

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

A few words from Reverend Ali

Dear Friends

He is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Those words are shared at the beginning of the Easter day service, announcing that we believe that Jesus, who was dead is alive again.

It can be a really difficult concept for us to think about and intellectually debate. Could Jesus have been unconscious rather than dead? Could somebody else have been substituted for Jesus? Did Jesus' friends move his body and bury it elsewhere? These are questions that might sow a seed of doubt in our minds about the resurrection, but that is one of the major gifts of faith – doubt.

It may sound like an oxymoron, but having doubt rather than just blindly accepting the words and doctrines of faith is what can make our faith stronger and more vibrant. We wrestle with the big questions that are posed by faith and come to our own belief and understanding of what/who God is. These are questions that have been examined by the great minds of history since and before the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. There are countless swathes of theology books and commentaries out there, and many of them are very good (Tom Wright's book, *Simply Jesus* is a particularly good to read if you want to start your own exploration).

One of the great joys of being a member of the clergy is having the opportunity to meet with people who are exploring their faith, and are open to robust and honest discussion. I have been fortunate enough to join with some people on a course called Pilgrim during Lent. This is a course that has been designed for people who have questions, who aren't bound by doctrine or experience and who are happy to ask their big questions out loud and listen to other people's opinions.

If, however, you feel that those big questions are too difficult to look at in a group setting, please don't hesitate to contact me and have a cup of coffee and a chat. So please, embrace your doubt about God, about his Son Jesus Christ, explore those big questions about faith and religion. But above all please be assured of one thing, that whatever your doubt about God, God does not doubt you, but loves you so much that God sent his only Son so that you might have eternal life.

God bless

Love

Ali

'Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith'. Paul Tillich

Prayer for Eastertide

Would we be counted among the doubters hiding in the shadow cast by that cruel
cross?

Or, when challenged, like Peter openly deny you?

There are times, Lord when doubts assail and the distance between us seems to
increase.

There are times, Lord when sin has its hold, like a barrier between us that will not
move.

Who is there we can turn to when we feel so overwhelmed?
Who can roll away the stone and reveal the empty tomb?

No-one but you, Jesus,
No-one but you

Faith and Worship.com



Sunday worship in the Draycote Benefice

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings
Sun 1 st April Easter Sunday	Birdingbury	10.45	Holy Communion	<i>Psalm 118 vv1-2 & 14-24</i> <i>*Isaiah Ch26 vv6-9</i> <i>1 Corinthians Ch15 vv1-11</i> <i>John Ch20 vv1-18</i>
Sun 8 th April	Birdingbury	9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Psalm 133</i> <i>Exodus Ch14 vv10-end</i> <i>1 John Ch1 vv1-22</i> <i>John Ch20 vv19-end</i>
Sun 15 th April	Bourton Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Evening Worship	<i>Psalm 4</i> <i>Zechariah Ch3 vv14-end</i> <i>1 John Ch3 vv1-7</i> <i>Luke Ch24 vv36b-48</i>
Sun 22 nd April	Birdingbury	11.00	Morning Worship	<i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Genesis Ch7 vv1-5,11-18</i> <i>& Ch8 vv6-18</i> <i>1 John Ch3 vv16-end</i> <i>John Ch10 vv11- 18</i>
Sun 29 th April	10.00am BENEFICE COMMUNION at BOURTON			<i>Psalm 22 vv25-end</i> <i>Genesis Ch22 vv1-18</i> <i>1 John Ch4 vv7-end</i> <i>John Ch15 vv1-8</i>
Sun 6 th May	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion	<i>Psalm 90</i> <i>Isaiah Ch55 vv1-11</i> <i>1 John Ch5 vv1-6</i> <i>John Ch15 vv9-17</i>
Sun 13 th May	Birdingbury	9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>Psalm 1</i> <i>Ezekiel Ch36 vv24-28</i> <i>1 John Ch5 vv9-13</i> <i>John Ch17 vv6-19</i>
Sun 20 th May	Bourton Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Evening Worship	<i>Psalm 104 vv26-36 & 37b</i> <i>Ezekiel Ch37 vv1-14</i> <i>Acts Ch2 v1-21</i> <i>John Ch15 vv26-27 &</i> <i>Ch16 vv4b-15</i>
Sun 27 th May	Birdingbury	11.00	Morning Worship Celebration of the Ministry of Dick Withington	<i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Isaiah Ch6 vv1-8</i> <i>Romans Ch8 vv12-17</i> <i>John Ch3 vv1-17</i>

Other Worship Activities

3 rd April	Birdingbury	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Hymns / readings / tea
5 th April	Bourton & Frankton VH	2.30 pm	Service & Tea	Hymns / readings / tea
11 ^b / th April	Birdingbury	10.30 am	Home Communion	Loen, Main Street.
28 th April	Bourton & Frankton VH	3.45 pm	Celebrate@4	Informal worship for all.
1 st May	Birdingbury	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	
9 th May	Birdingbury	10.30 am	Home Communion	Gables House, Back Lane
10 th May	Princethorpe	2.30 pm	Holy Communion	Ascension Day
26 th May	Stretton VH	3.45 pm	Celebrate@	Informal worship
29 th May	Birdingbury	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	

* Scripture underlined will be read aloud in Church services.

Please check notice boards for information about other services and events.

Details of all our activities for the Lent and Easter seasons can be found on our website

www.draycotegroup.org.uk

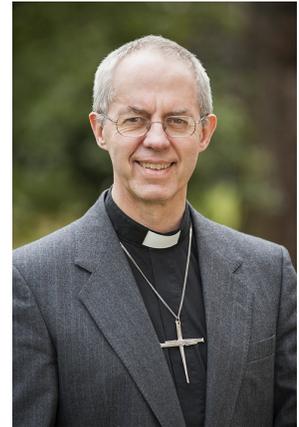
Church Wardens Report by Dick and Karen

Eye spy in the churchyard

Can you find an Easter garden hidden in the church yard? Hidden in a secret corner Eira has made a beautiful garden for us to share and enjoy!

The Archbishop of Canterbury is coming to Coventry

Diocese! We are very much looking forward to Archbishop Justin's return 'home' from 2-5th May (he served many years in parish ministry in and around Southam) where there are plans to keep him busy in all aspects of the life of the Diocese and its people and communities. Events you may be interested to attend are:



- A hog roast at Highfield Farm, Frankton on Thursday 3rd May. This is an evangelistic event which starts at 6:30 pm
- A Centenary Festival at Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 5 May. The festival starts at 10:30 am and includes music, drama and activities for all ages. Full programme not yet released.

If you would like a lift to either venue, do ask Karen Armbrister (632030)

Annual Church Parochial Meeting

Will take place on Wednesday 25th April at 7.15pm in Church with refreshments from 7pm. This is when we present our annual report and accounts, vote in our Church Wardens and PCC and review of our activities and our plans for 2018 and beyond. **This year the APCM will include a short presentation on our objective of becoming an 'Eco Church' - do come and join us!**

Church Wardens and PCC

Many of you know that Dick has decided not to stand again as a Church Warden, after a term that has lasted rather longer than the advised 3 years! We are grateful and thankful for his ministry and that he has agreed to stay on the PCC for at least another

year, where his knowledge and experience are much relied upon. Sadly, it's looking likely that, after many years of full allocation, we will now be down to one Warden; Karen having agreed to stand for another year. To date there has been no interest from anyone to replace Dick. Should this remain the case, we are going to have to think about how we will manage this, which may result in some changes to the way we can do things

Altar Guide Supper and AGM – date to be arranged – soon!.

Other Church Events for Your Diary

The Archbishop of Canterbury	Coventry Diocese	2 nd – 5 th May	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hog roast • Centenary Festival 	Grange Farm, Grandborough	Thurs 3 rd May	6.30 pm
	Coventry Cathedral	Sat 5 th May	10.30 pm
After school drop-in	Birdingbury Club	Thurs 24 th May	4.30 pm
Lowdown Ensemble	St Leonards	Sun 22nd April	4.30 pm
Coffee and a Chat	Birbury	Thurs 26 th April	10.30 am
Coffee and a Chat	Birbury	Thurs 31 st May	10.30 am
Church Fete	Birdingbury Club and Lounge	Sun 24th June	2pm
Holiday bible Club	Knightlow School, Stretton-on-Dunsmore	30th July to 3rd Aug	10am – 3pm (10am – 1pm on Friday)

What's been happening around the benefice?

Mothering Sunday

We were delighted to deliver Mothering Sunday treats around the village which were received with pleasure

"They made my day"

"What a lovely treat - thank you so much"

"I came home to find flowers by my door. How thoughtful and kind this village is. We have received nothing but friendship and kindness from everyone since we moved in



Thank you so much to all at St Leonards for thinking of me today and throughout the past few years when at times I have been so poorly. My flowers are beautiful reminder of the beginning of spring and the beginning of a healthy life with many wonderful years ahead

After School Drop-in

We are pleased to invite children and parents to the next After School Drop-in which will be on Thursday 24th May at 4.30pm, again in the Club Lounge. Do come and join us if you would like to.



Holiday Bible Club

The Churches in the Draycote Group invite you to join us at Rocky's Plaice.

The Church in a chip shop

Ages 5 – 11

Come and join us exploring the stories about Peter and the early Church through:

- Fun
- Games
- Outdoor Activities
- Crafts
- And Lots More!



30th July to 3rd August 2018

10am – 3pm (10am – 1pm on Friday)

Knightlow School, Stretton-on-Dunsmore

£25

For more information and an application form please contact:

Beverley Suffell

or

Karen Armbrister

beverleysuffell@gmail.com

karen.armbrister@btinternet.com

St Leonard's Contact information

Rector	Rev Ali Massey	07837 124509	reverendalimassey@gmail.com
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Rev Ali's usual Working days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, but do feel free to contact her outside these hours if needed

Churchwardens	Dick Withington	01926 632644	dick@special-time.co.uk
	Karen Armbrister	01926 632030	karen.armbrister@btinternet.com

Church News	Rachel Glanville		ChurchNews34@gmail.com
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