

## CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

### Newsletter from Rev. Canon Barbara,

As I write this the news seems to be full of plans for celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. All these events are being planned with love for our Monarch and pride in her loyalty – a loyalty which has continued for 60 years.

Loyalty is not a word that we hear as often as we used to. I can remember as a Girl Guide promising “loyalty to my Guide Company, my Queen and my Country.” Loyalty often seems to be for football teams, pop groups or more ephemeral things.

Loyalty is however very much on the agenda as we prepare for the Olympic Games here in the UK, with athletes totally committed to training to represent their countries to the best of their ability. More locally, I find loyalty in the couples who are married in our village churches. Although many of them no longer live here, they retain a loyalty which brings them back to their home church to make their wedding vows before God. We are also very blessed with those who serve in our churches and I would like to thank Karen and Dick, my Church Wardens and our PCC for their loyalty too.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines loyalty as “serving in faith”. This, of course, is what Jesus did with his disciples and, now, two thousand years later He is still serving and loving all of us.

I hope and pray that our village Jubilee Celebrations bring people together to celebrate this wonderful event in joy, friendship and love— with the addition of beautiful sunny weather!

I finish with a prayer written for the Queen's Jubilee:

*O God, the crown of the faithful, bless and sanctify your servant Elizabeth,  
Upon whose head a crown was placed as a sign of Royal majesty.  
Fill her, day by day, with your abundant grace and with all charitable virtues.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

With love and prayers to all,

Barbara

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Please feel free to contact me anytime. However, Friday is my day off, so if you need help on this day, please contact Dick or Karen, your churchwardens.

## St. Leonard's News and Notices from Dick and Karen

### The latest on the Toilet saga!

We are making slow progress towards the provision of a toilet and servery area for the church. The current delay is because English Heritage and The Georgian Society have submitted letters to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) indicating that they believe the new toilet building should be detached from the church. They say that this solution will be less damaging to the appearance of our grade 2 listed building. English Heritage, by the way, have also indicated that St Leonard's should be reclassified as a 2\* building.

Along with our architect, we believe that the proposed glass link to the existing building can be constructed in such a way that it will not be visually intrusive. Our architect is drawing up detailed plans of the proposed link for us to submit, with a covering statement, to the DAC.

Quite apart from issues around preserving a historically important building, we believe that there are issues of convenience (excuse the pun!) to take into account. To be able to access the toilet directly from a new doorway inside the church will be the most acceptable and useful outcome for all of us. Accessing the toilet through the main church door, via the path, to a detached building would be more difficult, particularly children and elderly people and also on wet, cold or dark days.

### People in our thoughts and prayers

We ask for God's blessing on **Micaela Hayden** and **Dick Vayro** who have sadly died recently. Our condolences go to **Declan, Lee and Ceara Hayden** and to **Enid Vayro, Lynnete and the family** at this difficult time.

Life is quite difficult for **Cynthia and Roy Rogers** at the moment too. Please continue to think of, and pray for their health and well-being.

Please see the fuller notices in Birdsong for:

**Sunday 3rd June 2.30 - 3.45 Church Café** - 'Tasty scones and tea-tasting'

**Sunday 3rd June 4 pm Jubilee Songs of Praise.** Come along and choose your favourite hymns to sing

**Saturday 23rd June 2 - 5 pm Church Fete** in the church and churchyard. All help please for the fete. Please let us know if you can provide any books, plants, cakes, preserves or tombola prizes. Sell and buy lots of Raffle tickets as there are excellent prizes as usual - and - bring your friends along too.

## People, places and events

### Bishop John's Pilgrimage

On March 29<sup>th</sup> Bishop John, of Warwick led a walking pilgrimage from Long Itchington to Stretton via Birdingbury, Frankton and Princethorpe. A group of us from Birdingbury met with a larger group from Long Itchington and we walked



Photo: Simon Davy

across the fields to Birdingbury, stopping en route for prayer to focus on themes such as farming, wildlife, allotments and community.

We stopped at the Birbury for very welcome refreshments and then walked along the road to the river/railway bridge where we were met by a group from Frankton. I left at this point, but the remaining walkers took the footpath across the fields to Frankton

church. It was really good to have Bishop John's company for the morning.

Dick Withington

### Palm Sunday Walk

This lovely photograph of three generations of the Westcott family was taken after the Palm Sunday service. David Westcott is here with Stephen, his son, Daniel, his grandson and Rev Barbara. Definitely one for the album.

Photo: Matt Markham



**Congratulations** on their marriages to **Elizabeth (Lil) Heron and Amber Sedgfield** who both spent their childhood in Birdingbury.

**Lil married Ed Ellis** in Hunningham Church on 12th May. Luckily, it was the only sunny day in weeks of rain.

**Amber will be marrying Karim** on June 30th in Leamington Hastings Church. Fingers crossed that they have a sunny, rainless day too.

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings	Prayers	Comm.	Coffee	Sidesperson	Flowers	Cleaning	Churchyard
<b>Sun 3 June</b>	Frankton Bourton <b>Birdingbury</b> Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am <b>4.00 pm</b> 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Pet Service <b>Songs of Praise</b> Holy Communion	<b>M. Markham</b>  <i>Isaiah ch6 v1-8</i> <i>John ch3 v1-17</i>	<b>Revd. Barbara Clutton</b>			<b>M and A Markham</b> <b>A. Sedgfield</b>	<b>B. Munro</b>	<b>R. Murray</b>	<b>G. Johnstone</b>
<b>Sun 10 June</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Stretton Bourton	<b>9.15 am</b> 11.00 am 6.00 pm	<b>Holy Communion</b> Pet Service Holy Communion	<b>E. Ellis</b>  <i>1 Samuel ch8 v4-20 &amp; ch11 v14-15</i>	<b>R. Withington</b>	<b>K. Armbrister</b>	<b>A. Sedgfield</b>	<b>M and I Palmer</b>	<b>B. Munro</b>	<b>P. Meade</b>	
<b>Sun 17 June</b>	Bourton <b>Birdingbury</b> Frankton Stretton	9.15 am <b>11.00 am</b> 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion <b>Holy Communion</b> Pet Service Evening Worship	<b>A. Armbrister</b>  <i>1 Samuel ch15 v 34 - ch16 v13</i> <i>Mark ch4 v26-34</i>	<b>K. Armbrister</b>	<b>R. Withington</b>	<b>E. Ellis</b>	<b>J and G Johnstone</b>	<b>J. Morton</b>	<b>P. Meade</b>	<b>J. Carroll</b>
<b>Sun 24 June</b>	Stretton <b>Birdingbury</b> Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am <b>11.00 am</b> 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion <b>Morning Praise</b> Morning Worship Holy Communion	<b>D. Hanson</b>  <i>1 Samuel ch17 v57-ch18 v5</i>	<b>Revd. Barbara Clutton</b>		<b>A and D Hanson</b>	<b>A and D Hanson</b>	<b>J. Morton</b>	<b>W. Bringloe</b>	<b>French Family</b>
<b>Sun 1 July</b>	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Holy Communion						<b>C. Rogers</b>	<b>W. Bringloe</b>	<b>B and D Chinn</b>
<b>Sun 8 July</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Stretton Bourton	<b>9.15 am</b> 11.00 am 6.00 pm	<b>Holy Communion</b> Morning Praise Holy Communion	<b>B. Tompkins</b>  <i>2 Samuel ch5 v1-5 &amp; 9-10</i>	<b>E. Owen</b>	<b>J. Hawes</b>	<b>S and G Davy</b>	<b>P. Law</b>	<b>C. Rogers</b>	<b>M. Bartmanis</b>	<b>B and D Chinn</b>
<b>Sun 15 July</b>	Bourton <b>Birdingbury</b> Frankton Stretton	9.15 am <b>11.00 am</b> 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion <b>Holy Communion</b> Morning Praise Evening Worship	<b>A. Hanson</b>  <i>2 Samuel ch6 v 1-5 &amp; 12-19</i> <i>Mark ch6 v 14-29</i>	<b>D. Hanson</b>	<b>M. Bartmanis</b>		<b>O. Bartmanis</b>	<b>P. Spence</b>	<b>M. Bartmanis</b>	<b>G. Johnstone</b>
<b>Sun 22 July</b>	Stretton <b>Birdingbury</b> Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am <b>11.00 am</b> 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion <b>Morning Praise</b> Morning Worship Holy Communion	<b>K. Armbrister</b>  <i>2 Samuel ch7 vv1-14</i> <i>Mark ch6 v 30-34</i>	<b>M. Bartmanis</b>		<b>P. Law</b>	<b>S and G Davy</b>	<b>P. Spence</b>	<b>J. Hart</b>	
<b>Sun 29 July</b> 4	<b>Frankton</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>United Benefice Holy Communion</b>							<b>J. Hart</b>	<b>H. Stuart</b>

## Reviews continued

### **Rogation Sunday**

We celebrated Rogation Day on 20th May with a short service in church where Barbara told us about the origin of 'Rogation'. Apparently, in days gone by, villagers would gather at this time of year to walk the boundaries of their parish. They stopped at certain points, where all manner of strange rituals would take place such as 'beatings with sticks' on the youths so that they didn't venture any further than they ought!

Needless to say, we did not carry out this old ritual to the full but we did walk around the village stopping at certain points for reflection, prayer, bible readings and hymns on the subjects of agriculture and farmers, social aspects, rivers, water and the world of nature.- all the wonderful things that surround our lives and homes but which we sometimes take for granted.

The walk ended at Karen and Andrew's house for very welcome coffee and home-made cake. This was certainly a lot more enjoyable than what used to happen: definitely no beatings! Thanks again, Andrew and Karen for your hospitality.

## Easter Texas style

It's 7.30am on Easter morning and I am on my way to the First United Methodist Church, Missouri City, Texas for a choir practice. My good friend Kathy, with whom we are staying, is a member of the Chancel Choir there. She has decided that I will join them, telling me 'Oh, you'll be fine. The anthem isn't difficult. You'll pick it up. And you'll know the hymns'. I am not so sure. They are the main church choir, practice regularly and perform weekly. Won't I stick out like a sore thumb?

Kathy suggests I wear fellow choir member Lizan's robes as she is away for Easter. This is fine until we realise that Lizan must be 5'10" – and I'm not! They pool gracefully around my feet. She fastens me in and secures the polyester neckpiece. It is already approaching 80 degrees outside so my hot flushes start in earnest. Fortunately there is no photographic evidence!

The church is beautiful with a large main chapel and several other rooms. The worship group is already practising for the contemporary services that will run alongside the traditional Easter day worship. There are 5 services during the morning. It's lovely to be in this vibrant atmosphere—and it's only 8am.

Choir Master Matt is very welcoming and doesn't appear to be nervous about me joining in. Kathy is right, the anthem is lovely – very joyful and upbeat.

The first service is at 8.30am and there must be over 100 people there. The altar is bare for the start of the service then the church is dressed with pots of white lilies during the first hymn ('Jesus Christ is Risen Today' – just as in Birdingbury on Easter Day). Around 100 pots of lilies are displayed around the altar and choir area. This happens at each service, returning the chapel to its bare state before each one.

Worship is led by Matt, the Choir Master, with others reading scripture. The lead Pastor, Dr Lynne Settlemeier gave the sermon on Easter day on the theme of 'I have seen the Lord'. She has a wonderful Southern accent and I didn't tire of hearing her declare that 'She hayed seen the Lorrerrrd' on several occasions as she delivered her sermon - one of three that day – without notes.

Between each service I was introduced to other choir and church members and, like at St Leonard's, I was warmly welcomed. People were keen to hear about our church and style of worship. Over 900 people came to worship over the 5 services. My only disappointment was that I didn't get a chance to attend the contemporary worship. After our 3 services and plenty of choir snacks (Texans know how to be hospitable) we made our way back to Kathy's home where we enjoyed a rather quieter Easter afternoon by the pool in around 85 degrees. Now that I could live with!

I have been continuing to enjoy her sermons weekly since, from home via their podcast. You can hear them too, if you're interested, by following the link from their website [www.fumcmc.org](http://www.fumcmc.org)

Karen Armbrister

### What else is on at St. Leonard's in June and July

Sun 3rd June	2.30—3.45 pm	Church Café: Tasty scones and Tea-tasting
Wed 13th June	10.30 am	Home Communion at Jennifer Johnstone's, Sundial House, Bourton Rd
Sat 23rd June	2.00—5.00 pm	Annual Church Fete in the church and churchyard
Wed 11th July	10.30 am	Home Communion at Jenny Hawes', Gables House, Back Lane

### H.M. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

You can join in a big Thank You to our Queen from Coventry Diocese by using the following link: [www.coventry.anglican.org/home/bigthankyou](http://www.coventry.anglican.org/home/bigthankyou)

## Some thoughts about the 1662 Prayer Book

This year and last have seen two notable anniversaries in the history of the Church of England. Last year 2011, was the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible, authorised by him in 1611. Many of us still love the words of this 'Authorised Version' and grew up listening to them (for me, in a parish in rural Lancashire). This year, 2012, is the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the Prayer Book. There had been earlier prayer books but the publication in 1662 was very significant, not only for its religious use but as a potent symbol of the Restoration of the Monarchy, in this case Charles II. He had reclaimed the throne in 1660 after 11 years when England for the first (and only) time had become a Puritan republic.

I have always loved the old words of the Prayer Book too. Many sections were a repeat of Thomas Cranmer's versions of earlier years but they stood the test of time – and indeed still do today. Some new sections were added: my favourite words are those of the General Thanksgiving written after 1660 by Bishop Reynolds, which were often learnt by heart by children and remembered well into their adult lives.

Looking at my very old copy of this book (given to me by my grandmother, bound in worn leather and with a little pocket on the front to carry my collection for church!). I am struck too by the words in the Preface, which seem to me to sum up the essence of the Church of England and this Prayer Book. It was intended to *'keep the mean (i.e. a middle way) between extremes of too much stiffness in refusing, and too much easiness in admitting variation.'*

Perhaps the wisdom of these words might help in finding a 'middle way' once again.

Wendy Lloyd

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