

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

More Movers and Shakers at St. Leonard's

From Daphne: 'A Jolly Treasurer'

'Would you consider becoming the Treasurer for the PCC?' This was the simple question put to me years ago by Dick Withington. Yes I thought, it shouldn't be too arduous. After all it's just a bit of banking of incoming cash and cheques isn't it?

Well yes, and one or two other small things such as:

receiving and checking all bank statements for the three accounts and making sure everything balances; keeping an in/out ledger with a running balance; issuing receipts for moneys received; bills and requests for reimbursements for miscellaneous purchases for use in church; deciding in which of the categories required by the Diocesan Finance Dept. all incoming/outgoing money should go; sending various letters of thanks; chasing up funeral directors, who can sometimes 'forget' to send the required fees; chasing up uncashed cheques; being involved with the Gift Aid Scheme and keeping records of all donations so that a claim can eventually be made to HMRC; transferring money from bank accounts to a higher interest account but making sure of course there is still enough in the bank to pay our way; setting up of DDIs & SOs for regular payments; adding and subtracting columns of figures, although, of course, these days my trusty computer does it all in the blink of an eye (clever clogs); producing interim balances for PCC meetings and end-of-year accounts ready for examination; sending same to the Independent Examiner and Diocesan Board of Finance.

Originally the accounts were entered in a lovely old Victorian style ledger. All entries were hand written, with the Treasurer sitting on a high stool using a quill pen with light from a single candle. Well OK, this is a slight exaggeration on my part! Of course today my computer really does all the work.

My thanks to our Independent Examiner, Gift Aid secretary, churchwardens and to the late and lovely previous treasurer David Westcott, all of whom have advised and helped me.

So after all not too arduous a job! 15 years later, I'm still adding and subtracting and so on. Does the computer really do all the work?

From Mel Palmer, who has the envious (!) task of arranging the rota of helpers for services

Behind any service at St. Leonard's, whether it is a Sunday service, wedding, baptism, funeral or Christmas, there is a dedicated band of people who freely give their time and talents to ensure that the service runs smoothly. Giving a warm welcome to people, reading the chosen scripture passages, helping to serve communion or providing refreshments at the service; all these things are important ways of sharing in, and adding to, our communal worship.

My role is to co-ordinate the rotas. I do these on a two-monthly basis to coincide with Church News and Views editions. It is always a joy to have so many positive responses to my question of 'When are you available in the next couple of months?' My challenge is when everyone is on holiday!

If you would like to help with any of these roles, let Karen or Dick know. As with everything, the more people available, the easier it is.

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From Liz Ellis, who takes the minutes at St Leonard's Church PCC meetings

How fortunate St Leonard's Church and Birdingbury are to have a dedicated Parochial Church Council (PCC) to manage church affairs and support worship in the village. The PCC works hard to keep the church alive at the heart of the village, especially in a difficult time such as now, while we wait for the appointment of a new vicar.

Whilst I act as Minutes Secretary, other members have their own responsibilities: dealing with finance, development, maintenance of the church grounds and structure, planning and organising services, home visits, and working with other parishes in the diocese on the church's mission.

Though this sounds serious, we do try to engender a little humour in our meetings to keep us going!

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Doreen: We miss you and look forward to seeing you at St. Leonard's one day soon!

Roy, Cynthia, Steven, Jayne and Karen: We are thinking of you all.

Churchwardens news and updates from Dick and Karen

Churchyard

Our contractor, McAllisters Garden Services, did such a good job for us last year that we have asked them to continue cutting the grass in the churchyard throughout 2015. They have very kindly kept the price at the same level as last year, £45 per cut. It has become ever harder to get volunteers to do the job, and this option means that we can be sure that the churchyard will be well maintained throughout the season.

If you would like to sponsor a mow, or even part of a mow, we would be really pleased to hear from you. Last year, we received several donations from very kind villagers which enabled us to have the grass cut all season and to start this season.

All donations are very welcome. Please make cheques payable to 'The PCC of Birdingbury Parish' and give them to Daphne Chippendale (Lyndhurst, Marton Rd.). If you wish to pay by bank transfer, please contact Daphne (632582) for details.

Kitchen etc: Moving Forward

The statutory notices for the proposed toilet and kitchen area have now been in place for the required number of days and we are pleased to be able to report that there have been no objections.

The forms now go to The Chancellor of Coventry Diocese for approval. This (famous last word) ought to be a formality as the Coventry Diocesan Advisory Committee have indicated that they support our current plans. When we have a formal approval, the next step will be to work with our architect to get quotations.

Church Fete: All hands to the metaphorical plough please!

Grand Raffle: Dick would like offers of help to source some really attractive prizes

Plants and gardening supplies: leave in the lychgate for Angela and David Hanson

Books: to Jenny Hawes at Gables, Back Lane

Tombola offerings: to Karen at Davenport Cottage, Back Lane (box in porch)

Cakes and preserves: to Liz at 2 Old Rickyard, Back Lane or to church on the day

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STOP PRESS

Lunch at The Friendly Inn, Frankton on Tuesday 16th June 12 noon for 12.30pm

Cost: £8 To book, contact: Margaret Francis 01926 632918

JUNE and JULY SERVICES in Draycote Benefice Churches				
Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings
Sun 7 June	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Evening Worship	
Sun 14 June	Stretton	10.30 am	Benefice Family Communion	<i>2 Corinthians Ch 5 v4 - 17 Mark Ch 4 v26 - 34</i>
Sun 21 June	Birdingbury Bourton Frankton Stretton	10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Praise Pet Service Morning Praise	<i>2 Corinthians Ch 6 v 1 - 13 Mark Ch 4 v35 - end</i>
Sun 28 June	Birdingbury Stretton	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Morning Praise Holy Communion	<i>2 Corinthians Ch 8 v7 - end Mark Ch 5 v21 - end</i>
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Sun 5 July	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Evening Worship	
Sun 12 July	Stretton	10.30 am	Benefice Family Communion	
Sun 19 July	Birdingbury Bourton Stretton	10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Praise	<i>Ephesians Ch 2 v11 - end Mark Ch 6 v30 - 34 and 53 - end</i>
Sun 26 July	Birdingbury Stretton	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Morning Praise Holy Communion	<i>Ephesians Ch 3 v14 - end John Ch 6 v1 - 21</i>

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

Letter from Mair Shaw, of Stretton

Recently David and I were fortunate enough to spend five days in Barcelona.

On the first day we visited Antoni Gaudí's life's work, the Sagrada Família Church. In his words, this wonderful building was built 'by the people for the people'. Inscribed in the basilica are his words, 'God inspires: all we have to be is faithful followers'.

The building's exterior, still to be completed, is quite inspirational. The Nativity façade celebrates the birth of the Messiah, the Son of God made man. It is also referred to as the façade of Life, of Joy, of Christmas. Then the Passion façade represents the pain, the sacrifice and the death of Christ as depicted in the twelve stations of the cross. It faces west and receives the last rays of the sun before darkness falls. Its three entrances are Faith, Hope and Charity. The Glory façade represents the situations of man; his origins, his problems, the roads he must travel and his purpose. Eventually it will have seven columns representing the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Twelve bell towers represent the twelve apostles and when complete, a tower to Mary will rise above these. Towering yet above Mary, a statue of Christ is planned.

In this most magnificent place, Gaudí's very real love of God springs to life as you enter the building. The light pouring in through the beautiful windows, from the blue of water to the reds and golds of glory, onto the simple lines of the church, was for me the most spiritual part of all. Gaudí was a devout man and his love of God bursts forth in that place.

David and I can recommend this wonderful experience to anyone visiting Barcelona. We were left, not just with a feeling of awe and wonder, but with a question. *How much more life could be than most of us make of it?* We cannot all be like Gaudí designing churches or buildings but we all have a part to play in God's Kingdom.

What a wonderful world it would be if everything we did was inspired by God, like the work of Antoni Gaudí. What a world it would be if people could see the light of God pouring out in our communities, our country, our world. What a wonder life could be if we were only prepared, as Gaudí was, to build our lives on something far beyond ourselves, rather than restrict them to the limitations of our own needs and desires.

Mair Shaw

Celebrate@4

Here is a comment from a newcomer at the recent Saturday 'Celebrate@4' service:
'We love this service - there are things we can all relate to, whatever our age.'

This more informal type of worship comprises video clips of songs and stories, modern settings of older hymns, a 'thought for the day' and prayers using everyday language. We meet in a village hall with café-style seating. We have tea, cake and chat from 3.45pm, begin the service with singing at 4pm and finish at 4.40pm. Activities for younger children are included too.

If you would like to try something a bit different, why not come along on Saturday 27th June to Bourton Village Hall and try it out? You will definitely receive a warm welcome from our friendly team.

It might change the way you think about church!

The 'Celebrate' Team

St. Leonard's event of the year

Don't forget it!

Church Fete: Saturday 4th July 2pm in the churchyard

Don't miss it!



Out and About

PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY in the BURTON DASSETT HILLS

All Saint's Church in the deserted village of Burton Dassett is not only an ancient historical gem but also a haven of peace both inside and outside in the churchyard. The church is open to visitors everyday, although services and other events are few and far between.

On Friday 19th June at 7.30pm, Warwick University Brass Ensemble are giving a concert in this church. Listening to music in this evocative place will be very special. Tickets are £12 which includes wine and strawberries in the interval. If you are interested, the contact address can be found at: www.burtondassett-pc.gov.uk

There are also plenty of uplifting walks over the hills, with wonderful views from the beacon. If it's windy, this is the best kite-flying place in the county!

Aileen Withington

NOURISHMENT FOR THE SOUL AND BODY in SOUTHWELL

Recently Bryan and I were heading north on the A46 and turned off to Southwell, east of Nottingham.

We relaxed in comfy seats in The Saracen's Head with welcome sandwiches, a drink and a view of the main street. After this we experienced a most up-lifting Evensong in Southwell Minster. It was a wonderful reviver. Evensong at 3pm was sung beautifully by The City of London Chamber Choir and the magnificence of the organ playing was unforgettable. It's well worth going to see the Minster if you get the chance.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL FAIR TRADE CAFÉ

When you are next in Coventry, why not enjoy a fair trade tea or coffee with a wrapped cookie or snack for just £2.00 at the Fair Trade Café in Coventry Cathedral gift shop. You will be supporting farmers and workers to trade their way out of poverty.

Daphne Chippendale

<h3>Benefice events for June and July</h3>

Thurs 4 June	2.30 pm	Service and Tea, Bourton, Frankton Village Hall
Wed 10 June	10.30 am	Home Communion in The Birbury, host Barbara Munro
Thurs 11 June	2.30 pm	Holy Communion at Princethorpe
Thurs 25 June	10.30 am	Coffee and Chat in The Birbury
Sat 27 June	3.45 pm	'Celebrate@4', Bourton and Frankton Village Hall
Thurs 2 July	2.30 pm	Service and Tea, Bourton, Frankton Village Hall
Wed 8 July	10.30 am	Home Communion at Jackie Westcott's, Loen, Main St.
Thurs 16 July	2.30 pm	Holy Communion at Princethorpe
Sat 25 July	3.45 pm	'Celebrate@4', Bourton, Frankton, Village Hall
Thurs 30 July	10.30 am	Coffee and Chat in The Birbury

St. Leonard's Easter Garden 2015

The green hill outside the Hall wall



Photo: Eira Owen

Last year's Easter garden in the churchyard was much appreciated, so we decided to do another one - and in a different place. You have probably realised by now that we like creating something new rather than repeating things!

Where will you find it next year?

Eira and Aileen

St. Leonard's contact information

Priest in Charge	(vacancy)		
Reader	Kevin Downham	01788 811252	kevandles@btinternet.com
Churchwardens	Dick Withington	01926 632644	dick@special-time.co.uk
	Karen Armbrister	01926632030	karen.armbrister@btinternet.com
Parish Office	Wendy Driscoll (Tues 9—11 am and Thurs 1.30—2.30 pm)	01926 632370	draycotegroup@tiscali.co.uk
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