St Leonard’s Church, Ryton-on-Dunsmore:
Newsletter May 2020

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From the Church Registers:

On May 4, at Baginton, the Funeral of Brian Clarence Rawlings.
On May 12, at Ryton, the Funeral of Peggy Winifred Sunderland.
On May 22, at Canley Crematorium, the Funeral of Robert Frederick Smith of Baginton.

May they rest in peace.
Live streamed Holy Communion from St Leonard’s.
Join us every Sunday at 10.00. a.m!

The service is for and on behalf of everyone in the three parishes. It will remain on St Leonard's Facebook page for the foreseeable future, so you will be able to catch up with us any time - even if you couldn't be with us at 10am.

From the Rector, the Revd. David Wintle:

Until recently, the Bishops have said that nobody is allowed in church to pray, but since last Sunday the rules have been relaxed slightly. It is now possible for a minister to enter the church to pray or to conduct a church service, and he or she may be accompanied by one other person if that person comes from the minister's own household. The term "minister" in this case of course includes clergy, Readers and other accredited lay ministers, but "minister" also covers anyone who leads a church service for the purpose of recording it or streaming it. I hope that is clear. It is a small step, but it is a hopeful sign that if everyone continues to do what the government says and "stay alert", it may be the first step towards opening our churches.

Holy Communion will continue to be celebrated in the benefice each Sunday, so the living and the dead will be prayed for at the altar, and from now on will be live-streamed from St Leonard's Church, Ryton, every Sunday at 10.0 a.m. Do join us if you can.
You can use this prayer to make an act of spiritual communion, uniting yourself with Christ’s offering of himself:

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at the altar for me.

**At the Offertory**, take me to God and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift.

**At the Consecration**, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all.

**During Holy Communion** bring me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place.

Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved.

**When the service ends**, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord’s blessing. Amen.

TRADITIONAL: INCLUDED BY CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS IN HIS PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

**Sunday, May 31: Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**

Pentecost, Christmas and Easter are the three major festivals of the Church’s Year. Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, is often called the birthday of the Church. Unfortunately, it is looking unlikely that we shall be able to celebrate this festival together in church, please, if you can, join us in the live streamed service on the St Leonard’s Facebook page, and look out for the readings and further information in the pewsheets for Sunday 31.
Until recently, even the priest has been forbidden to enter the church building…

Under cover of darkness, Barry crept in to change the altar frontal.

St Leonard’s cuppa and chat on Saturday afternoons.

Fancy a cuppa? Join us on Saturdays at 4.00 p.m. for a cuppa and chat via Zoom. You have to be invited to join Zoom meetings, so let Rosemary know on rosiking2963@gmail.com if you would like an online invitation.

The Zoom cuppa and chat meeting last Saturday was enjoyed by all participants, and we hope that more people will join us for future online get-togethers.

You do have to make your own cuppa though!
**Hanging Baskets**

Geoff and Ba Marsh are offering to fill your hanging basket or pot, in aid of Church funds. Plants include geraniums, both trailing and bush, brachycombe, petunias, million bells, antirrhinums, zinnias and Bidens Solaire. They do have some baskets but if you have your own basket or pot and would like them to fill it for you, you can drop it off and pick it up at 99 High St.

For more information call 02476 304295. (Suggested donations of around £7-£10 to Church)

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**Thursday, June 11: Corpus Christi**

*Give thanks for Our Lord’s institution of Holy Communion.*

The service of Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m. will be live-streamed on the St Leonard’s Facebook page.

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**Thank you!**

*Very many thanks to the people who are so kindly printing and distributing the weekly pewsheets and monthly newsletters to neighbours who cannot receive them by email.*
Church Giving

We give because God gave first

A message from Hazel Smith

You will be aware that during recent weeks those of us who give by the envelope scheme haven’t been able to make our contributions. In addition fundraising events haven’t been able to take place.

As at our homes, church bills still have to be paid. It would be helpful if you could put your donations from the end of March to the end of June in ONE envelope and put it through the Treasurer, Dave Wells’ door (60 Leamington Road). He will then notify me of any monies received and I can record it against your name. The envelope may contain cash or a cheque (made payable to St Leonard’s Church, Ryton).

Of course other donations from people not in the envelope scheme will be most welcome. If you have any queries please ring Dave Wells (76303995) or me Hazel Smith (76456711).

Many thanks

Hopefully it won’t be too long before we can meet again in church.

Lent jars in aid of The Alzheimer’s Society.

The present lockdown means that we can’t receive your jars in church yet. Please could you keep them, and perhaps add to them, and let us have them when some semblance of normality returns? Any questions- please contact Gill on 07522868524.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Church Floodlighting

June 11: Birthday memories of Ron Backholler

Ladies’ Guild

In normal times, we meet on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall. New members are always warmly welcomed: contact June Backholler on 02476
What is a Prayer Walk? You (alone or with others) simply walk round the neighbourhood where you live. And as you go, you pray specifically for the people who live there and their needs—those you know and those you don’t know. Talk to God as you go and those daily exercise walks will never be boring again.

Inspired by the initiative of the organisation “Heaven on earth”, who are encouraging prayer walks to take place in Coventry throughout June, Ruth Gaston of Ryton feels joyful and excited about taking part, and hopes many other Ryton residents will join her, in a socially distanced way of course. Phone Ruth on 07799 543715 for further details, or visit the website on https://www.openheavencoventry.org/about

Church Organ restoration.

The Fund now stands at approximately £11,000
There will be more exciting fund raising events when things return to normal. Thanks to everyone for their generosity. Any further fund-raising suggestions, ideas for future events, as well as individual
When we are allowed in again....

**The Bells of St Leonard’s:**

We look forward to hearing the bells ring out again when we are able to meet for services as in normal times. Very many thanks to Tower Captain John Hammond and his team of ringers. If you are interested in ringing the bells, why not join us? Beginners and experienced ringers welcome. We meet at the church on Monday evenings from 7:30pm. Details from John Hammond on 02476 511130.

email john.hammond@1910@yahoo.co.uk
Churchyard Tidy-up Team

We are very grateful to Mark Jones and to the other volunteers who are continuing to look after our beautiful churchyard during the Covid crisis. Mark is looking for volunteers to help him once a month when normal times resume, on the first Saturday of every month 2pm-4pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Mark writes: “Very many thanks to Steve Witter and Gordon Wright for helping me cut the grass twice this month.”

Thank you too to all the other people who come at different times to mow and keep things tidy. More help would always be appreciated. Thank you.
Contact Mark on 02476302272
mark.mariajones@talktalk.net

Please scroll down for recent pictures of the churchyard.

Your Churchyard: a place for peace and reflection.

Thank you to David Butler for these beautiful pictures.
Thank you to all who are continuing to maintain the churchyard in the present crisis.
If you would like to help keep our churchyard looking beautiful, and providing a place for peaceful reflection for everyone, please contact Mark Jones on 02476302272 mark.mariajones@talktalk.net
**Why not join the choir? Why not become a server?**

At St Leonard’s, we have a **robed choir** which includes older children (aged about 8 and upwards) and teenagers: anyone whose son/daughter likes singing might consider encouraging them to join the choir when we are allowed to meet again.

New adult choir members always welcome too: If you enjoy singing and would like to join either the **robed choir** who sing for services twice a month, or the **augmented choir** (not robed) who sing for special events such as the Carol Service, please contact Barbara Marsh on 02476 304295. You do not have to be able to sight-read music—we are all learning!

At choir practice we work hard—but each practice only lasts one hour! And we have a brilliant director! Come and join us when things return to normal for fun and fellowship as we work together to produce a good sound.

We also offer the opportunity for children, young people and adults to train to become **altar servers** at the Parish Communion services at both Bubbenhall and Ryton churches. Contact Rosemary on rosiking2963@gmail.com or 01788573067 about this.

**Come and enjoy breakfast in BUBBENHALL Village Hall!**

(Temporarily discontinued)

First Saturday in every month, from 9.00 – 11.00 a.m.
Full English £5.00, or bacon/ sausage etc. batches, tea, coffee—priced per item.
Craig Greenway and Gill Green and team hope to welcome you later in the year.

**Do come along and bring your friends!**
Many thanks to the Greenway family, to Gill, and all those who are helping them in this venture.

Thought for the Month. From our Rector, the Revd. David Wintle

Back in 2014, Provost Williams School in Ryton held a special RE Day concentrating on the Lord’s Prayer.

Near the end of the day I was with Year 6 (that’s top Juniors to some of you). The teacher showed on YouTube a song called “I believe” – not the number by the Bachelors, for those of us who are old enough to remember it.

This was a song about creation, accompanied by clips taken from David Attenborough TV programmes like “Life on Earth” and “The Blue Planet”.

The tagline of the song was “When I look at all the wonders of creation, that makes me believe in God”. I asked the children if they agreed. Almost all of them said “Yes”, but one said “No”. So we had a good discussion about the difference between knowledge and belief – for example, you and I both know quite a lot of facts about the wonders of the natural world, but it might be that I believe in God and that you don’t. Just now we might be finding it very hard to believe that the natural world is entirely good, or even neutral.

On Trinity Sunday, which this year is the first Sunday in June, we hear in church – or we read in the pewsheet - the ending of Matthew’s Gospel, with those famous final two verses that are known as the Great Commission – “Go out make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and Lo, I will be with you to the end of the age”. It would be nice if we could get to that bit without having to deal with the verse just before it: "When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted".

Those disciples didn’t have to get their heads around difficult stuff like Creation or the Trinity. They had no need to because Jesus, risen from the dead, was standing right there in front of them. They could hear his voice; they knew it really was him. But still some doubted.

Matthew probably knew exactly what he was doing when he preceded the Great Commission with the observation that at least some of the early disciples
struggled with their belief. Maybe he was reminding us that we should always be mindful and respectful of those who are struggling with doubt.

Maybe he was telling us that if we too struggle with our faith from time to time even the disciples who had Jesus right there in front of them found believing difficult. It takes courage to acknowledge that faith isn’t easy. But faith and doubt are two sides of the same conversation, a conversation that won’t happen at all unless we are honest with ourselves and with others.

“Doubt isn’t the opposite of faith, it is an element of faith.”

Paul Tillich

Ryton History Group. We meet from 7.30-9.30pm in the Village Hall.
Subscription: £20.00 per year or £2.50 per meeting

Details from Steve Garrett 76639228 or Ann 76302695

Used ink cartridges please!

We have registered with a scheme to recycle printer ink cartridges to raise funds for the church. There is a recycling box at the back of church, so if anyone has any used cartridges they can use the box to send them free of charge. The church will receive £1 for each cartridge, thus raising money for the church and helping to save the planet.

Churches are unfortunately shut during the current crisis: please don’t throw your used cartridges in the bin, but hang on to them until we are up and running again.

Thank you very much to those who have already contributed used cartridges, but please note that we have now been informed that,
Unfortunately, used toner cartridges, also Brother, Epson and Kodak cartridges are not acceptable.


And where is Jesus, this strange Easter Day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends the strength to cope.

On Thursday* we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors, and catching traces
Of that corona* which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.
On Maundy Thursday, we remembered how Jesus, the night before he died, set an example of service by washing his disciples’ feet and said: I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. *John 13:15*

Corona means “crown”. Jesus wore a crown of thorns on Good Friday.

**Saturday, June 27: Fête Football and Conga Event.**

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the postponement of the annual Fete, Football tournament and CONGA 2020. The event was due to take place on June 27th, at which time we are still likely to be significantly impacted by the current Coronavirus outbreak.

HM Government are strongly advising against mass gatherings and non-essential travel and even if it is possible that the situation may have improved by June 27th (which seems far from certain), working restrictions and self-isolation recommendations mean that the fete committee cannot complete the work necessary in the next few weeks to ensure that the event could proceed safely.

Each year our small but dedicated team put our heart and souls into making this a community event for all but given that we have so many people who are vulnerable to this terrible illness it feels we should take care of them by waiting until we all can enjoy as a community together.

Until then stay safe, follow the guidelines issued by the HM Government if you are vulnerable and need support do not hesitate to message and we will try to help as much as we can.

God bless.
LUNCH CLUB- second Wednesday of each month, 12 noon to 1.45 ish.

When we are able to offer lunches again, a few extra volunteers would make all the difference! You don’t have to cook (but it would be wonderful if you would like to have a go). Help to serve meals and clear up would be great. We have a rota so you might not be needed every month. A 2 course meal with soft drinks, tea or coffee, chocolate and a raffle ticket still costs only £5. We are always pleased to welcome new diners. Free transport is available for those who are less mobile. Also there is a short Communion service at 11.30am. for those who would like to attend.
For more information contact Hazel Smith on 024 76456711.

Tailpiece: The devil is in the detail…. Read carefully!
Contributions for the July Newsletter by June 20th please.

Please encourage others to ask to receive the Newsletter by email: the email version contains more news than there is room for in the paper version, and sometimes cartoons, pictures and jokes. Just contact Rosemary on rosiking2963@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list. No charge!