

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

A few words from Reverend Ali

Dear Friends

We seem to have seen the back of summer – it is definitely feeling more autumnal. The schools have been back for a couple of weeks, families have been dropping their young adults back at university or college and the nights are starting to draw in..... This time of year can be a little depressing, so I think God gives us a glorious reminder through nature of God's presence with us. The glory of autumnal colours, shiny conkers, crisp mornings, bonfire smoke and of course the excuse to wear nice big baggy jumpers that cover up a multitude of sins! I am being flippant, and of course we should always take depression and anxiety seriously, but in all our difficulties, God is with us – even if we find it hard to understand. Autumn also gives us a chance to think about the circle of life, as the seasons turn, we are reminded of how things have to die before they are brought back to life in the spring. There has to be a fallow time, where nature stores up energy for the next season of growth, so if you are feeling a bit low in this Autumn season please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, and we can together talk and think about how we weather the winter and fallow time, preparing for spring to return once again.

There is going to be a new face in the ministry team this autumn. I have been asked to work with a curate on placement, here in the Benefice, for about a year. Gail Phillip is a third year curate and will start with us on 1st October. So what is a curate? Well, all Church of England ministers are required to serve as a curate for between 3 and 4 years after they are ordained. Being a curate is the first part of continuing ministerial development. Gail will be with us to learn what ministering in a multi-parish rural Benefice is like and to share her skills and experience gained in the first 2 years since ordination at a large town church. Gail is an ordained priest so she will be working closely with me, leading worship, presiding at Holy Communion and sharing in the occasional offices (weddings, funerals and baptisms).

I am really looking forward to Gail's arrival and I am sure that you will offer her the warm welcome that you offered to me 2 years ago. Gail will start worshipping with us on Sunday 7th October.

So as we prepare ourselves for the coming of winter, I pray that this autumn will be a time when the beauty of the season pierces the gloom and that you will be able to enjoy the crisp mornings and cosy evenings by your fireside.

God bless
Love Ali

Pleasant Sounds by John Clare

The rustling of leaves under the feet in woods and under hedges;
The crumpling of cat-ice and snow down wood-rides,
 narrow lanes and every street causeway;
Rustling through a wood or rather rushing, while the wind halloos
 in the oak-top like thunder;
The rustle of birds' wings startled from their nests
 or flying unseen into the bushes;
The whizzing of larger birds overhead in a wood,
 such as crows, puddocks, buzzards;
The trample of robins and woodlarks on the brown leaves,
 and the patter of squirrels on the green moss;
The fall of an acorn on the ground, the pattering of nuts
 on the hazel branches as they fall from ripeness;
The flirt of the groundlark's wing from the stubbles
How sweet such pictures on dewy mornings, when the dew flashes from its
brown feathers.

From *A Poem For Every Day of the Year* compiled by Allie Esiri, published by Macmillan



Sunday worship in the Draycote Benefice

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings
Sun 7 TH Oct	Frankton	9.15 am	Holy Communion	<u>Genesis Ch2 vv18-24</u>
	Bourton	11.00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving	Psalm 8 Hebrews Ch1 vv1-4 & Ch2 vv5-12
	Stretton	6.00 pm	Holy Communion	<u>Mark Ch10 vv2-16</u>
Sun 14 th Oct	Birdingbury	9.15 am	Holy Communion	<u>Amos Ch5 vv6-7 & 10-15</u> Psalm 90 vv12-end Hebrews Ch4 vv12-end <u>Mark Ch10 vv17--31</u>
Sun 21 st Oct	Bourton	9.15 am	Holy Communion	<u>Isaiah Ch53 vv4-end</u>
	Frankton	11.00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving	Psalm 91 vv9-end Hebrews Ch5 vv1-10
	Stretton	6.00 pm	Evening Worship	<u>Mark Ch10 vv31-45</u>
Sun 28 TH Oct	Birdingbury	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Jeremiah Ch31 vv7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews Ch7 23-end <u>Mark Ch10 vv46-end</u>
Sun 4 th Nov	Frankton	9.15 am	Holy Communion	<u>Deuteronomy Ch6 vv1-9</u>
	Bourto	11.00 am	Family Service	Psalm 119 vv1-8
	Stretton	3.00 pm	Benefice Remembering Service	Hebrews Ch9 vv11-14 <u>Mark Ch12 vv28-34</u>
Sun 11 th Nov	Birdingbury	10.15am	Remembrance Service	<u>Jonah Ch3 vv1-5 & 10</u> Psalm 62 vv5-end Hebrews Ch9 vv24-end <u>Mark Ch1 vv14 -20</u>
Sun 18 th Nov	Bourton	9.15 am	Holy Communion	<u>Daniel Ch12 vv1-3</u>
	Frankton	11.00 am	Family Worship	Psalm 16
	Stretton	6.00 pm	Evening Worship	Hebrews Ch10 vv11-14 & 19-25 <u>Mark Ch13 vv1-8</u>
Sun 25 th Nov	Birdingbury	11.00 am	Morning 'Worship	Daniel Ch7 vv9-10 & 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation Ch1 vv4b-8 <u>John Ch18 vv33-- 37</u>

Scripture underlined will be read aloud in Church services.

Other Events and Activities

Morning Prayer at St Leonards Church Birdingbury on Tuesday mornings 9.00am

16th October

13th November



Service and Tea at Bourton & Frankton Village Hall 2.30pm

9th October

1st November

Home Communion in Birdingbury at 10.30am

10th October in the Birbury

14th November at Leamington Hastings

(see Karen for details)

Celebrate@4 An opportunity for informal worship for all at 3.45 pm

27th October at Stretton Village Hall

23rd November at Bourton & Frankton Village Hall

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

25th October

29th November



After school drop in

We are pleased to invite children and parents to the next After School Drop-in which will be on **Thursday 25th October at 4.30pm**. We are going to meet in the Club lounge. Story, activities and healthy snack. 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

Harvest Supper 2018

We enjoyed a lovely Harvest Supper in the Club, where we were made really welcome. Locally or British produced hams, new potatoes, salad and coleslaw were followed by a variety of home - made fruit crumbles with lashings of custard. Around 50 people attended and we were very grateful for your support. Very big thanks to Liz for taking on most of the organisation ably supported by Gaynor, David and Jenny. Thanks also to all those who cooked and prepared food and all those who helped to clear up



Armistice Centenary 2018

*'We will remember them' exhibition in
St Leonard's Church
4th -18th November 2018*

*We hope that all households will be involved in some way. Our main service for Remembrance will be on Sunday 11th November at 10.15am in Church, finishing at the War Memorial at 11am and being followed by coffee in the Club Lounge
If you would like to be involved please make a note of the following events:*

Poppy making workshop

Thursday 18th October

8pm Club Lounge

Children's poppy making workshop

Monday 29th October

10-12 am in Church

Exhibition set up

Tues 30th October - Friday 2nd November

Outdoor Nativity Service

We are delighted to have been invited to Bondon Farm, for an outdoor crib service on SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER at 4pm. We are still at the planning stage but do write this in your diary. If you would like to be involved then please contact Karen – there will a lot of opportunity for participation if desired!

Winter Night Shelter 2018/2019

We hope to be approached by our friends at St Matthew's and St Oswald's to see if we can help again with the Night Shelter, which we expect will run from 1st December to 31st March. I am keen for us to provide our usual level of support. If you would like to help again, or join our team, we need volunteers to:



1. Attend the Night Shelter on a Thursday evening from 6.30pm to 10pm, to either:

- Help in the kitchen preparing and serving food and clearing / washing up
- Make beds up, serve hot drinks and socialise and eat / mix with the guests
- Cook for us to collect and take with us (main courses / side dishes or puddings)

2. Attend the Night Shelter between 6.30am and 8.30am on a Friday morning to prepare and serve breakfast and tidy up once guests leave

3. Make a financial donation towards the running of the Night Shelter

Please can you help? We need men and women hopefully and send a team of around 6 each time we go.

If you feel the heart to do something to help those who need our love- just 7 miles from our warm and comfortable homes – then please let Karen know. Last year we had 20 people in our team. Can we do even better this year?

Volunteers needed please?

Church Christmas tree

Do we have any kind and willing volunteers please who could get our church Christmas tree for us and get it into church please?

This is a task Dick has undertaken for many years, and he would like to be able to hand it over to some younger volunteers! If you think you could help us out - I would be particularly grateful - I wonder if you would please contact Karen.

Church Door Pots

Dick has also, again for some years now, planted up the large pots outside the church front door, twice a year for Summer and Winter, and he would like to pass this task on as well please. Does anyone feel they could help with this please?

Again - please contact Karen if you can help. Thank you

Christian Aid collection - annually in May

Revered David and Mair Shaw have co-ordinated collections across the benefice for 6 years now and would like to pass this task on. It involves liaising with reps from each village in the benefice and receiving collections which are then counted and passed to CA. If you have a good head for money and a little time available late May, could you help please? If so, please contact Karen

Keeping in touch with church activities and events

If you'd like to be kept in touch with church events, activities and services, there are various ways to do this:

- Read our magazine insert in Birdsong 'Church News' kindly edited by Rachel Glanville.

This is also available on the village website www.birdingbury.org

- Visit our website www.draycotegroup.org
- Sign up for our e mail circulation by contacting Karen on karen.armbrister@btinternet.com
- Sign up for our online Facebook Group – St Leonard's Church – by searching us out on Facebook and requesting to join
- Sign up to receive a paper version of our monthly notice sheet – speak to Karen about this and you will have a copy delivered every month

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

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