

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

Birdingbury Church Fete 2014

Wow, what a day! The sun shone and shone
We stayed awfully late, till the cake was all gone
We won on the tombola, some bath stuff and fizz
The selection of books had us all in a tizz

The cakes were divine and all flavours as well
Chocolate, lemon, banana.....and boy what a smell
Fresh baking by Birdingbury's finest of cooks
All those calories consumed will not help our looks

Inside the church the tea urn was on boil
The folks on refreshments did certainly toil
Strawberries and cream, little quiches were tasty
To get one of those you had to be hasty

The tombola kept all of the children amused
But the colours of tickets had everyone confused
Blue prize or pink prize - what a selection we had
And the children kept winning- their faces were glad

The gardeners were checking out plants on that stall
What a lot we were given, flowers, veggies and all
The book stall was busy as we all love to browse
Fiction, reference and books about decorating your house

The raffle had prizes we all wanted to win
And hundreds of tickets were safe in that bin
We all clapped in delight as prize winners were read
And secretly wished we had won them instead

Then time went on and folks started to leave
After sinking more tea than you'd ever believe
The helpers cleared up, as quick as a flash
We'll do it again next year: it's a really good bash!

Anon



Photos: Liz Ellis and Eira Owen

St. Leonard's news and updates from Dick, Karen and Daphne

Forthcoming Services

In August, we will begin to trial a new service pattern until the end of 2014. Churchwardens across Draycote Benefice and PCCs have thought carefully about making changes for some months and feel the time is right now to give it a go. The net effect of the trial will be one service a month less in each parish.

The changes within the benefice are:

- There will be a monthly service of Holy Communion for the whole benefice in Stretton, our largest community.
- 5th Sunday Draycote Benefice services will rotate around the smaller parishes of Birdingbury, Frankton and Bourton.
- All former 11 o'clock services will now start at 10.30am.

In Birdingbury we will have the following services each month:

- 3rd Sunday monthly – 10.30 am Holy Communion
- 4th Sunday monthly – 10.30 am Morning Praise – a shorter, more informal service often led by members of the church community

We would like to stress that this is a limited period trial and ask you to approach it with an open mind, try to commit to the monthly Draycote Benefice service and very importantly, tell us what you think. We look forward to hearing from you.

Pledges for St Leonard's

We are particularly grateful to those who answered our plea for a '*Pledge for St Leonard's*' at the Church Fete and afterwards. We are asking people if they would be prepared to consider supporting St Leonard's with the sum of £10 a month. If your village church is important to you, please consider supporting it by donating £10 per month. Standing Order details and Gift Aid forms are available from Daphne Chippendale (632582).

Churchyard Mowing

As mentioned in the last edition of Church News, we are now employing a contractor to mow the churchyard during the Summer Months. A number of friends have already donated £45 to "sponsor a mow" to help offset the cost of the contractor and there are still a few of the original "mowers" who are happy to continue this duty as and when they are able. To them and to our "sponsors" we say a very big thank you. If you are interested in donating time or money please contact Daphne (632582) or Karen (632030).

Karen and Dick

St. Leonard's Church Fete

This was a very successful event which raised £1,703.85 for St Leonard's Church.

A huge thank you to everyone who came and spent a lot of time and money. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon. Another thank you to everyone who helped in any way and who also kindly donated items for the various stalls, all of which helped to make this year's fete so successful. Our prayers were answered and even the sun shone for us. If you didn't manage to make it this year make a note in your diary for June next year.

Can we keep up the 'small is beautiful' community-focussed feeling and at the same time make a few changes? What do you feel? Any ideas appreciated.



Lovely day for a laze in the churchyard for these lucky people.

Great opportunity to chat with friends and neighbours.

Karen looks worn out! Not surprising considering all her hard work - and that she had a poorly leg. Thank you Karen very much.

With love and thanks from Daphne, on behalf of St' Leonard's PCC

Women Bishops

The Church of England General Synod has voted to ordain women as bishops—at last!

The Rev. Canon Katrina Scott, Dean of Women's Ministry in the diocese said:

"I am delighted that today the Church of England has strongly affirmed the role of women at every level of church life. This is a great moment to celebrate men and women working together to serve God and our neighbours."

When Daphne and I spoke after the vote, our reaction was short and to the point:

'Hurray. About time too. At long last common sense has prevailed.'

Aileen Withington

Letter from Elizabeth Kirk, Lay Reader in our Benefice

Carry on Contemplating!

I am in my sitting room, feet up, contemplating all that is around. The sun shines through the open French windows on to bits and pieces indoors and on to the garden full of butterflies, bees and birds outside. I'm sure I saw a dragonfly. The garden needs tidying but if I do that, where will the wild life find food – better to do nothing and carry on contemplating.

I have found many people very wary of that word but to contemplate simply means 'to observe quietly'. I think we all need all a bit of this in our lives. It doesn't mean sitting for hours cross-legged or kneeling before a candle – unless, of course, that's helpful to finding an inner quiet. It just means what it says, "observe quietly". I did it once when I was commuting, missed my connection and had nothing to do. I sat on a platform bench and watched the feet passing. That's all. I remember how time flew by and that tight knot of anger and worry in my chest disappeared.

Some of you may be saying 'that's all very nice but I have no free time.' But you do, we all do. We all have a spot small enough ready and waiting for us to enter in contemplation: putting away the toys, cleaning the car, mowing the lawn, commuting to work, even the many hold-ups life throws at us. Instead of choosing anger or frustration at the delays, why don't we choose contemplation?

It was something Jesus did all the time – now THERE was a man with a busy life. Dawn to dusk and beyond talking with people, listening, healing, teaching, walking everywhere. The list is endless. But he never got 'stressed' or angry. Why? Because he spent time with his Father telling him his concerns, listening to the reply and 'observing quietly'. He knew contemplation was an essential part of life.

We have a couple of hours set aside for contemplation (see the notice on p. 6 of Church News). If you would like to come, just turn up and if you don't know where it is, bring someone who does !

May you find the small corner hiding in your busy life to 'observe quietly'.

Elizabeth

Please feel free to contact your churchwardens, Dick or Karen, anytime if you would like to talk to us. If you would like to talk to a priest, we will happily put you in touch with one. Our contact details are on p.8 of Church News.

AUGUST and SEPTEMBER SERVICES in Draycote Benefice Churches

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings
Sun 3rd Aug	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Evening Worship	
Mon 4th Aug	Birdingbury	10.00 pm	WW1 Vigil	
Sun 10th Aug	Stretton	10.30 am	Benefice Family Communion	
Sun 17th Aug	Birdingbury Bourton Frankton Stretton	10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Praise Morning Praise	<i>Romans Ch 11 vv 1- 2a + v. 29 - 32</i> <i>Matthew Ch 15 vv 21- 28</i>
Sun 24th Aug	Birdingbury Princethorpe	10.30 am 6. 00 pm	Morning Praise Holy Communion	<i>Romans Ch 12 vv 1- 8</i> <i>Matthew Ch 16 vv 13- 20</i>
Sun 31st Aug	Bourton	10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion	
Sun 7th Sept	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Evening Worship	
Sun 14th Sept	Stretton	10.30 am	Benefice Family Communion	
Sun 21st Sept	Birdingbury Bourton Frankton Stretton	10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Praise Morning Praise	<i>2 Corinthians Ch 4 vv 1– 6</i> <i>Matthew Ch 9 vv 9– 13</i>
Sun 28th Sept	Birdingbury Princethorpe	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Harvest Festival Holy Communion	<i>Philippians Ch 2 vv 1– 13</i> <i>Matthew Ch 21 vv 23– 32</i>

St. Leonard's events for August and September

'Ride and Stride' Sunday 14th September

Please see the flyer in the main part of Birdsong for more details.
Contact Liz Ellis for more details (632379)

HARVEST FESTIVAL 10.30 am on Sunday 28th September

In late July Rob Walker's wheat, seen in the photograph from the end of our new garden at High Mead, is almost ready to be harvested. However, it seems a long time from the local grain harvest until our Harvest Festival service on 28th September. But this festival of thanks is something of much wider significance than our Birdingbury harvest. In the words one of my favourite harvest hymns:



Photo: Aileen W

*All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.*

'Come ye thankful people come' - to our Harvest Thanksgiving on 28th September.
Dick Withington

Benefice events for August and September

Thurs 7 Aug 2.30 pm **Service and Tea**, Bourton, Frankton, Draycote Village Hall

Wed 13 Aug 10.30 am **Home Communion**, Jenny Hawes', Gables House, Back Lane

Friday 22 August 2pm - 4pm

Soul Space - 'Quiet Meadow': A time for quiet, music and a 'thought for the day'

in the loveliest of settings at Feldon Forest Farm, Frankton

(by kind permission of George and Gillian Browning)

Why not come and bring a friend?

Thurs 4 Sept 2.30 pm **Service and Tea**, Bourton, Frankton, Draycote Village Hall

Wed 10 Sept 10.30 am **Home Communion**, The Birbury hosted by Karen Armbrister

The Somme - From beyond the grave

How can you remember when you were never there!
Memories that stayed with me that I could never share
Trenches deep in thick mud blended with my comrades' blood.
Were you there?

Horses from the counties struggling through the mire, led by a mix of men
Whilst under hellish fire, the butcher's boy from city shop
And the young Kentish man whose fields of hops were ripening
Far back home.

Both saw their horses meet their end
And prayed to God that he might send a ray of sunshine hope
And dry the mud and firm the ground on which the shrieking shells did pound.

But it never came while they drew breath
For not two days later they met their death.
Two mutilated corpses lying in the trench, not fit for fighting now
Just giving off a stench which reaches out to all of those around
Who still fight on, though never gaining ground.

How can you remember memories that stayed with me
until I breathed my last fresh air when at last they bid farewell.
Memories I could never share.

Some were saved by a lover's locket or small Bible in breast pocket
Reminding them of long lost pleasures back home on Blighty's shores
But more often it was a cigarette case that took the shrapnel's bite

Allowing frightened men to continue in the fight –
Amidst their shell-shocked comrades who involuntarily shook
To the disdain of some officers who gave them dirty looks
And saw them as cowards unwilling to fight on
As the whining of the heavy shells and the thunder of the guns
Shattered the peace in the Battle of the Somme

Only now can I share memories with those who were not there,
Whose lives were never blighted by memories I now share.
For beyond the grave of darkness and despair
My hope is that for the future
They may care.

Gaynor and Simon Davy's Silver Wedding Anniversary

The very youthful couple on the left were married in a memorable service at St. Leonard's on 17th June 1989.



Photo: Helmut Levy



Photo: Ian Palmer

25 years later, during the morning service on 22nd June 2014, they renewed their marriage vows in the presence of family and friends who witnessed their wedding in 1989, together with plenty of friends made in more recent years.

The congregation were treated to cake and a glass of wine after the service and Gaynor and Simon were persuaded to have their photograph taken as a record of their anniversary. Ahhh!

They haven't changed a bit, have they - apart from Simon losing some of his hair!

Aileen Withington

St. Leonard's contact information

Priest in Charge (vacancy)

Readers	Elizabeth Kirk	01926 633400	
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Churchwardens	Dick Withington	01926 632644	dick@special-time.co.uk
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