

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

Autumn letter from Reverend Canon Barbara

At this time of the year I always think how blessed we are to live in a rural area where we can see, hear and smell God's creation all around us. We are so aware of the changing season as leaves turn gold and fields are ploughed ready for planting next year's harvest.

In our church calendar we are also changing season as we move from green linens on our altars – which denote 'ordinary time', a church season which doesn't have any special festivals. In November we will change our liturgical colour to purple to represent the advent season of penitence and as we approach the special festival of Christmas, our church colour changes to white.

We do however have two special services in early November when we use the colour red, which is for special days in the church calendar.

At 3pm. on Sunday the 4th of November we will be holding our annual Remembering Service at All Saints Church, Stretton to remember all those whom we love but see no longer and on the following Sunday, the 11th, we will be celebrating Remembrance Day, with special services in all of our churches to remember those who have died or been injured serving our country.

Do please try and find a moment each day to "stand and stare" at God's wonderful creation in its autumn colours, and say the following short prayer of thankfulness:

*Lord of all creation, each day is a gift from you.
Give us eyes to see the beauty of your world,
Ears to hear the sounds of your creation,
And grace to use your gifts wisely and well. Amen*

I look forward seeing you at any of our services.

With love and prayers,
Barbara

Rev. Canon Barbara Clutton 01788 810372 or 07808 137550 or 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

Toilet update!

We submitted our response to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), clearly highlighting why we felt we needed our proposed toilet to be housed in an extension accessed from inside the church. Thank you very much to those who wrote to the DAC in support of our plans.

Regrettably, we have been advised that there is absolutely no support from the Georgian Society or English Heritage for our proposals in their current form and therefore none from the DAC. Their concerns relate to the unique nature (their words) of our symmetrical architecture, which they feel would be absolutely compromised by the addition of an extension. We have been told that our application is only likely to be approved if we re-consider our proposals.

So, we are now back to the drawing board. Watch this space and please do let us know if you have any ideas or views. We need your support!

Tearfund

The last edition of Church News contained information about our involvement with Tearfund's church-led, sustainable agricultural development project in Kenya.

We recently met David Bloomfield, Tear Fund's Churches Liaison Officer, who told us how our support could make a real difference to the well-being of Kenyan farming communities.

We will not only be making an annual financial contribution through Tearfund's 'Connected Church' project, but will also gain from a better understanding of the problems of rural communities in a Kenya. In addition to a regular exchange of information, there may even be an opportunity to join a Tearfund project visit!

We are excited by these opportunities opening up through our links with Tearfund. If you would like more details, please let us know.

Want to think about the big questions?

We have been pleased that the benefice has recently offered an Alpha course. We hope that there will be more opportunities in the future for people to gather informally to talk about life's big questions in an informal, non-judgemental and confidential manner. If you feel you would like to be involved in future courses or home groups, then please do talk to one of us.

Visiting around the village

Reverend Barbara, Dick and Karen are always available to visit anyone at a time to suit you. Barbara will happily bring communion to you at home if you find it difficult to get to services. We are also happy to chat with you over a cup of tea. Do ring one of us if you would like us to call in.

People, places and events

Ride and Stride 2012

The annual cycle ride for the Historic Churches Trust took place on the first weekend in September. We had a number of visitors from local churches who were grateful to Liz Ellis for arranging refreshments at St Leonard's.

Birdingbury riders and striders included Daphne and Dick, pictured here about to set off from the church lychgate. Thanks to everyone who sponsored them: half of their sponsor money will go to the Trust and half to St. Leonard's.



Karen

Photo: Karen

Goodbye and Good Luck to:

Gill and Clive Jarrett who have moved to Lutterworth and to Alex, Marek and Cass Grzegorzczak who are shortly moving to Stockton.

Welcome to:

Jennifer and David Ho and family who have moved into Yew House, Back Lane.

Congratulations to:

Freddie Rawlings, son of Susie and Stuart of Escana, Marton Road, who was baptised at St. Leonard's on August 19th.

Amelia, grand daughter of Sue and Duncan Findlay, who had a naming service of blessing in church on September 16th.

Vicky and David at Marston House on the birth of Lucas, a brother for Matilda.

Alastair Heron and Ava Goodman, who were married at Long Itchington Church on August 24th. Many of you will remember Alastair (Pally), Marie and David's son, who grew up at Brook House, Main Street.

Ann and Gary Laverick on their Golden Wedding on Oct 13th and Aileen and Dick Withington on their Ruby Wedding on Oct 21st.

Jenny and Roger Hawes on their new grand-daughter Darcy and David and Jackie Westcott on new great-grand daughter, Willow Grace.

Spare a loving thought please for:

..... those around our village suffering bad, or failing health, those facing operations or medical investigations, those who mourn the loss of loved ones and those who are struggling for any other reason. You are in our prayers.

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER SERVICES in Draycote Benefice Churches and ROTA DUTIES for St. Leonard's, Birdingbury

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings	Prayers	Comm. Server	Coffee	Sidesperson	Cleaning	Flowers	Churchyard
Sun 7 Oct	Frankton Bourton Princethorpe Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Harvest Festival Harvest Festival Holy Communion						Sue Law	Daphne Chippendale	
Sun 14 Oct	Birdingbury Stretton Bourton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 am	Holy Communion Harvest Festival Holy Communion	S. Davy <i>Hebrews ch 4 vv12—end</i> <i>Mark ch 10 vv 17 - 31</i>	K. Armbrister	R. Withington	A. Sedgfield	E. Ellis	Gaynor Davy	Daphne Chippendale	
Sun 21 Oct	Bourton Birdingbury Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Praise Evening Worship	R. Withington <i>Hebrews ch 5 vv 1 - 10</i> <i>Mark ch 10 vv 35- 45</i>	E. Owen	M. Bartmanis		M. and I. Palmer	Gaynor Davy	Ann Carroll	OCTOBER TIDY-UP <u>Sat 20th</u> Lots of volunteers please
Sun 28 Oct	Stretton Birdingbury Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Worship Holy Communion	M. Markham <i>Psalms 19 vv 7—end</i> <i>2 Timothy ch 3 v 14 - ch 4 v 5</i> <i>John ch 5 vv 36 - end</i>			E. Ellis	M. and A. Markham	Mel Palmer	Ann Carroll	
Sun 4 Nov All Saint's Day	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Remembering Service						Mel Palmer	Karen Armbrister	
Sun 11 Nov Remembrance Sunday	Princethorpe Birdingbury Stretton A45 Memorial Frankton	9.00 am 10.15 am 10.45 am 12 noon 3.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service	E. Ellis <i>Micah ch 4 vv 1 - 5</i> <i>John ch 15 vv 9 - 17</i>	R. Withington	K. Armbrister		A. Sedgfield	Liz Tompkins	Karen Armbrister	
Sun 18 Nov	Bourton Birdingbury Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Praise Evening Worship	A. Armbrister <i>Hebrews ch 10 vv 11 - 25</i> <i>Mark ch 13 vv 1 - 8</i>	K. Armbrister	J. Hawes		J. and G. Johnstone	Liz Tompkins	Angela Hanson	
Sun 25 Nov	Stretton Birdingbury Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Worship Holy Communion	D. Hanson <i>Revelation ch 1 vv 4 - 8</i> <i>John ch 18 vv 33 - 37</i>	A. Hanson		A. and D. Hanson	P. Law	Lynn Tipton	Angela Hanson	

Events for October and November

Saturday 13th October: Harvest Walk and Church Café Lunch

If you fancy a bit of exercise before lunch, meet at the Church Lychgate at 11.30 am for a local walk across the fields. Four-legged friends are very welcome too.

You'll then be ready for our Church Café Quiche and Salad Lunch from 12.30 - 2.00pm. Everyone welcome. (see note in Birdsong)

Churchyard autumn tidy-up

If you have a little time available on Saturday October 20th October, we'd be really grateful if you could come and help us with our Autumn tidy up of the church and churchyard. There are always lots of jobs to do, so bring any tools you have. We will have bacon rolls and coffee ready to keep you refreshed.

'Remember, Remember.....'

In November, the words of that old phrase about the gunpowder plot resonate with us for another reason. This month we always remember, with love and gratitude, those who have given their lives for us all serving their country.

We invite you to join us on **Sunday 11th November** as we give thanks for their lives and pray for those who are still in active service around the world. We start our service in church at **10.15 am** and conclude with the traditional Roll Call and two minutes silence at the War Memorial at **11.00 am**.

On the previous **Sunday, 4th November**, we will gather with our benefice friends at **All Saint's, Stretton at 3pm** to remember friends and family who we see no longer. This is a special service which gives us time to remember our loved ones in this peaceful place. If you wish to add the names of your loved ones to a list (even if you can't attend the service), then please talk to us or leave the names on the list in church by the end of October.

The service will be followed by tea in Stretton Village Hall.

Karen Armbrister

Wed 10th Oct	10.30 am	Home Communion at Gables House, Back Lane (Jenny H's)
Sat 13th Oct	3.30—5 pm	HBC Saturday children's activities at All Saint's Church, Stretton
Sat 10th Nov	3.30—5 pm	HBC Saturday at Stretton Village Hall
Wed 14th Nov	10.30 am	Home Communion at The Birbury (host: Valerie Smith)
Fri 16th Nov	6.30 pm	Soul Space at St Cuthbert's, Princethorpe

St Leonard's in the community

Harvest weekend 2012

On Saturday 22nd September, we arranged some activities for children as part of our Harvest weekend. Although attendance was disappointing, we made collages showing the differences between good and bad harvests for farmers, made bread rolls and created floral nature arrangements to decorate the church.



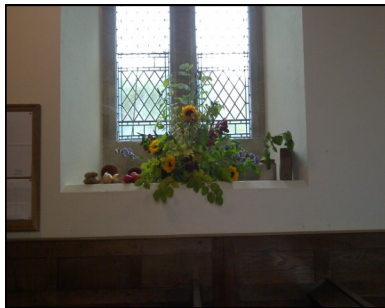
We also had a colouring competition which was won by Frankie Kerry, seen above making bread with Eira and Issie.

Thank you very much to Anna, Kate, Issie, Gaynor, Mel, Eira, and Jenny who all volunteered to help for the afternoon and to Alex who helped us clear away afterwards.



Photos: Karen

The next day, Sunday 23rd, we celebrated and gave thanks for all we have at our **Harvest Festival**. The church was beautifully decorated with the very best that our rural gardens and hedgerows have to offer.



We enjoyed singing a new harvest hymn, written by our own talented Bryan Tompkins.

Donations were generous. They will be given with love, and gratefully received by, Hope4 and Myton Hospice.

Many people then enjoyed a tasty Harvest lunch in the Birbury and Club, courtesy of the Birbury Committee. Special thanks to Jackie W. for this event.

Bryan's Reflection: 'The Human Condition'

We curse and kill
 And spill the blood
 Of countless human souls
 And blame each other
 For the evil that's within.

We live and lust
 And turn to dust
 The gifts that life bestows.
 We melt the ice
 Cut down the trees
 And weave a web
 Menacing all life.

We lie and cheat
 And beat the weak
 And bring them to their knees.

We blame the rich
 And ditch the poor,
 Eyes tight closed to their needs.

But is this all?

We love and care
 And share the hopes
 And fears that come our way.

We gaze and wonder at the sky
 And think and reason,
 Question why - we cannot live in peace.

We use our minds to better things
 To cure all ills, to give life wings,
 Bring hope and joy to all.

We feel for others in their need,
 Show compassion, eschew greed.

We give and take
 And seek to make
 The world a better place.

We are a mix of good and ill.
 Have we the will
 To make a difference?

Bryan Tompkins July 2012

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