

Holy Trinity Fete  
Saturday 7th June  
2.00pm  
in the  
Church Grounds

# Hope Leamington

Hope2008 supports churches across the UK as they work together to serve and bless their communities and share their faith. See [www.hope08.com](http://www.hope08.com)

Here in Leamington, Christians across the churches have a desire to work more closely together to be 'good news' in our community. Details of our activities can be found on our website: [www.hopeleamington.org.uk](http://www.hopeleamington.org.uk)

Forthcoming events:

Poverty & Homelessness response - 22nd May, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church conference centre;  
Free car wash (Matthew take note) - 31st May, Argos car park. Helpers welcome too!

*Mayor's Chaplain*  
This year I have the honour of being the Chaplain to the Mayor of Leamington. The duties are not onerous, but include leading the service on Remembrance Day at Euston Place.

## RAFA Chaplain

I am also honoured to have been appointed honorary Chaplain to the Leamington and Warwick branch of the Royal Air Forces Association. But I fear I was of little use to them in the recent Quiz Night against the Royal Naval Association! Still, RAFA won - decisively.

All Saints  
Chorister Reunion  
Sunday 8th June  
2.30 Rehearsal  
3.30 Tea  
4.30 Choral  
Evensong

## Lead-Free Church

On 3rd May, I noticed that lead along the ridge and hips of the Florey Memorial roof at Holy Trinity was missing. Subsequently, rain revealed a more serious situation: missing lead from the concealed S. Transept roof. Our thanks to the Fire Brigade, who covered the roof with tarpaulins - thanks too to all who helped.

Please report any suspicious activity around this or any other building to the police.

All Saints Church  
**Autumn Retreat**  
'Listening to God'  
15-16 September 2008  
Mount St Bernard Abbey  
Limited places  
- book now!

News for the Parishes of  
All Saints, Leamington Priors  
Holy Trinity, Leamington Spa  
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# Vicar's Letter - Trinity 2008



## Showers of blessing at NightLight launch

Torrential rain greeted the launch of NightLight back in April. Undaunted, the team set up the street cafe, served free hot drinks and chatted to some 50 or more guests: the homeless, clubbers, police. After months of prayer, planning and training, the project was finally under way.

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It takes resources to run a venture such as this. Whilst most of us are asleep, 6 of the 50 volunteers meet to pray, set up, serve, and clear away. By the time they get home, it'll be close to 4am. Each week, the rota has to be prepared, and the supplies of Fair Trade chocolate, tea, coffee, sugar, milk and cups purchased. The cafe equipment was a major expense too: gazebos, tables, chairs, lights, a heater, cables, flasks.

So far God has provided. A grant of £600 and donations from churches and individuals covered the capital costs. Further donations have so far covered the running costs - even on the Bank Holiday weekend when the number of guests exceeded 130. We won't take any money at night: NightLight is about giving something for nothing. Yet the feedback from volunteers is that the project brings its own rewards: working together with Christians from a wide area to bless the community, calm the night-time atmosphere and open opportunities for friendship and hope. Please pray for us!

To volunteer or donate, please contact Matthew Pittam.

## Inspired day to remember

Ever wanted to experience Indian head massage, have your dreams interpreted or embark on a journey of discovery through prayer?

All this and more was on offer at Earlsdon Methodist Church on Bank Holiday Monday. Event organiser Phil Staddon brought together ministers, practitioners of alternative therapy, and other committed Christians to make a day to remember.

The event was inspired by the Spirit Of Life project at Coventry Cathedral, for which Phil Staddon was project manager, and the day aimed to allow all to have their spiritual needs met. Simon Small led meditation sessions throughout the day, bringing out the more contemplative side of life, while Sue Staddon offered massage, focusing on the importance of touch in today's society. Others involved included Colin Taylor working on Halo Prayer, a gifted minister revealing subjects of prayer shown in the colours that form a halo around a person, and Ben Ellis with his Healing From Heaven stand, guiding others through spiritual life.

On entering, everyone was asked to pick a small slip of paper out of a basket. These papers had biblical passages on, reminding us of the importance of scripture and the way we can seek guidance through the Bible. My paper said - well, it's a secret, but it was a useful if not altogether relevant message!

I booked in for Indian head massage, not knowing quite what to expect. Luckily Carole Gould, an experienced practitioner in both Indian head massage and reflexology, was helpful and informative. Indian head massage is an ancient healing form, practised in India for over a thousand years. It provides an important form of bonding in Indian families, often passed down from mother to daughter. The aim is to release stress that has built up in the muscles of the head, neck and shoulders. A full Indian head massage can last up to 50 minutes and also concentrates on the face, but my taster session was 20 minutes long.

I found the experience very calming. Carole used a variety of massage movements, from gentle stroking to pulling at the hair or tapping the head. The overall effect was wonderfully relaxing and definitely something I would try again.

The organisers had put out an impressive spread of food and the food hall was busy throughout the day. All in all, it was a very successful event and a great chance to try out some alternative therapies.

## Peace Festival

*Sunday 15th June will see the launch of a Spirituality Fair in All Saints.*

*'The Peace of the Mystics Celebration' will run alongside the Peace Festival and aims to showcase lesser known and mystical aspects of Christian faith.*

*Participants include:*

*Simon Small, author of Amazon UK bestseller 'From the bottom of the pond'; Anglican priest, retreat leader and contemplative;*

*Pauline Warner, Soul Clinics organiser and Methodist minister;*

*Elizabeth Vooght, Spiritual Director, and specialist in Desert Mothers and Fathers;*

*Chris MacKenna, Director of the St Marylebone Healing & Counselling Centre;*

*Adrian Smith, RC missionary priest, writer and speaker on aspects of the New Era of Consciousness.*

*Helpers needed: please contact Christopher.*

## Vicar healed!

The Bible tells some amazing stories about healing. Read, for example, Luke 13.10-17. Jesus heals a woman crippled for 18 years.

Often we struggle to understand such stories. If Jesus healed then, why do our prayers seem so feeble and ineffective? Why are some healed, but

### Pray for the Peace Festival

on Friday 13th June  
7.30pm, All Saints

on Sunday 15th June  
4.30pm, All Saints  
(Peace Mass)

and in your prayers  
from now on please!

Heavenly Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
urged us to seek,  
that we might find:  
we pray for all  
who seek meaning,  
truth and love,  
especially at the  
Peace Festival.

May they find  
their hopes fulfilled  
in the same  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

not others? I don't know the answers. I do know that for the last few weeks, a bad back has given me a great deal of pain and discomfort.

Following the Pentecost united service at St Mark's (a great occasion), a colleague asked if he could pray for me - and I agreed, without a great sense of expectancy. He placed his hand on my back, and I felt a powerful sensation of heat. The pain evaporated, and during the next 24 hours, the discomfort ebbed away.

Miracle? Coincidence? Scientifically explicable? What matters is that God is at work in answer to prayer.

And if anyone ever tells me again that united services aren't for them...