

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEOLEY CHURCHYARD NEWSLETTER

November 2020

LOVED & ALWAYS REMEMBERED

*"For everything there is a
season and a time for
every matter under
heaven:
A time to be born, and a
time to die... a time to
weep, and a time to
laugh... a time to mourn
and a time to dance..."*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 4)

LOWER CHURCHYARD LANDSCAPING COMPLETED

Last year we announced a plan for a significant development in the bottom half of the Lower Churchyard, to improve the paths, access, and landscape, as well as creating additional space for new graves.

After conducting a tendering process, we chose a local company, Carpenter Landscapes Ltd to carry out the work. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, they were unable to start until the spring, completing their work in late summer.

The overall cost of the work amounted to £8,468.

We would not have been able to carry out this development work without the support and generosity of voluntary givers.



A HELPING HAND FROM THE WHERE NEXT CHARITY

The Redditch based charity, Where Next, has been our trusted supplier of gardening services for many years. The charity offers work experience, life skills and social opportunities to people with learning disabilities. They work in a commercial environment providing the opportunity to mix with customers and the local community. We are most grateful to Where Next for continuing to care for our churchyard during the Covid-19 pandemic with a reduced workforce, due to vulnerable team members needing to self-isolate.

STORM CIARA UPROOTS TREES

Every February, we hold our Snowdrop Weekend to raise funds for St. Leonard's Church. This has become a popular fixture in our Church calendar, attracting many visitors who wander freely around the church building and grounds enjoying the mass of tiny white flowers.

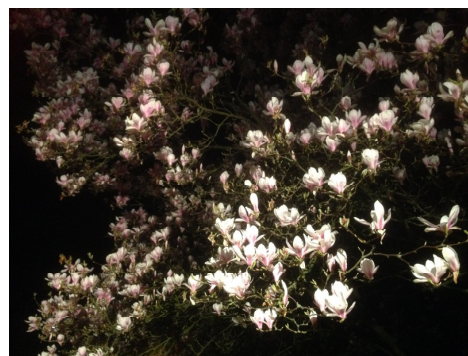
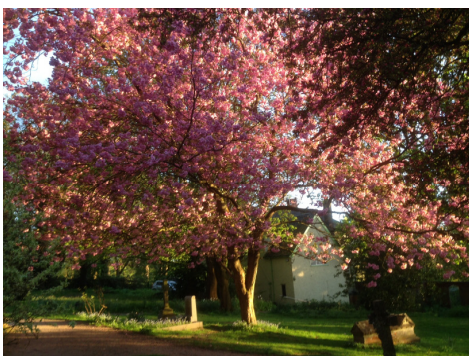
This year, we were blessed with mild weather on the Saturday, but Sunday turned out to be a vastly different day; 'Storm Ciara' struck! Trees and branches were brought down in near 80mph gale-force winds, which meant a potential danger to anyone visiting the church grounds. We had no choice, but to abandon the Sunday celebrations.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of a few hardy volunteers, we were able to clear the wreckage and restore the churchyard to its former glory.



TREE SURVEY AND MAPPING

We have a duty of care for all visitors to the churchyard. As a result of the damage inflicted on the churchyard trees by Storm Ciara, we commissioned a local arboricultural consultancy company, Acorn Environmental Management Group, to survey the health of the trees in the churchyard and lower car park (and any of our neighbours' trees that could potentially fall into the churchyard). We also asked the company to produce a map of the trees so that we could more easily identify all the trees in future. The map shows 84 trees of many varieties ranging from Common Ash to Yew. The company also provided a schedule of works to be carried out soon. The cost of the survey and mapping amounted to £492.



CELEBRATING THE HARVEST SEASON ON JACK'S PATCH

In September we held a special service to celebrate the Harvest Season on Jack's Patch in the churchyard, outside the Tapestry Room. This was the first time since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in March that we had been able to come together 'live' as a community to worship. Tables were set up outside the church west door to collect the fruits of our harvest. The tables were creaking under the weight of the produce, which we gave to the Redditch Foodbank.

Jack's Patch is an area of ground that has been levelled and named after the late Jack Millward, who had inspired its construction. Jack's Patch brings great joy to the community, witnessing many wonderful events, such as local schoolchildren singing and dancing at our annual summer fete, pets and their owners sharing worship at a Pet Service, and families sharing teas at social events.

CHURCHYARD FUND – WHERE MONEY CAME FROM AND HOW IT WAS SPENT

We maintain a separate Churchyard Fund for sole use in the upkeep and improvement of the churchyard. Any unspent donations and legacies to this fund is retained to meet future upkeep and improvement expenditure. The table on below shows the sources of income in the Churchyard Fund and how this has been spent over the last two years.

<u>Churchyard Fund</u>	2020 Year to Date		2019 Full Year	
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Donations (including gift aid tax refunds)	200		4,773	
Fees from funerals & monuments	2,500		2,600	
Fees for reservation of grave space	0		200	
		2,700		7,573
Expenditure:				
Where Next gardening services	3,743		4,419	
Tree maintenance	0		95	
Tree survey and mapping	492		92	
Lower churchyard development	8,468		0	
Postage for annual appeal	0		92	
		12,703		4,606
Increase/(Decrease) in Funds		(10,003)		2,967
Fund balance on 1 January		8,811		5,844
Fund balance on 31 December		(1,192)		8,811

The table shows that we rely on voluntary donations to pay for the ongoing, regular upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard. Fees alone do not cover these costs. We are incredibly grateful to those who donate to the Churchyard Fund. Thank you for your continued support.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CHURCHYARD FUND

Set out below are the different ways in which you can make your donation to our Churchyard Fund.

Gift by Direct Debit Payment (The Parish Giving Scheme)

In response to requests for a new way of giving regularly to our Churchyard Fund, we have joined The Parish Giving Scheme, which is our preferred way of giving to St. Leonard's Church. 100% of your gift comes to St. Leonard's Churchyard Fund. It takes just one call to the following telephone number to set up a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift payment by Direct Debit.

Telephone: 0333 002 1271

You will need:

- Your bank account details, to set up a Direct Debit
- Church name: **Beoley St Leonard Fundraising**
- PGS parish code: **42A642150**

To find out more about the Scheme, please visit the Parish Giving Scheme website at

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/why-give-through-the-pgs/>

Gift by Direct Bank Payment

If you use online or mobile banking, then you may prefer to make your gift payment direct to St. Leonard's CAF bank account, using the following details:

Bank sort code: **40-52-40**

Bank account number: **00019200**

Bank account name: **Parish of Redditch Holy Trinity – St Leonards**

Reference: **Churchyard Fund**

Gift by Cheque Payment

If you prefer paying by cheque, then please make your cheque payable to St. Leonard's Church Beoley. Please write the words Churchyard Fund on the back of your cheque.

Please post your cheque to:

St Leonard's Church, Church Hill, Beoley, Worcestershire, B98 9AR

Gift by Credit/Debit Card Payment

During the Covid-19 lockdown many of us will have turned to online shopping for goods and services. We are probably now quite used to entering our card details on a website to pay for those goods and services.

To make your gift to the Churchyard Fund credit or debit card payment go online to our Give.net web page at <https://www.give.net/stleonardbeoley/oneoff>