**GO-AHEAD FOR FLOWER FESTIVAL**

I’m delighted to be able to tell our readers that the Harvest Flower Festival will be going ahead on October 2nd 3rd and 4th - with the arrangements transforming St Leonard’s in the traditional fashion.

The Festival will not be quite like other years of course – the arrangers will need to come during prearranged time slots on September 30th and October 1st to ensure social distancing while they work. Perhaps some with small spaces to fill will be able to bring their finished arrangements from home. When the Festival starts, much will be missing – no refreshments, no evening concert, and, with limited numbers of visitors at any one time, some waiting may be involved. However, there will also be some extras, including craft activities for children and a preserve stall outside in the churchyard.

Although the flowers will now be physically present in the church, we shall also be going ahead with the plan for an online Festival, with photographs available on the internet for a much wider audience to enjoy.

Even more than ever, all this will depend on the imagination, enthusiasm and generosity of the local participants. There is only a relatively short time to get all this organised, so I will be enormously grateful to hear from everyone who is able to fill a space with flowers and plants (or fruit and vegetables) or spare a couple of hours to act as welcomer and offer guidance and advice on precautions at the door. One thing that is not different from previous years is this: everyone is very welcome to join in. You don’t need to be an expert or experienced arranger – first timers are always welcome, and it is the ideas that participants come up with and the flowers themselves that transform the church into what is always a wonderful sight. This year’s theme is A Harvest of Words. So please let words inspire you – that could be a quotation, a song, a poem, a Bible verse, a book title, a hymn or a just single word.

If you would like to be involved and help the Festival continue in this exceptional year, please get in touch. My email address is christine@nutton.org.uk. If you would prefer to telephone for a chat the number is 831623. I look forward to hearing from you.

And if you would prefer to make your arrangement at home, we can arrange to have it collected from you.