

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

Newsletter from Rev. Canon Barbara,

February can often seem a dreary month with its dark evenings and mornings; Christmas is over and spring still seems far away. But if we look hard enough we can see glimmers of spring with snowdrops coming through and a few lambs appearing in the fields.

As I write this letter my winter spirits have been lifted by a couple of things:

Knightslow schoolchildren held a "Reverence Day". Each child filled a box with things that held special significance for them. Some boxes held photos of their family or pets, some had poems and prayers that they had copied or written, some contained special treasures that they had collected. I was really impressed by the prayers that the children wrote to thank God for something that made them say "Wow". These prayers were truly inspiring – the children thanked God for all sorts of things from butterflies, a spider's web, beautiful flowers, their parents, the night sky, to a new born baby.

One of the 'wow' prayers that touched me was to thank God for our brains. Around this time I was visiting my sister in hospital as she recovered from having a tumour removed from her brain. The surgeon had told her that the brain was such an amazing organ that it would quickly repair itself after her operation. This was certainly an amazing "Wow" to me and it helped me to reflect how great our creator God is to give us such wonderful bodies. It is up to us to use our God given bodies and intellect to appreciate what we have been given, to worship, help others and appreciate and steward his creation.

Try to take a minute or two each day to find something that makes you say "Wow" and to thank God for it – it will lift your spirits and help you to look forward to spring.

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 Notes from Dick and Karen

Christmas Services 2011

Thank you for all your positive comments about St Leonard's and Christmas 2011. The number of people involved were the highest for many years and so were the donations received. Thank you.

On December 18th the church was full for the Carols, Candles and Crib service with a congregation of 95. This service included the baptism of a very smiley baby, Rose Cruickshank. Over £221 was sent to The Children's Society.

On December 22nd an amazingly large group of about 40 carol singers raised £356.15 for Shelter.

Finally on Christmas day the church was again full (104 people) to the point of putting out our extra chairs!

Special thanks to everyone who provided refreshments, decorated the church, provided and decorated the tree, set the crib in place and found space for the pushchairs.

By the way, if anyone has got a photograph of Ralph Harrison's Birdingbury Crib, could you let us know. We could do with one for our records.

Lent Talks

There are four special talks for Lent given by a range of interesting speakers.

Tues 28th Feb and **Tues 6th** March at **Stretton** Village Hall (Birdingbury is providing refreshments on Feb 28th. Please let us know if you can help)

Tues 13th March and **Tues 20th** March at **Bourton/Frankton** Village Hall
If you would you like more information and/or a lift to any of these talks, please contact one of us.

Mothering Sunday Service

Our service on Mothering Sunday, 18th March is at 11.00 am. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Please see Eira and Aileen's note on p.6 about Church Cafè Breakfast earlier that same morning.

Karen and Dick

Reviews—people, places, events, requests

Welcome to Birdingbury

.... ..to Julie Roe, Kevin Gregory and Jamie who have moved into Lingfield on Marton Road. We hope that you will enjoy your time here in Birdingbury.

Good wishes for a return to health

..... to Roy Rogers who is now making excellent progress after being critically ill. At the time of going to print, he had been moved from Intensive Care to Castle Ward in Warwick Hospital. It has been a very stressful time for Cynthia, Jayne and Stephen too. Love and prayers to all of you.

Aileen

Carol Singing for Shelter

This was the first time I had taken part in the carol singing and I was amazed at the number of people that took part; we had both singers and musicians. I wasn't sure how we were going to raise any money with what seemed like half the village taking part but I believe we raised over £350.

We ended a very enjoyable evening with mulled wine and mince pies at David and Angela's house. A very big thank you for being excellent hosts and what a lovely start to the Christmas season. I will definitely be taking part again this year.

Julie Colledge

Carols, Candles, Crib and Christening at St Leonards

A Christmas Tree, candlelight, carols...and even a christening! Lots of lively singing, laughter and the lovely spectacle of all the children...and two babies...gathered around the tree and crib to sing Away in a Manger. Not a dry eye in the place!!

It was a truly beautiful service at St Leonard's on December 16th when so many families from Birdingbury and surrounding areas came to hear about the Christmas story ... and other stories from various people doing very funny things from the pulpit.

We also welcomed relatives and friends of Peter and Sue Law as their granddaughter Rose Beatrice was baptised...what a wonderful celebration of so many good things. All rounded off by delicious mulled wine and mince pies ...an occasion to remember.

Liz Ellis

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

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings	Prayers	Comm.	Coffee	Sidesperson	Flowers	Cleaning
Sun 5th Feb	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Holy Communion						Jackie Morton	Lesley Fleming
Sun 12th February	Birdingbury Stretton Bourton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion	Karen Armbrister <i>Colossians ch1vv15-20</i> <i>John ch1 vv1-14</i>	D. Withington	J. Hawes	P. Law	B & W Lloyd	Val Eliot-Smith	Lesley Fleming
Sun 19th Feb	Bourton Birdingbury Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Praise Evening Worship	Dick Withington <i>2 Corinthians ch4 vv3-6</i> <i>Mark ch9 vv2-9</i>	E. Owen	M. Bartmanis		J & G Johnstone	Val Eliot-Smith	Jasmine Coles
Wed 22rd Feb Ash Wednesday	Stretton	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion							
Sun 26th Feb	Stretton Birdingbury Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Worship Holy Communion	Simon Davey <i>1 Peter ch3 vv18-end</i> <i>Mark ch1 vv9-15</i>			B & W Lloyd	E. Ellis	No flowers Lent	Jasmine Coles
Fri 2 March	Frankton	7.30 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service							
Sun 4 March	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Holy Communion						No flowers Lent	Angie Sedgfield
Sun 11 March	Birdingbury Stretton Bourton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion	Angela Hanson <i>1 Corinthians ch1 vv18-25</i> <i>John ch2 vv13-22</i>	D. Hanson	D. Withington	A & D Hanson	D. Hanson	No flowers Lent	Angie Sedgfield
Sun 18 March Mothering Sunday	Princethorpe Birdingbury Stretton Bourton & Frankton <u>Village Hall</u>	<u>8.00 am</u> 11.00 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Family Service Family Service Family Service	Aileen Withington <i>Exodus ch2 vv1-10</i> <i>John ch19 vv25-27</i>	K. Armbrister			P. Law	Eira Owen and A. Withington	Sue Law
Sun 25 March	Stretton Birdingbury Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Worship Holy Communion	Bryan Tompkins <i>Hebrews ch5 vv5-10</i> <i>John ch12 vv20-33</i>			A. Sedgfield	O. Bartmanis	No flowers Lent	Sue Law

What else is on here in February and March

Wed Feb 8th 10.30 am Home Communion Jennifer Johnstone's, Sundial House,
next to the church

Wed March 14th 10.30 am Home Communion Jackie Westcott's, Loen, Main Street

Church Cafè Breakfast

Church Cafè will be open for breakfast on the morning of Mothering Sunday, March 18th from 9.30 to 10.45 am. We're looking forward to seeing you there for tea, coffee, bacon or sausage sandwiches, toast and marmalade etc.

Eira and Aileen

What's on in our local churches

I am trying to build a reciprocal sharing of news and events with local village churches. I know what is going on in our own benefice churches but, since Birdingbury was for so many years linked with Leamington Hastings, it is good to keep in touch with what is going on there too.

Aileen

Monday 6th February at 7 pm
Methodist and Anglican
Ecumenical Songs of Praise
at All Saint's Church, Leamington Hastings

Lent Talks Reminder

Please see the notice on p.2 about this year's Lent Talks

Tues 28th Feb and Tues 6th March at Stretton Village Hall

Tues 13th March and Tues 20th March at Bourton and Frankton Village Hall.

Soul Space

..... is on each Friday during Lent at 6.30 pm, Princethorpe Church

i.e. Fridays 24th February, 2nd March, 16th March, 23rd March and 30th March.

NB Soul Space during Lent begins at 6.30 pm and not 2.30 pm.

KASISI ORPHANAGE and MERCY MINISTRIES SCHOOL

ZAMBIA—An appeal for help

Many Birdsong readers will remember the Mackie family, who lived at Sherington in Main Street for several years before moving to Zambia. Caroline is working at Mercy Ministries, a community school in one of the poorer areas of Lusaka, which outreaches to the local community with prayer, food, clothes etc. Caroline is a teacher by profession, and helps to run the Special Needs class at the school.

Another project Caroline is involved with is Kasisi Orphanage, which is run by Polish nuns. They have 250 children of all ages, from newborns to adults. Caroline runs the pre-school.

Chris and I are travelling out to see Angus and Caroline at the beginning of March and will be visiting the charities there. We are hoping to fill some suitcases with donations for both her causes. When asked what they need she said that both charities desperately need clothes (any size and for any season) as well as basic essentials such as soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste. They also need baby milk powder for the tiny babies they often have there. For the pre-school, she would love puzzles, little toy cars (matchbox size), toy animals, and particularly art and craft stuff (especially glue)!

If you want to know more about the work these charities do here are some links:

Youtube film on HIV in Africa and Mercy Ministries Zambia

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmwX3Uy7M6U

The Kasisi Orphanage website can be found at

<http://www.kasisichildren.org/>

If anyone in Birdingbury has any of the above things we could take out to Caroline she would be really, really grateful. I think particularly the puzzles, toys and craft materials. We won't need much luggage space for ourselves so hope to take two or three old suitcases (which we also could do with) full of donations to leave there.

Thank you in advance

Jackie Morton (Brook Farm House, Back Lane, 01926 633493)

A message from Sam Colledge

I would like to say thank you to all of you on my paper round and wish you a Happy New Year .

Sam (your weekend paper boy).

(Apologies from Rhondda: she had only just sent her edition to the printer when this message arrived. As luck would have it, I hadn't finished my Church News section, so could fit it in. Aileen)

The Bishops of Coventry and Warwick's Easter pilgrimage



As part of celebrations to mark the **Golden Jubilee year of Coventry Cathedral in 2012**, our two diocesan bishops, Christopher Cocksworth (left) and John Stroyan (right), will both be making pilgrimages around the diocese during the week before Palm Sunday.



We have learnt that Bishop John will be walking through Birdingbury on Thursday 29th March. He will be leaving Long Itchington at 10am and then from Birdingbury will go to Frankton and finally Stretton for around 2pm. It is a tight itinerary!



We are going to suggest that he walks the public footpath from Long Itchington to Birdingbury and Dick is happy walk with him. We are hoping that we might be able to persuade him to stop off for a cup of coffee with us in Birdingbury.

If you are interested in joining him on a leg of the walk, please get in touch.

Dick, Karen and Aileen

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