

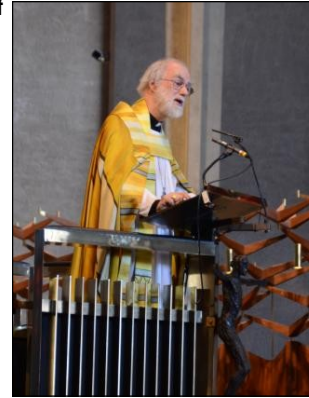
## CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

### Archbishop Rowan Williams' visit to Coventry Diocese

#### Celebration of 50 years since the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral

On Friday 25th May, I was privileged to be in Coventry Cathedral in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal to attend this celebration led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was a very beautiful occasion with wonderful music and performances by local schoolchildren. The Archbishop spoke warmly of the great beauty of the cathedral and also of the wonderful work carried out world wide for Peace and Reconciliation.

Daphne Chippendale



Photos: Coventry Cathedral website

#### 'Spirit of the Countryside' service at Stoneleigh

In contrast to the formal, ceremonial nature of the above service in the cathedral which Daphne attended, a group of us went to Stoneleigh on 27th May, along with 1500 others, to the 'Spirit of the Countryside' service for Pentecost.

It was a very relaxed and informal service (no robes or mitres here!) with music from local groups. We were early enough to get seats inside but later the congregation began to spill out into the sunshine all round the marquee. Amazingly, this outdoor occasion was blessed with a sunshine which lasted until the end of the grand picnic which followed the service.



Photo: Aileen



Archbishop Rowan rolled up his sleeves and spoke with great humility about the joys and challenges of being close to the land and caring for each other in rural communities.

Aileen Withington

Rev. Canon Barbara Clutton 01788 810372 or 07808 137550 or [barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk](mailto:barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk).  
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

### **Our Tearfund project**

St Leonard's and the other churches in the Draycote benefice have committed themselves to try to give 3% of their unrestricted income to a specific Tearfund charity project for 3 years. Tearfund is an international charity that works particularly closely with the Church of England.

Our gifts will be linked through their 'Connected Church' programme, which is a well-tried system of developing a special relationship with a specific project. We hope to gradually learn more about each other through regular exchange of news, . There is the possibility to see at first hand how our commitment is helping others and perhaps welcoming our partners in the project to the Draycote benefice.

A group of us have met David Bloomfield, who works nationally for Tearfund, and through him we have opted to work with the Development Dept. of the Anglican Church in Kenya, focusing on food production through effective agricultural skills education. We are planning to kick-start our project with a benefice 'Bring and Share' supper on the evening of September 4th in Stretton Village Hall. There will be more details later, but for now please make a note of the date in your diary.

This could be a really rewarding 'giving and learning' experience. We hope you will feel able to join in our growing links with farming communities in Kenya in the coming months.

### **An update on the long-running saga of providing a church toilet**

You may remember from the last edition of Church News that we plan to challenge the recommendation of English Heritage and The Georgian Society that our proposed toilet should not be attached to the building. We have been advised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee [DAC] to present our case through an 'Options Appraisal'. Through this we have carefully considered the pros and cons of all the possible solutions under the headings of:

- Use for the parish
- Architectural impact
- Archaeological impact

We conclude that the best solution is an attached building, accessed directly from the north wall near the font. We believe that this is the best 'fit for purpose'

solution for all users, but particularly for children, the elderly or those less mobile.

We have been advised that supportive letters from individuals are worthwhile and will strengthen our case. If you feel you could write a letter to support our view that a toilet linked directly to the church is best, we will be very happy to hear from you. If you want to see a copy of our Options Appraisal, please don't hesitate to ask either of us for one.

We plan to submit all our documentation to the DAC in the coming weeks, in good time for their meeting on 6th September.

Dick and Karen

### People, places and events

**Commiserations** to village friends who have recently been in hospital. These include **David Westcott , Alex Johns, Cynthia Rogers, Claire Dale and Liz Davies.**

**Condolences** to **Jackie Morton** on the untimely death of her mother and to **Pauline Babb** on the death of her 94 year old father.

Our thoughts are with all of them and their nearest and dearest.

On a celebratory note, **congratulations** to **Diana and Leslie Turner** on their recent Golden Wedding Anniversary.

#### CHRISTIAN AID

A very warm thank you to everyone who so kindly donated to the Christian Aid collection. You will be pleased to know that the grand total for Draycote Benefice was £1,670 with Birdingbury's contribution being £320.51. Thank you everyone.

Daphne

You will find reviews about **Jubilee Church Café, Songs of Praise** and **St Leonard's Church Fair** on other Birdsong pages. A special thank you to Barbara Munro for master-minding the amazing Jubilee floral arrangements in St. Leonard's.

Your donations to the 'Tea-Tasting and Tasty Scones' Church Café on the Jubilee weekend raised £99.00 for Church Funds.

The Church Summer Fair made a very healthy profit of £1,480.81. Thank you for all your support for these Church events.

## AUGUST and SEPTEMBER SERVICES in Draycote Benefice Churches and ROTA DUTIES for St. Leonard's, Birdingbury

<b>Sun 5 Aug</b>	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Holy Communion						Brenda Ansell	Jennifer Johnstone	
<b>Sun 12 Aug</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Stretton Bourton Stretton	<b>9.15 am</b> 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	<b>Holy Communion</b> Morning Praise Holy Communion Evening Worship	R. Withington  <b>2 Samuel ch18 v 5 - 9</b> <b>John ch 6 v 35 + 41 - 51</b>	K. Armbrister	J. Hawes	A. Sedgfield	E. Ellis	Brenda Ansell	Val Eliot-Smith	Davy family
<b>Sun 19 Aug</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	S. Davy  <b>Ephesians ch 5 v 15 - 20</b> <b>John ch 6 vv 51- 58</b>	E. Owen	R. Withington		M. Markham	Lesley Fleming	Val Eliot-Smith	
<b>Sun 26 Aug</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	M. Markham  <b>Ephesians ch 6 v.10 -20</b> <b>John ch 6 v 56 - 69</b>			E. Ellis	A. Sedgfield	Lesley Fleming	Cynthia Rogers	G. Johnstone
<b>Sun 2 Sept</b>	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Holy Communion						Jasmine Coles	Cynthia Rogers	
<b>Sun 9 Sept</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	E. Ellis <b>James ch 2 v 1-17</b> <b>Mark ch 7 v 24 - end</b>	R. Withington	K. Armbrister	P. Law	M and I Palmer	Jasmine Coles	Wendy Lloyd	John Starley
<b>Sun 16 Sept</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> Harvest Festival Evening Worship	D. Hanson  <b>James ch 3 v 1- 12</b> <b>Mark ch 8 v 27 - end</b>	A. Hanson	M. Bartmanis		A and D Hanson	Angie Sedgfield	Wendy Lloyd	
<b>Sun 23 Sept</b>	Stretton <b>Birdingbury</b> Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am <b>11.00 am</b> 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion <b>Harvest Festival</b> Holy Communion (Bishop) Holy Communion	K. Armbrister <b>James ch 3 v13—ch 4 v 3</b> <b>+ 7 - 8</b> <b>Mark ch 9 v 30 - 37</b>	Rev. Barbara			J and G Johnstone	Angie Sedgfield	Eira Owen	G. Johnstone
<b>Sun 30 Sept</b>	<b>Bourton</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>United Benefice Holy Communion</b> - Celebration of Brian Sunderland's 60 yrs as an organist						Sue Law	Eira Owen	



## Events for August and September

### Harvest weekend at St Leonard's — 22nd and 23rd September

*On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, from 3.00pm – 5.00pm* we are offering some creative activities for the children in Birdingbury, similar to those we did many years ago. So we are inviting your children, and you if you wish (parents must accompany children under age 5), to join us for some fun activities around the village to celebrate harvest and all that it means for us. We shall be planting, cooking, making a collage and doing a craft activity in various places around the village, probably in small groups, but starting and finishing together somewhere. If you would like to be involved, or you wish to involve your children, then please let Karen know on 632030 or e mail [karen.armbrister@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.armbrister@btinternet.com) for more details

### *Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 11.00am is our annual Harvest Festival service.*

We would love to see as many of you as possible at this service. The children will hopefully tell us about the activities that they did the day before. We shall be pleased to accept gifts of dried and tinned foods for Hope4 in Rugby.

Karen and Dick

Wed 8th Aug	10.30 am	Home Communion at Loen, Main Street
Sat 11th Aug	3.30—5.00 pm	HBC Saturday, 'Summer Olympics Party' in Frankton
Tues 4th Sept	Evening	Tearfund 'Bring and Share' Supper at Stretton Vill. Hall
Sat 8th Sept	10 am — 6 pm	Ride and Stride for Historic Churches Trust
Wed 12th Sept	10.30 am	Home Communion at Sundial House, Bourton Rd
Sat 22nd Sept	3 pm - 5 pm	Children's Harvest activities around the village

## Information about a local recycling charity

**TWAM (Tools With a Mission)** is a fantastic organisation which repairs, cleans and recycles old and unwanted tools.

TWAM started some 20 years ago. It gives help to developing world countries by providing kits for carpentry, plumbing, metalwork, electric tools, manual typewriters, boxes of haberdashery, sewing machines, knitting wools. and much more. TWAM enables people to earn a living and to support themselves and their families. They also provide garden and agricultural tools to enable land to be

cultivated to provide food.

TWAM is a Christian Charity supported by many different Churches and groups. There are a few of their leaflets in our Church. If you wish to find out more about this very worthwhile organisation, which is staffed purely by volunteers, their website is [www.twam.co.uk](http://www.twam.co.uk). Our nearest workshop is at 8 Lifford Way (off Herald Way), Binley Industrial Estate, Coventry.

Daphne Chippendale

### **August Newsletter from Kevin Downham**

**As Rev Barbara is away, Kevin Downham, one of our Readers, has written this letter to all Draycote Benefice churches**

I am delighted to have this opportunity to let you know a little more about me following my Licensing to the Benefice on Easter Sunday.

I am married to Lesley and live in Bilton. When I first came to Rugby, I was in the choir at St Andrew's and then I became organist at St Peter and St John's, Rugby and then St John's, Hillmorton. While I was at St John's, I responded to God's call to begin the journey towards selection for the ministry. I was licensed as a Reader in Coventry Cathedral in 2009.

Most of my church life has been in urban parishes, so, as part of my ministerial development, I wanted to experience rural ministry. Rev Barbara is my excellent mentor. After much discussion and prayer, it was agreed that I could come to serve here and learn from you the values of rural ministry.

During the day I am a Chaplain in a maximum security prison. I am Lay Chair for the Rugby Deanery, a member of the Diocesan Synod and, more recently, Churchwarden at St Peter's, Bourton.

Music plays a major part in my life and I have been fortunate to perform in many countries and at many UK venues. I currently play the piano accordion in three bands as well as singing in a four part harmony group with Lesley.

I would like to thank you for the welcome Lesley and I have received. I am humbled by the way you have so warmly accepted me and for the encouragement you give me. I ask for your prayers so that I can continue to help us all to grow into a closer and more loving relationship with the God who was, who is and is to come.

Reader, Kevin Downham

## Behind the scenes: St. Leonard's as Jubilee Rehearsal Room

If you remember, apart from the glorious evening of the 'Posh Picnic with Proms' on the Rectory Field, it was very wet over the Jubilee weekend celebrations.

'Birdingbury Singers' held a



Photos: Gaynor

much-needed rehearsal in the dry haven of the church to get up to scratch before our stage debut the next day.

Some essential people however aren't shown here: Gaynor, as conductor, Alex and his sidekick Lewis, managing the musical accompaniment via the sound system and Oliver acting as Gaynor's music stand!

Everyone looks very serious in these photos but this belies the hilarious interludes between songs.

Aileen

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