

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

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From the Church Register:



24 April, at Rainsbrook Crematorium:
The funeral of Anthony Capp.

May he rest in peace.



From the Rector, the Revd. David Wintle:

By order of our bishops all churches are closed, even for private prayer. However, I will continue to pray for you all at home at Morning and Evening prayer, and at other times too. If you would like to join me you can use the Daily Prayer app, or if that is a bit too formal for you, you might pause for a moment in the morning and offer the day to God, and then in the evening pause again to review the day and thank God for it.

You can use your own words, or the Lord's Prayer, or no words at all, but, however alone or cut off you may feel, you will know that you are joining in prayer with the whole Church.

Holy Communion will be celebrated in the benefice each Sunday, so the living and the dead will be prayed for at the altar, but it must for now be a private celebration.



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.

Notice from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and from the Bishops of Coventry and Warwick.

Stay at home but continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable

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).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/church-england-close-all-church-buildings-help-prevent-spread-coronavirus/>

But they called on the Church to “continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable”. It follows the <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-23-march-2020> announcement by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson of sweeping restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus.

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.

In a joint statement the bishops said: “In the light of the Government’s measures, announced by the Prime Minister this evening, we urge everyone to follow the instructions given.

“We will give a fuller statement of advice as soon as possible. Let us continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities, even while separated.”



Safety warning for bishops social distancing while shopping?

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.

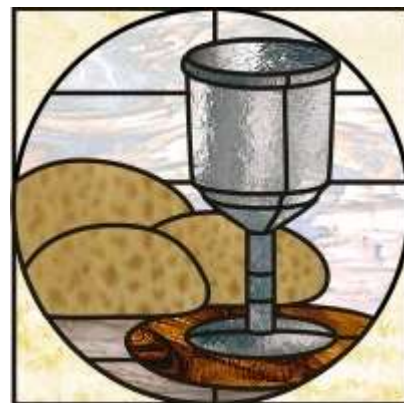
Sunday, May 31: Pentecost (Whit Sunday)



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, so please look out for the readings and further information in the pewsheets for Sunday 31.

Thursday, June 11: Corpus Christi

Give thanks for Our Lord's institution of Holy Communion.



Church Floodlighting

- April 15 In memory of Barry Thorpe.
- May 4 In memory of John Thorpe.
- May 8: Loving memories of Ron Backholler
- May 19: In memory of Ann Crosbie
- May 22: Loving memories of Letty Wright and Doris Backholler

Flower Rota.

Janet Smith writes: Thank you to all for donations and gifts of flowers for Easter.

Tony Capp, R.I.P.

Margaret, Amanda and Neil would like to thank everyone for their kind words, messages of sympathy and cards, on the passing of Tony Capp.

A big thank you to all who turned out on the day, to give Tony such a wonderful goodbye. Words cannot describe how proud we felt.



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 donations will be warmly welcomed- please contact Rector or Churchwardens.



Our organists: Thank you!

When our much loved and sadly missed friend and volunteer organist, John Hathaway, very sadly became too ill to play, and subsequently died in August 2015, we were very blessed that **Anne Walters** very kindly stepped forward to play for the Sunday morning Parish Communion services, as well as for weddings and funerals and special services such as Ascension Day and weekdays of Holy Week.

Anne has also very ably and willingly acted as accompanist to the special events sung by the Augmented Choir.

More recently, **Michael Spencer** has joined us to play for the evening services- when we are allowed to meet in church again, why not come along and enjoy his playing at traditional Evensong, for example? (6.30 p.m. every first and third Sunday, plus second Sunday at Bubbenhall) Michael has also kindly taken over the duties of accompanist and funeral/ wedding organist, when Anne has not been available, and he played for the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday last year.

And more recently still, we have welcomed **Mark Jones**, who plays for some of the family services, as well as singing in the choir at Parish Communion. All these talented people play on a voluntary basis, and do not receive any fees for their services.

We are most grateful to them for giving so generously of their talents and time to enhance our worship.



*From the margin
of a medieval manuscript.*

Evergreens 50+ Club discontinued because of the crisis.

Our meetings are normally held in the Village Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 1.45pm to 3.45pm.

New members are welcome. Please contact John Loudon [02476301269](tel:02476301269)

We use the village mini bus to our meetings in the Village Hall.

We welcome volunteer drivers to take us on short distant day out trips.

If anyone is interested in helping us it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact our Chairman on [02476301269](tel:02476301269).

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.

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: “now the growing season is upon us more help would be much appreciated. Thank you.” Contact Mark on 02476302272

mark.marijones@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 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.

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



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

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 .



On Easter Day, we celebrated the fact that Jesus, having been dead and buried, came to life again three days later.

But that's all very well, you may say. That all happened 2000 years ago.

Jesus was raised from the dead. Very nice for Jesus, but, to put it crudely, what's in it for us?

I mean, we're not God, when we die, our bodies will rot or burn, God's not going to raise *us* up on the third day.

If that's all there is to Easter, well, it's wonderful enough, wonderful that Jesus, having suffered all we humans made him suffer, having died a horrible and entirely undeserved death, was raised to life again. And of course we're happy for him.

But luckily for us, that's not all there is to it. When Jesus is raised to new life, it's a new *order* of life. You can see that from the way his risen body seems to behave. It's a normal body that eats and breathes and bears wounds, but at the same time it's subtly different. People don't at first recognise him, and his risen body can apparently pass through locked doors and appear and disappear at will. It seems to be a body that is at home in a different dimension, a dimension that coexists alongside the everyday dimension we live out our lives in, a dimension that sometimes breaks through to us, in prayer, in Eucharist, in wonder, in beauty, in love: the dimension that's sometimes called eternal life.

When Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus lived a few more years, perhaps only a few more days, before dying again, at the end of his earthly life. Died as we shall all die, as our loved ones have died.

But unlike Lazarus, Jesus is never going to die again. "I am with you always, even until the end of time", he promises his disciples just before the Ascension.

And through the centuries, generation after generation, men and women who believe in him have found that promise to be exactly and literally true.

And so we worship, not a dead hero, not even a hero that died and came to life again and then sailed away to heaven never to be seen again, but a living Lord who is always with us, to the end of time.

And that means that Easter is not just a unique event that happened 2000 years ago.

Easter is now.

Easter is always, to the end of time.

Christ is risen and is alive and on the loose in this world we live in.

With, and working through, the doctors and nurses and cleaners and carers and delivery drivers and refuse collectors and undertakers and soldiers and with the dying and dead in this terrible pandemic.



He is risen indeed, and is within us to the end of time. Alleluia.

A prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for living and loving in us and through us.

May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings.

Help us become a community that shares each other's burdens.

Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world.

Especially I pray today for.....

Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God, Amen.

(Richard Rohr, OFM)

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.

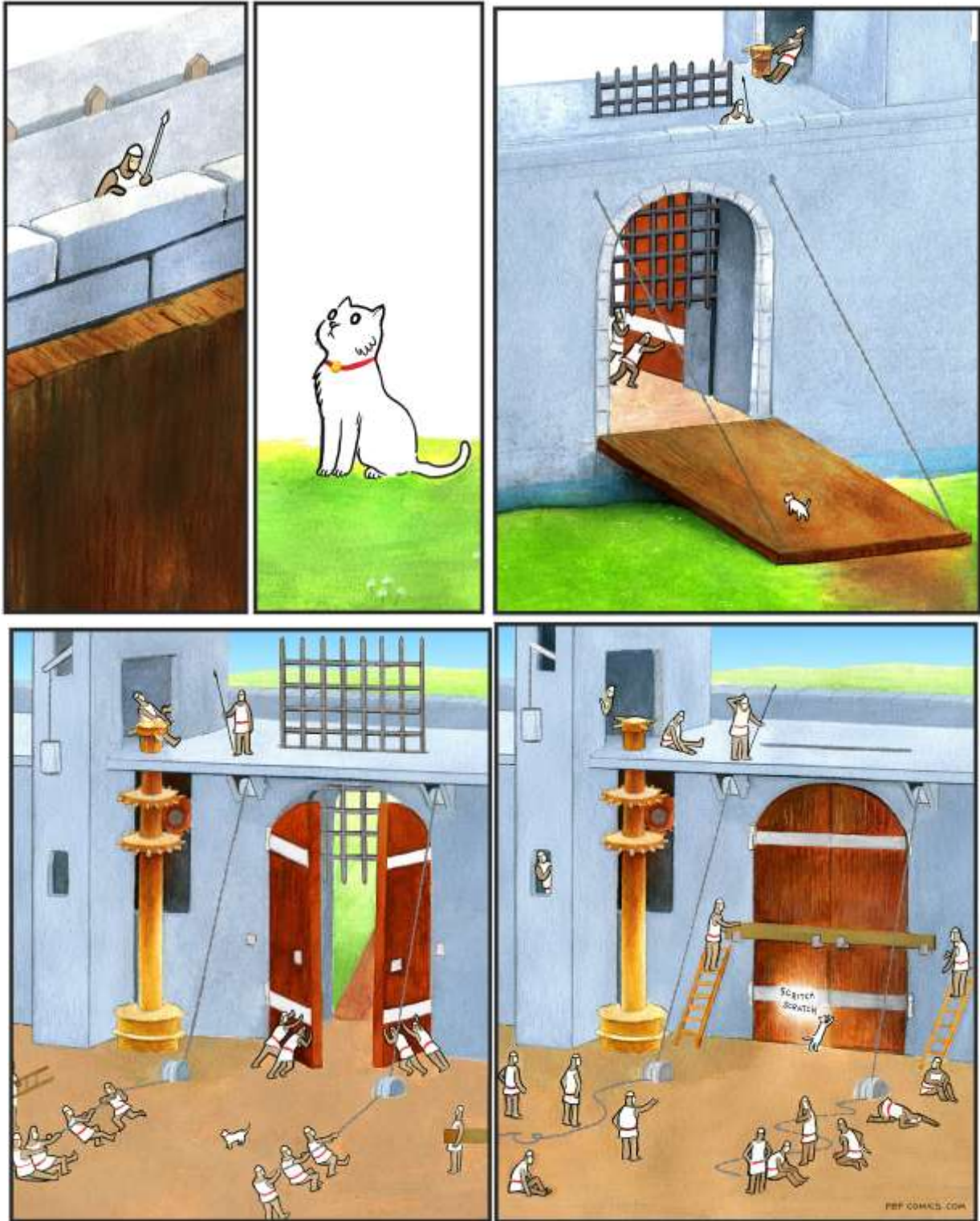
A 2 course meal with soft drinks, tea or coffee, chocolate and a raffle ticket still costs only £5. We are always pleased to welcome new diners.

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.

During this time of enforced isolation, many people are consoled to have the company of their pet...



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.

Cheer up! Here's a truly dreadful joke:

"Someone threw a bottle of Omega-3 capsules at me."

"Sorry to hear that. Are you badly hurt?"

"Oh no, just super-fish-oil injuries."

Some churches have been able to live-stream services....



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.



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**

Tailpiece: By St Theresa of Avila:



Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
Everything passes.
God alone remains.
With patience all things are
possible.
Whoever holds fast to God lacks
nothing.
God alone is enough.

You can hear this chanted in Theresa's original Spanish here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvfTVxgkVpo>

Or watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goI-BoDD7CI>

Very soothing and peaceful!

Contributions for the June Newsletter by May 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!