

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

A few words from Reverend Ali

Dear Friends

Well, here we are, nearly in the middle of the year – where did that time go? It has been a very busy year so far, including a Royal Wedding (although I didn't have to officiate at that one, there are quite a few booked in the Benefice this year) and a brilliant visit to the Diocese by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There is some debate about whether time seems to go quicker when you get older, or is it just that we are all getting busier? Certainly, the advent of e-mail, mobile phones and social media means that we are expected to be available 24/7. It is interesting to note that devices that were supposed to make our lives easier have, in some cases, made it so much more complicated.

It has felt like the winter stayed a bit longer than usual this year, despite burst of spring sunshine, but finally we are benefitting from the warmth of early summer and the promise of better weather to come.

It has also been busy in the church calendar. The season of Christmas ended just before the season of Lent, then Easter itself and the season of Easter that lasted until Pentecost on the 20th May. And now, breathe; we are in what we call Ordinary Time. Phew! No more special services or festivals for a little while, we can just relax into the rhythm of worship that sustains us week by week.

In Godly Play, a system of teaching sacred stories and liturgy, we call 'Ordinary Time' the 'great green growing weeks'. A time for embedding what we have learnt and deepening our faith, so that when we reach our next festival we are ready to rejoice and embrace the celebrations. So, I wonder, in our busy, busy lives, when are your 'great green growing weeks'?

Do you have a time that feeds and sustains you for all that life has to offer? Sometimes it can be something we do every day – maybe a hobby, a walk or a trip to the gym. Sometimes it can be our holidays. If we are lucky, 2 weeks spent in the sun, or having adventures that will sustain us for the rest of the year.

One of my 'great green growing weeks' is when I go on retreat. I try to go once a year for a few days. Some time away from the busyness of life in ministry, time to turn off the mobile phone and ignore the call of the Internet. A time to spend just 'being' instead of 'doing'. A time to spend recharging the batteries in God's presence.

So, my prayer for you this summer, is that you make the most of your 'great green growing time', whether that is a special time or a special place to make time for you and for God. Let the peace that comes from time to be a 'human being' rather than a 'human doing', sustain you, recharge your batteries and nurture you for the seasons to come.

With love and prayers

Ali

Summer Prayer

Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Amen.

Sunday worship in the Draycote Benefice

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings
Sun 3 rd June	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion	Trinity 1 (Green) Psalm 81 vv1-10 <u>Deuteronomy Ch5 vv12-15</u> 2 Corinthians Ch4 vv5-12 <u>Mark Ch2 vv23-3.6</u>
Sun 10 th June	Birdingbury	9.15 am	Holy Communion	Trinity 2 (Green) Psalm 130 <u>Genesis Ch3 vv8-15</u> 2 Corinthians Ch4 vv13-5.1 <u>John Ch17 vv6-19</u>
Sun 17 th June	Bourton Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Evening Worship	Trinity 3 (Green) Psalm 92 vv1-4 & 12-end <u>Ezekiel Ch17 vv22-end</u> 2 Corinthians Ch5 vv6-10 Mark Ch4 vv26-34
Sun 24 th June	Birdingbury	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Trinity 4 (Green) Psalm 107 vv1-3 & 23-32 <u>Job Ch38 vv1-11</u> 2 Corinthians Ch6 vv1-13 <u>Mark h4 vv35-end</u>
Sun 1 st July	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion	Trinity 5 (Green) Psalm 30 <u>Wisdom of Solomon Ch1 vv13-15</u> & <u>Ch2 vv23-24</u> 2 Corinthians Ch8 vv7-end Mark Ch5 vv21-end
Sun 8 th July	Birdingbury	9.15 am	Holy Communion	Trinity 6 (Green) Psalm 123 <u>Ezekiel Ch2 vv1-5</u> 2 Corinthians Ch 12 vv2-10 <u>John Ch20 vv19-end</u>
Sun 15 th July	Bourton Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Evening Worship	Trinity 7 (Green) Psalm 85 vv8-end <u>Amos Ch7 vv7-15</u> Ephesians Ch1 vv3-14 <u>Mark Ch6 vv14-29</u>
Sun 22 nd July Karen's Garden	Birdingbury Davenport Cottage (Church if wet)	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Trinity 8 (Green) Psalm 23 <u>Jeremiah Ch2 vv11-end</u> Ephesians Ch2 vv3-14 <u>Mark Ch6 v30-34 & 53 -end</u>
Sun 29 th July	Benefice Communion 10.30 Frankton			Trinity 9 (Green) Psalm 145 vv10-19 <u>2 Kings Ch4 vv42-end</u> <u>Ephesians Ch3 vv14-end</u> <u>John Ch6 vv1-21</u>

* Scripture underlined will be read aloud in Church services.

Other Events and Activities

Morning Prayer at St Leonards Church Birdingbury on Tuesday morning's 9.00am

26th June
3rd July
24th July



Service and tea at Bourton & Frankton Village Hall 2.30pm

7th June
5th July

Home Communion in Birdingbury at 10.30am

13th June at Davenport Cottage, Back Lane
11th July at Loen, Main St

Celebrate@4 An opportunity for informal worship for all at 3.45 pm
23rd June Bourton & Frankton VH
28th July Knightlow School

Coffee and a chat on Thursday mornings at 10.30 in the Birbury, Birdingbury

28th June
26th July



After school drop in

We are pleased to invite children and parents to the next After School Drop-in which will be on Thursday 19th July at 4.30pm. We are going to have a picnic and details of the venue will follow!
Do come and join us if you would like to.

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

Details of all our activities for the seasons can be found on our website www.draycotegroup.org.uk

Church Fete - Sunday 24th June

We would welcome any donations you feel able to provide for our annual fundraiser for church please. Donations to all stalls will be gratefully received:

Home-made cakes and preserves to Liz Ellis - 2 Old Rickyard, Back Lane

Tombola - general gifts, bottles or cash donations for gift buying to Karen Armbrister at Davenport Cottage, Back Lane (leave in front porch)

Plants or garden miscellany - leave on the club forecourt on the day or call Karen to collect

Books / Dvds - in good selling condition please - to Jenny Hawes, Gables House, Back Lane

Raffle stubs and cash payments - to Daphne, Lyndhurst, Marton Rd

Thank you so much for supporting our fete - we look forward to seeing you

Quiet Afternoons at Davenport Cottage, Back Lane

We all need to take time out sometime; to just 'be', so I'd like to invite you to my garden on two dates over the summer to do just that.....

Thursday 28th June from 2-5pm

An introduction to creative bible journaling to include afternoon tea

Come and find out about Bible Journaling. It's a way of spending time with God; to be able to read, listen, reflect and then respond in a creative way. You do not need to be artistic; just to be open minded, open hearted and willing to have a go.

All materials will be provided just bring yourself, a bible and no pre-conceived ideas. This workshop will be led by my lovely friend Jane Harris.

Tuesday 17th July from 2-5pm

A time for quiet personal reflection to include optional afternoon tea (repeated by popular request!)

Come and spend some quiet time in my garden (or inside if weather bad); a peaceful time for you. I will have some resources available but just come - bring anything that you might find helpful for relaxing and giving yourself some 'you' time.

Both afternoons are free of charge but places are limited to 6 on each. Contact Karen on 632030 / karen.armbrister@btinternet.com if you would like to come to either or both sessions

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

29 July – 3 August at Knightlow School

There are just a few places left for our annual week of fun, games, stories, activities and crazy goings on – for children from age 5 to 11+. The theme this year is 'Rocky's plaice' and it's set in a chip shop!

Karen will be a Group Leader and there will be three groups of children all doing a variety of activities from 10am to 3pm daily (1pm on Friday). We'd love to have some children from Birdingbury join us.

We are also very keen to hear from anyone who may like to help; either all week or for any part of the week – please!



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

Church Wardens Report by Karen



The one that got away!

After some 27 years in this stint as Church Warden, Dick Withington has decided to hang up his CW boots and retire. It's impossible to let this pass without us saying the biggest THANKYOU to him for such wonderful commitment to this village community over such a long time. So many people have benefited from his help, kindness, gentle humour, visits, knowledge about matters environmental and organisational skills. We are wondering how we will manage without him. But he isn't deserting us yet; he is staying on the PCC and will still be helping us around the village for the time being. You can't be a good Church Warden without support at home so our thanks go to Aileen as well and we wish them continued good health, happiness and fun with their new grandchild and family.

Altar Guide Supper and AGM

A lovely evening was had by the members of the Altar Guild. The Annual Supper took place at Aileen's who, after many years of loyal service, has stood down as rota secretary although will continue to arrange flowers in our church.

The committee members for 2018 are: Chair: Eira Owen, Secretary: Liz Ellis and Rota secretary: Jasmine Coles



The Lowdown Ensemble

It was brilliant to host our first 'proper' concert in church for some time. We were delighted to welcome local professional musicians The Lowdown Ensemble, comprising 3 cellos and a double bass. We were treated to some exquisite pieces from Albonini's Adagio to the Pink Panther and plenty in between. We provided tea and cake for attendees and it made a lovely interlude in our pretty church building. We will certainly be looking for other local musical delights to entertain us again.



What's been happening around the benefice?

Archbishop comes to Birdingbury!

Birdingbury had a VIP visitor recently. The Archbishop of Canterbury was visiting the Diocese of Coventry as part of the centenary celebrations and had lunch at Bondon Farm, with Wallace and Josie McCurdie and a group of local farmers.



Amongst other events in a jam-packed 5 day visit, he also took to the stage at Highfield farm, Frankton, where 500 people enjoyed a hog roast, some music from Paul Bell and a fabulous talk

from the man himself. He was witty, self-deprecating and his faith and love for God shone out to all there. The celebrations at the Cathedral were brilliant, and the announcement that the Cathedral is **dropping admission charges** for the rest of this centenary year (and hopefully thereafter if donations meet the bills) was met with a great roar of approval.



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	Karen Armbrister	01926 632030	karen.armbrister@btinternet.com
Church News	Rachel Glanville		ChurchNews34@gmail.com