

## CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

### Vigil to mark the centenary of the beginning of WW1

St. Leonard's Church



Monday August 2014 at 10pm

This service was the final event of Birdingbury's commemoration of the beginning of the First World War on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914.

Here are some of the many appreciative comments about the service:

'We would like to give our thanks to Rev. David Shaw and his wife Maia who conducted such a sensitive and respectful service in our church for this occasion. The readings including the words of Sir Edward Grey in 1914, Wilfred Owen's poem '1914' and 'In Flanders Fields', a poem by John McRae. The service, which included prayers and hymns, concluded with extinguishing the candles, one by one. The whole service was very moving and a profound reminder to us all of man's inhumanity to mankind. The following passage formed part of the service:

*'Most merciful God, gathered in the light of your Christ, we confess our share in the world's pride, its greed and despair, its violence and its darkness. Free us from the tyranny of sin, fill us with your peace and lead us from death to life in Jesus Christ our Lord.'*

Our sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in preparing and organising this very appropriate vigil.'

**Val Stubbs and Daphne Chippendale**

'We thought the vigil was a good opportunity to reflect on the dreadful effects of war in general and World War I in particular. The vigil was sensitively organised and a moving addition to the other events in the village which commemorated the onset of four years of tragedy.'

**Diana and Leslie Turner**

'It was brilliant: the pauses in between the readings and the awful facts and figures about WW1 increased the emotional atmosphere.'

**Lance Hudson**

'A really moving and atmospheric service that was very much a part of the village's commemoration as a whole.'

**Gary Laverick**

'I loved the hauntingly beautiful music from Karl Jenkins's 'The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace' which linked all the spoken pieces of the vigil together.'

**Aileen Withington**

## St. Leonard's news and updates from Dick and Karen

### **Toilet and kitchen update**

As requested by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, we have submitted a revised Options Appraisal. We hope that after their next meeting we will be able to submit what is known as a Faculty Application. This is all taking a dreadfully long time but there is a sense that we are now moving forward, albeit slowly!

### **Pattern of services**

We have been trialling a new service pattern, which includes a new monthly benefice communion and a change in times for morning services to 10.30am. In practice it means that we have one less service a month at St Leonard's.

The trial is due to finish at the end of the year. Your views are important to us so please tell a member of the PCC what you feel about the present services, as we shall be discussing it at our next PCC meeting on 12th November. We need to consider everyone's views to the following Benefice Church Wardens Team meeting, which will decide whether to make any amendments to the service pattern across the benefice.

### **Benefice Communion**

On September 14th it was the monthly Benefice Communion at Stretton when a congregation of about 50 enjoyed an inspiring sermon from our Area Dean, Canon Peter Watkins.

### **Remembrance**

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3pm it is our annual '**Remembering Service**' at Stretton Church, followed by tea and refreshments in the village hall. This is a reflective and meaningful service to remember those we have loved and lost. The service is open to everyone. All families of those who have died during the past year will receive a personal invitation to attend. If you wish to have the name of a loved one read out, then please let one of us know. We can provide lifts for anyone who would like to attend.

Sunday 9th November is **Remembrance Sunday**. As usual, it will begin in church at 10.15am before going to the War Memorial for 11 am for the rest of the service. Rev. Graham Hardwick is leading the service and Peter and Sue Law have very kindly invited the congregation to Somerville Cottage for refreshments after the service.

The excellent WW1 exhibition produced by the History Group will remain in church until after this service.

## **Christmas**

Forgive us mentioning the 'C' word, but, like retailers, we are well-prepared! We have arranged 3 main Christmas services for Birdingbury as in previous years:

Sunday 21 December, 4pm 'Carols, crib, candles...and a choir' service led by Karen.

Wed. 24 December, 11.00pm – Christmas Eve communion led by Rev. David Shaw.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am – Christmas Day service led by Dick.

If you would like to be involved in any way in a choir for the Christmas 'C, C, C and Choir' service on Sun 21st, please can you contact Karen in advance (contact details on p.8).

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

to Jenny Tooth and Matt Markham from the PCC and all friends at Birdingbury Church on the occasion of their wedding at St. Leonard's on 9th October. Anna, Jess and Phoebe, are looking forward very much to being their bridesmaids!

## **TONY ANSELL**

The funeral and burial of Anthony (Tony) Ansell of Chimes, Main Street took place at St. Leonard's on 17th September. Our sincere condolences to Brenda and her family.

### **'EXPLORING PASTORAL CARE' course**

Are you interested in learning more about pastoral care or being a visitor in a hospital?

**Exploring Pastoral Care is an 8 week course starting on Wednesday 1st October from 9.30am – 12pm.**

To register your interest and for details of venues, please contact:

Revd. Paul Holmes – paul.holmes@uhcw.nhs.uk / 02476 967 514

Revd. Ricarda Witcombe – ricarda.witcombe@geh.nhs.uk / 02476 865 281 or

Revd Frances Tyler – frances.tyler@swft.nhs.uk / 01926 495 321 ext. 4121

I hope that you receive this notice in time to register and go to the first session if you are interested. If not, it may be worth contacting one of the people above to express your interest in attending the remaining 7 sessions.

Ed.

## Letter from Kevin Downham, Lay Reader in our Benefice

Autumn for me is always a time of reflection; a chance to pause after the hectic days of summer. There are so many ways in which we can reflect on this season of thanksgiving.

We can think of it as a time of fulfilment as we thank our creator God for his generosity in providing us with the fruits of his creation each year.

God provides enough for the entire world but through the greed of some, many go hungry. It is we who selfishly upset the natural balance of God's generosity. We need to remember those who suffer as a consequence of the greed of others.

Autumn brings home the fragility of human life. Our garden fruits are now fading and falling and we cannot avoid a similar process within our own frail bodies. But the promise of renewal is there for us all: it is always with us and lies at the very heart of all our thanksgivings. Sharing the autumns of our lives with the life of the natural world is well expressed in the following lines from Hildegard of Bingen, the twelfth century Benedictine Abbess:

*When in the fullness of its time this creation wilts,  
its vigour returns to its own source.  
This is the underlying natural law.  
When the elements of the world fulfil their function,  
they come to ripeness and their fruits are gathered back to God.  
Now these things are in reference to the soul's life:  
spiritual vitality is alive in the soul  
in the same way as the marrow of the hips in the flesh.  
Out of the soul in good standing,  
the vigour of the virtues flow out as do the elements of creation,  
it flows back in the same capacity in attentive prayer.*

Kevin Downham

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.

**OCTOBER and NOVEMBER SERVICES in Draycote Benefice Churches**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Sun 5th Oct</b>	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Evening Worship	
<b>Sun 12th Oct</b>	<b>Stretton</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Benefice Harvest Communion</b>	
<b>Sun 19th Oct</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Bourton <b>Frankton</b> Stretton	<b>10.30 am</b> 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> Harvest Morning Praise Morning Praise	<i>1 Thessalonians Ch 1 vv 1—10</i> <i>Matthew Ch 22 vv 15 - 22</i>
<b>Sun 26th Oct</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Princethorpe	<b>10.30 am</b> 6. 00 pm	<b>Morning Praise</b> Holy Communion	<i>Colossians Ch 3 vv 12 -17</i> <i>Matthew Ch 24 vv 30 - 35</i>
<b>Sun 2nd Nov</b>	Frankton Bourton <b>Stretton</b>	9.15 am 10.30 am <b>3.00 pm</b>	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion <b>Remembering Service</b> (+ tea in village hall)	
<b>Sun 9th Nov Remembrance Sunday</b>	Princethorpe <b>Birdingbury</b> Frankton Stretton	<b>10.15 am</b>	<b>Remembrance Service</b> at church before going to War Memorial for 10 50am	<i>1 Thessalonians Ch 4 vv 13 - end</i> <i>Matthew Ch 25 vv 1 -13</i>
<b>Sun 16st Nov</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Bourton Frankton Stretton	<b>10.30 am</b> 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> Morning Praise Morning Praise Morning Praise	<i>1 Thessalonians Ch 5 vv 1 -11</i> <i>Matthew Ch 25 vv 14 -30</i>
<b>Sun 23rd Nov</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Princethorpe	<b>10.30 am</b> 6.00 pm	<b>Morning Praise</b> Holy Communion	<i>Ephesians Ch 1 vv 15 - end</i> <i>Matthew Ch 25 vv 31 - end</i>
<b>Sun 30th Nov Advent Sunday</b>	<b>Frankton</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Benefice Communion</b>	

### St. Leonard's events for October and November

**Church Cottage Pie Café** Saturday 12th November, 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm  
Please see main part of Birdsong for menu details.

### Benefice events for October and November

Thurs 2nd Oct 2.30 pm **Service and Tea**, Bourton, F'ton and Draycote Vill. Hall  
Wed 8th Oct 10.30 am **Home Communion** at Jenny Hawes', Gables House, Back Lane  
Wed 8th Oct 2.00 pm **Soul Space** at Elizabeth Kirk's, Eglantine, Fair Close, Frankton  
Thurs 6th Nov 2.30 pm **Service and Tea**, Bourton, F'ton and Draycote Vill. Hall  
Wed 12th Nov 10.30 am **Home Communion** at The Birbury, host Valerie Smith  
Wed 21st Nov 6.30 pm **Soul Space** at Elizabeth Kirk's, Eglantine, Fair Close, Frankton

### Leamington Hastings Church: shortlisted for a 2014 English Heritage 'Angel Award'

Our neighbouring church was featured in Rugby Advertiser a few weeks ago.

If you remember, All Saints' Church, Leamington Hastings, was devastated by arson and thefts of lead from its roof a year ago. Brian Cooke, one of the Churchwardens, and a team of fellow helpers worked very hard to get the damage repaired.

Their efforts have been recognised by English Heritage which has shortlisted them for its Angel Awards 2014.

In November 2009, the church was badly damaged by fire, subsequently confirmed as arson. Then in August 2013, with the last part of the restoration just finished, lead was stolen on two separate occasions from the roof, causing further extensive damage.



Brian and his team at Leamington Hastings were both surprised and delighted to hear that they had been shortlisted for the award. They will be attending a star-studded, red carpet awards ceremony at the Palace Theatre in London on 3rd November.

The Angel Awards were founded in 2011 by Andrew Lloyd Webber to celebrate the efforts of individuals and groups all over the country who put hours of hard work, passion and perseverance into saving vulnerable, damaged and derelict historic landmarks from being lost forever.

They are up against some stiff competition so it would be terrific for the whole L.H. community if we could help them to win.

Please go to: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/angelawards](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/angelawards) to see full details of the shortlisted projects and vote for your favourite - hopefully Leamington Hastings.

We will be keeping our fingers crossed for them to win the award. They deserve it!

Aileen Withington

<p><b>THE POSADA RETURNS .... on the first day of Advent</b></p>
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Last year the Posada travelled round our village and stayed overnight in many homes, often looking out from people's window sills. It was good to see the light announcing its arrival in the dark December days as it rested with friends, old and new, including The Birbury, Club, Swap Shop as well as in our homes.

This year its journey starts in Frankton at the 10.30 Benefice Communion service on Advent Sunday where it will be blessed before journeying to Birdingbury. It will end its journey in St. Leonard's with our Christmas celebrations.

From the 1st to the 23rd December the Posada is homeless! Can you help by offering shelter overnight? It's very fond of a handy windowsill or a quiet corner and, if possible, it likes to have its photo taken as a record of its travels.

A special part of the journey is when the friends who have looked after the Posada overnight take it round to its new hosts the next day. This is a chance for a chat, drink and maybe a mince pie and makes it seem like Christmas is very close. Don't worry if you can't take the Posada to its new home, we can always arrange this.

So, if you would like to offer shelter to the village Posada please contact me, and I'll let you know your chosen slot. It helps if you let me know what dates are not suitable for you.

The bookings list is now open....

Jenny Hawes

Please contact me at: [j.x.hawes@btinternet.com](mailto:j.x.hawes@btinternet.com) or 632678

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu and climate change**

As many of you will know I am deeply concerned about climate change.

The coming year is very important in this respect. Recently there was a UN meeting in New York, then one in Lima in November and another in Paris 2015.

I am delighted that Archbishop Desmond Tutu is again speaking passionately on this subject. He sees climate change as *'the human rights challenge of our time. Those who have no involvement in creating the problem are the most affected. We can no longer continue feeding our addiction to fossil fuels as if there were no tomorrow. For there will be no tomorrow.'* Strong stuff.

What to do then? It is important that we all play our part in limiting the impact but ultimately we rely on the action of leaders. Companies spend half a trillion dollars a year searching for more fossil fuels. We need to put pressure on world leaders for new economic models where money is moved from the problem to the solution.

The Bible tells us *'to till and keep'* God's creation. At the moment climate change is inflicting devastation upon creation. At the London climate change rally last month Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London, said *'We are tenants, and we must keep the earth fit for our children. Climate change is a moral issue.'*

Desmond Tutu believes that just as apartheid was tackled effectively, we can tackle climate change.

We have to. The time to act is now.

Dick Withington

**St. Leonard's contact information**

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