - Communion  
11am Stretton - Allsorts

### Sunday March 3rd 2024

9am Frankton - BCP Morning Prayer  
9am Grandborough - Celtic Communion  
11am Leamington Hastings - Communion  
11am Birdingbury - Allsorts

### Sunday March 10th 2024

9am Flecknoe - BCP Communion  
9am Bourton - Celtic Breakfast  
11am Stretton - Communion  
11am Willoughby - Allsorts

### Sunday March 17th 2024

9am Frankton - BCP Communion  
9am Grandborough - Breakfast Service  
11am Birdingbury - Communion

### Sunday March 24th 2024

9am Bourton - BCP Communion  
9am Flecknoe - Celtic Breakfast  
11am Willoughby - Communion  
11am Stretton - Allsorts



Priest-in-Charge Phil Price  
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01788 819 366

Jesus came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest. (John 10:10 CEV)

## DO YOU NEED THE MESSENGER DELIVERED?

Going forwards we will not be delivering the Messenger to everyone in Willoughby, Leamington Hastings, Flecknoe and Grandborough.

The process of printing and delivering all of these copies of the Messenger is quite resource intensive and we know that many people are keeping up-to-date with what is happening in the Benefice online. Having said this, we know that some people will always value a printed copy through the door and don't have access to the internet. That is why we will be making copies of the front page available in our Churches for anyone to take home with them. If you can't get to Church you can arrange to have a copy delivered through your door.

If you would like to receive a paper copy, please call **07591 116551** and leave your name and address on the answerphone. You need to do this by March 15th 2024 to guarantee that you receive the April/May edition.

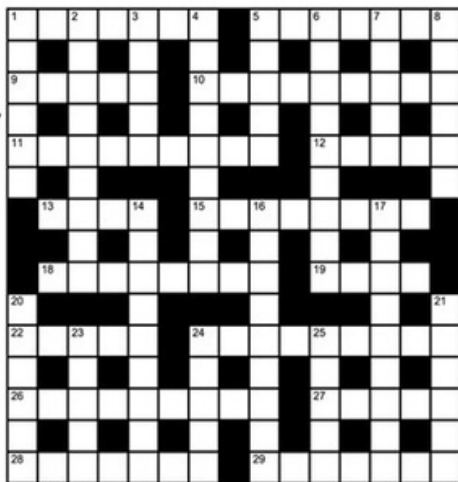
## THE BACK PAGE

The second page of the Messenger is now going to be designed primarily for those who are physically unable to make it to our activities and events. The focus will be on things to do at home. We will be printing puzzles, reflections and other activities which we hope will offer a few hours stimulation for those who spend a lot of time at home.

Printing double sided doubles our print costs so we will only be printing the back page on the editions of Messenger that are being delivered to people's houses. Those who are able to attend Church activities in person can pick up printed copies of the first page from Church and/or download a copy of the Messenger (complete with second page) from our e-news, website and Facebook Page.

### Across

- 1 Desperation; Praised (anag) (7)
- 5 God, doing this on day 7 (7)
- 9 More refined (5)
- 10 One of Paul's letters (9)
- 11 Uncared for (9)
- 12 Encamp against city (5)
- 13 Charitable giving (4)
- 15 Consecrated (8)
- 18 Abraham received these (8)
- 19 Jesus raised in 3 (4)
- 22 Colour found only in Ezekiel (5)
- 24 Someone who shields (9)
- 26 Continuance of life (9)
- 27 Grind together (5)
- 28 Unusual (7)
- 29 Athalia's cry (7)



by Philologus

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### Down

- 1 Rely on (6)
- 2 Tail-ender (9)
- 3 Be in harmony (5)
- 4 Not wicked (9)
- 5 Reigned (5)
- 6 Contented (9)
- 7 Picture (5)
- 8 Good news (6)
- 14 The first, first-aid-er? (9)
- 16 Fradulent (9)
- 17 Slain by Moses (9)
- 20 They get the hump (6)
- 21 Parentless (6)
- 23 Prickly shrub (5)
- 24 300 bought ointment to anoint Jesus (5)
- 25 Keen-sighted bird of prey (5)

Quiz answers in will be printed in the next edition

## A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

How was January for you? There is an expectation that we head into the new year with all kinds of hopes and dreams, full of new year's resolutions and plans to get fit and healthy. But by the time we get to February many of us find that they have often already fallen by the wayside, that's if we were ever there in the first place.

Many people went into January facing things that meant it wasn't ever going to be the hope filled panacea that the Peloton advert told us that it could be. Some people have been thrown a horrible curveball at the start of the new year. What are we meant to do with that? Maybe now is the time to remember the Christmas story.

The good news of the Christmas story is not that Jesus was born in a lovely stable to lovely parents and went on to lead a lovely life filled with nothing but joy and happiness. That's not how it went down. The good news of the Christmas story is that God knows that sometimes life sucks. Jesus was born out of wedlock, a long way from home and spent the early part of his life on the run from a despotic King. It was not a nice life. As Paul puts it in his letter to the Philippians:

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

I don't know why God allows pain and suffering. If I did, I would tell you why because I think we'd all like to know. I do however know that when life sucks and we tell God that it sucks we're preaching to the choir. God knows. When we are at the end of our tether and we can't take any more we can cry out to God and know that we are not crying out to some remote disinterested God who could change everything with a click of his fingers, if only he could be bothered. We are calling out to a God who 'gets it' because he has 'been there'.

However 2024 has been for you so far, I think we can all take enormous encouragement in the fact that when things are good and we are laughing, God laughs with us. By the same token when things are not so good and we are crying, God cries with us.

## LOST IN TRANSLATION

We put the titles of some well-known Hymns into a well known online language translation website. Having translated them into one language we then translated that translation back into English. Can you work out what the original song was?

1. And goes out and one possibility must get is?
2. Call in the sound which is big the work the fact that he will rise
3. Come I where there is to highest wonderment of new case of week
4. The work which will be brave that
5. We do at the description below which gathers in the river

**0800 804 8044**  
  
 A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

*Faith*  
 IS CONFIDENCE IN WHAT WE HOPE  
 FOR AND ASSURANCE ABOUT WHAT  
 WE DO NOT SEE  
HEBREWS 11

 **Draycote & Leam Valley Benefice**  
 All Saints Stretton-on-Dunsmore, St Nicholas Frankton, St Peters Bourton, St Leonard's Birdingbury, All Saints Leamington Hastings, St Peter's Grandborough, St Nicholas Willoughby & St Marks Flecknoe