



LEAF PROJECT

(Locally Encouraging All to Flourish)

Trustees' Update: Easter Egg Gift

*"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message...
so all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...
so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21)*

Those in the congregations of Ledbury will be aware of the Ecumenical Easter Egg project organised by LEAF.

The monies collected across the churches for this project soon surpassed the amount required and the eggs have been delivered into the schools in Ledbury and Eastnor for distribution amongst the children.

As you can see from the screen shot on the right the news of the project has been picked up nationally by Churches Together in England and an article features on their website.

https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/603842/Home/News/Latest_news/Ecumenical_Easter_eggs.aspx

Tony has also been interviewed by Rachel Matthews from Christian Premier radio <https://www.premierchristianradio.com/>. Whilst the interview focused primarily on the Easter Egg project it also included a broader discussion about the ecumenical work of LEAF. Their interest was such that they intend to broadcast another programme based on the work of LEAF at some point in the future. He has also shared the project on Hereford and Worcester radio which was broadcast in their news segments over the weekend of 13-14th March.

Below is the text from the Hereford Diocese website who also shared the story with the congregations across the diocese. <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/schoolchildren-in-ledbury-to-receive-an-easter-gift-from-churches-together.php>

We thank God, not for the media coverage, but for His ongoing goodness to us and the simple truth that we have a message of love and grace that we are increasingly being able to share with those in the community of Ledbury.



Schoolchildren in Ledbury to receive an Easter gift from Churches Together

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As a simple blessing for the most vulnerable children in the community, Churches Together in Ledbury are providing The Meaningful Chocolate Company Real Easter Eggs with a message of Christian hope to children in the town’s two primary schools who have been most affected by the Covid crisis. The project is part of the work of local Christians in the town who have formed local Christian charity LEAF.

The strong ecumenical relationship between churches across Ledbury has grown over the last six years. It began in 2015 with a 24-hour prayer event on Maundy Thursday and a commitment to meet every Thursday thereafter at 7 am to pray together. This has extended to a weekly ecumenical worship service on Mondays held at the Baptist Church in the town, which is attended by around 25 people.

Through the prayer, worship and relationship building Churches Together in Ledbury formed LEAF (locally Encouraging All to Flourish), a new charity, which is becoming a CiO (Community Interest Organisation) committed to supporting the local community to thrive.

LEAF aims to work in partnership with Christians Against Poverty, run Alpha courses. The Bible Society’s Open the Book programme and provide counselling services to those in crises. The project is being part-funded by the Diocese of Hereford as part of a series of investments aimed at supporting local Christian communities.

Tony Hodder, a pioneer minister at Ledbury Parish Church and CEO of LEAF says, "The strong history of Churches Together in Ledbury means we can act as one group to offer this blessing to children in our community. The meaningful Chocolate Company provides the Real Easter Eggs and we are in the process of delivering them to the schools in time for Easter."

Mrs Julie Rees, Head Teacher at Ledbury Primary School said: "This is a lovely gesture and I know the children will be thrilled to receive their Easter eggs. Acts of love and kindness go a long way at the moment, especially helping our most vulnerable children feel like there is hope after such a challenging year."

