

## CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

### RUGBY WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Organised and co-ordinated by Hope4 in Rugby, the night shelter operates from 1st December to 31st March at seven different churches around Rugby Town Centre. Last year we made contact with St. Matthew's and St. Oswald's and helped there on two occasions, the second being our first attempt at being cooks!

This year we have managed to help on three nights; two where we have cooked and one where we helped. This year 11 people from the village have joined our team. We have cooked and provided lasagne, meat pie, chilli sausage casserole, vegetables, salads and puddings – all very well received by the guests with seconds and thirds being dished up on both occasions.



L to R: Emma, Jo, Carol, Richard and Alex  
Photo: Liz Ellis

The night shelter is a wonderful winter initiative: it provides shelter to up to 20 every night of the week for three months, almost entirely run by volunteers. This is amazing outreach and ministry to the local community by the local community. We've had extra requests to help, so next year we hope to be able to have around three teams in place to provide even more support.

It's a lot of fun, and is great to meet different people from all walks of life. There is always a raucous game of Uno to be had. It is very humbling to arrive

home and get into our warm beds. The team of 16th March said afterwards: 'It was really good to help out; please count me in for next year' and 'We really enjoyed helping out and they were overwhelmed with the food we took'.

Please keep our friends at the night shelter in your thoughts and prayers as this initiative draws to a close for another year and they make their way back out onto the streets possibly. Let us pray that they will find shelter and comfort.

Liz Ellis

## EASTER LETTER from REVEREND ALI MASSEY

Dear Friends

'He is risen! He is risen indeed – alleluia!' These words are used to begin our Easter Sunday worship, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus after his death by crucifixion on Good Friday. Easter Day is one of the most important days in the Christian calendar but sometimes we skip straight from remembering Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday without engaging with the story in between. I'd like to invite you, whether you have a faith or not, to experience something of that journey with us in Holy Week this year.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> we will remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem by walking with donkeys from the war memorial in Birdingbury to St Leonard's for a Communion Service. On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> there is a quiet service of Compline (evening prayer) at Bourton Church, where we reflect on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, knowing what is to come later in the week.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> we remember the last supper that Jesus celebrated with his friends. At Stretton Church, we will recreate the time when Jesus washed his friends' feet before supper. Jesus tells Peter that he must let Jesus wash his feet if he is to share in the experience of being with Him. This is a direct challenge to us to serve each other, even if this means doing something that makes us uneasy. So if you plan come to this service, please think whether you could let me to be your servant, as I offer to symbolically wash your feet. Afterwards, you can if you wish stay for a vigil called Tenebrae, where we think about Jesus praying while his friends slept, before Judas betrayed him to the authorities.

On Good Friday there is an Easter craft workshop at Stretton Village Hall, 9.30am before a family friendly service in Stretton Church at 11am. At 2pm at Frankton Church you can join us to spend the 'last hour at the cross' with Jesus, reflecting on the events that led to his death. This service can be really moving, as we experience something of that day that changed everything. Holy Saturday is a day of watching and waiting until the glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. He is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

However you and your family celebrate Easter, you would be very welcome to join in any or all of the services we offer this Eastertide.

As always, Love and prayers

Ali

If you would like to get in touch, then please don't hesitate to contact me on [reverendalimassey@hotmail.com](mailto:reverendalimassey@hotmail.com) or 07837124509

## CHURCHWARDENS NEWS from DICK and KAREN

### **New Service Pattern**

After much debate, and inevitably some give and take, we have agreed a new service pattern to take effect from May. This will be reviewed after 6 months.

At St Leonard's we will have a minimum of two services a month: a 9.15am Holy Communion on the second Sunday and 11am Morning Praise on the 4th Sunday. We will now have our two regular monthly services on alternate Sundays, which we think is a better pattern than recently.

We acknowledge that a 9.15am Holy Communion may not be ideal for everyone on a regular basis. If you want a later communion on another Sunday, and need transport please ask. Morning Praise will be either led by Revd Ali or a layperson. This change from 10.30am to 11am is to allow Ali more time for conversations after the 9.15am service before she moves on her next service in good time.

This new pattern does not preclude the possibility of other services and different forms of worship led by lay people. We are exploring options and will keep you updated.

### **Global Care meeting**

Draycote Benefice is committed to support the work of Global Care's Shack Schools for the next 3 years. Fiona Castle (widow of Roy) will help us to launch this work on **Thursday 18th May, 7pm at Knightlow School**, Stretton. We aim to raise a minimum of £1500 pa, mainly through a series of one-off events. For example, we hope to organise an Auction and Promises evening in 2018 .

Providing education for Syrian refugee children and a support programme for their mothers in the Bekaa Valley, seems to us to be a very worthwhile project. We hope you can come on 18th May. Please don't hesitate to ask for a lift.

### **Headstone**

Will anyone with information about the recently installed headstone in memory of Patricia Smythe, please get in touch with Dick Withington (01926632644).

Karen and Dick

churchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdove

### **Charity Walk and Church Café Lunch**

The Alzheimers Society were very grateful to receive a donation of £60 following this Church Café event. Thank you to all those who contributed to this good cause.

Daphne Chippendale, PCC Treasurer

## DOREEN JOHNS

On Monday 6th March, Doreen slipped peacefully away at Adelaide House, the care home in Leamington that had looked after her so lovingly for nearly two years.

Doreen's presence and contribution to life at St Leonard's, will be forever remembered; she starched church linens ('not with that spray stuff Karen; use a proper starch!'), climbed up to do window flowers, washed up at church fund raisers, baked for cake sales and was part of the worshipping community in the pews at many, many services.

She was so very active in church life: we strive to follow in her footsteps. So, Doreen, we raise a glass ('Oh a nice Harvey's Bristol Cream please') to you. We will forever remember you in our hearts, reunited with AJ and all those who have gone before you.

Karen



Doreen with Alec, taken when she was 82 years young!

Photo: Karen Armbrister

churchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdove

## THE TIME HAS COME .....

'The time has come', the walrus said, 'to talk of many things'. In my case, the time has come for someone else to edit Church News and Views, not in order to talk of 'shoes and ships and sealing-wax', like the walrus in 'Through the Looking-Glass', but to allow me to give some attention to other things. I said at the 2016 Annual Church Meeting that I would do it for another 12 months and then hand it on to someone with fresh ideas .

I took over the reins of this newsletter from Daphne in 2010. After some excellent tutoring from Daphne, September/October 2010 was my first edition - and this one will be my last.

A new editor hasn't, as yet, come forward - but must be out there somewhere. Please contact Karen or Dick if fancy giving it a whirl. If you aren't familiar with Publisher, I am more than happy to pass on the benefits of my experience. Watch this space for future developments!

Thank you all for your support and encouragement in my time at the helm. I have enjoyed (well enjoyed, once I have pressed the button to send it to our printers!) compiling what I hope have been informative, interesting and varied editions.

Ed.

**APRIL and MAY 2017 SERVICES in Draycote Benefice**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Sun 2 April</b>	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Evening Worship	
<b>Sun 9 April Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	Meet at War Memorial to walk to church for <b>Benefice Communion</b>	<i>Philippians Ch 2 v 5 - 11</i> <i>Matthew Ch 26 v 14 - 27</i>
<b>Fri 14 April Good Friday</b>	<b>Stretton</b>  <b>Frankton</b>	<b>9.30 am</b> <b>11.00 am</b> <b>2.00 pm</b>	Easter Workshop Celebrate@Easter Devotions	
<b>Sun 16 April Easter Day</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Bourton Frankton Stretton	<b>9.15 am</b> 9.15 am 10.45 am 10.45 pm	<b>Holy Communion</b> Morning Praise Holy Communion Holy Communion	<i>Colossians Ch3 v 1 - 4</i> <i>John Ch 20 v 1 - 18</i>
<b>Sun 23 April</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<i>1 Peter Ch 1 v 3 - 9</i> <i>John Ch 20 v 19 - end</i>
<b>Sun 30 April</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Benefice Communion</b>	<i>1 Peter Ch 1 v 17 - 23</i> <i>Luke Ch 24 v 13 - 35</i>
<b>Sun 7 May</b>	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Holy Communion	
<b>Sun 14 May</b>	<b>Birdingbury</b> Stretton	<b>9.15 am</b> 11.0 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> Morning Praise	<i>Acts Ch 7 v 55 - end</i> <i>John Ch 14 v 1 - 14</i>
<b>Sun 21 May</b>	Bourton Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Evening Worship	
<b>Thurs 25 May Ascension Day</b>	Frankton	7.30 pm	Holy Communion	
<b>Sat 27 May</b>	Bourton/ Frankton	3.45 pm	Celebrate@4 B/F/D Village Hall	
<b>Sun 28 May</b>	Stretton <b>Birdingbury</b>	9.15 am <b>11.00 am</b>	Holy Communion <b>Morning Praise</b>	<i>Acts Ch 1 v 6 - 14</i> <i>John Ch 17 v 1 - 11</i>

## FOND FAREWELLS

After some long weeks since his death on 7th January, the funeral of **Ray Wells** took place at St. Leonard's Church on February 17th surrounded by family and friends.

**Doreen Johns'** funeral and cremation took place Oakley Wood on March 20th and was followed by a joyous and fitting Thanksgiving service at St. Leonard's, where she was a devoted member of the church community for many years. In true Doreen style, tea and cakes were enjoyed by all the congregation after the service, surrounded by a profusion of her favourite spring flowers.

### **Farewell to Simon Davy - for the time being**

Simon is being posted to the Middle East for 6 months, as of 12th April.

Our prayers and best wishes go with you, Simon. We, your many friends in Birdingbury and especially at St. Leonard's, will be thinking about you, Gaynor and your family. We look forward to seeing you safely back home in mid October.

## SPECIAL SERVICES and EVENTS in April and May

### Services for Holy Week

#### **Palm Sunday April 9th**

The Palm Sunday Benefice Service will be at Birdingbury on the 9th April - with Sue and Peter's donkeys leading us from the War Memorial to a short act of witness outside the Club before going up to St Leonards for a Communion service.

**Monday April 10th** 7pm Compline at St. Peter's, Bourton

**Maundy Thursday April 13th** 7.30pm Washing of Feet + Vigil at All Saints, Stretton

#### **Good Friday April 10th**

Bring your family to church on Good Friday at Stretton for arts and crafts from 9.30am followed by a service at 11am, suitable for children - and adults - of all ages.

2pm Good Friday devotions at St. Nicholas, Frankton

#### **Easter Day April 12th**

Our service for Easter Day is at 9.15am, led by Rev David Shaw, will include Holy Communion. There will be an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard from about 10.15am. Feel free to come and join us for refreshments after the service and egg-hunting to find this year's secret Easter garden.



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.15pm at St. Leonard's** is our annual meeting. Refreshments will be available from 7pm. If you feel you have something to offer by joining the PCC, we would be delighted to hear from you. A short meeting of the newly elected PCC will follow the APCM. If you haven't had a chance to meet Rev Ali Massey yet, it would be a good opportunity to meet her on this evening.

**Attention all Altar Guild Members**

**Altar Guild AGM and Supper: Wednesday 17th May, 7.30 pm at Thurlby, Main St.**

The shorter the meeting, the better: it means more time for supper and socialising! So that we can cook enough food for you all, please RSVP by Friday, May 12th Eira (632876), Liz (632379 or Aileen (632644).

**Advance notice: St. Leonard's Church Fete 2pm onwards on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Please note that this is earlier than usual. The fete will be on the forecourt and inside the Club and Birbury. After several positive comments last year about moving to the village centre, we decided to use this central venue again.

If you feel you can help in any way, shape, or form, please contact Dick or Karen.

**EVENTS in DRAYCOTE BENEFICE in April and May**

**St. George's Day Lunch**

at The Friendly Inn, Frankton on Tues 25th April, 12 noon for 12.30pm  
Cost £8. Please contact Margaret Francis on 01926 632918 to book your place

Thurs 6 April	2.30 pm	Service and Tea, Bourton and Frankton Village Hall
Wed 12 April	10.30 am	Home Communion at The Birbury, host Barbara Munro
Thurs 27 April	10.30 am	Coffee and Chat in The Birbury
Wed 10 May	10.30 am	Home Communion at The Birbury, host Valerie Smith
Thurs 25 May	10.30 am	Coffee and Chat in The Birbury
Thurs 25 May	7.30 pm	Ascension Day Communion Frankton Church

## Eggs for WWI soldiers not Easter Eggs

The National Egg Collection was set up in 1914 to provide newly-laid eggs for wounded soldiers. This was a very successful initiative: posters and postcards were produced and 'Egg' services were held in some churches to encourage participation.

In my research about WW1 fundraising as part of the history group's exhibition in May, I came across a description of one of the postcards, illustrated by Donald McGill, a famous graphic artist at the time. A clergyman was depicted pronouncing from the pulpit:

*'It would greatly assist the collectors of eggs for the wounded soldiers if, upon coming to church, each lady would lay an egg in the Font.'*

Come and see more that we have unearthed on Saturday 15th May.

Aileen Withington

churchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdovechurchdove

## A Prayer for Eastertide

Would we be counted among the doubters  
hiding in the shadow cast by that cruel cross?  
Or, when challenged like Peter, openly deny you?

There are times, Lord when doubts assail  
and the distance between us seems to increase.

There are times, Lord when sin has its hold,  
like a barrier between us that will not move.

Who is there we can turn to when we feel so overwhelmed?  
Who can roll away the stone and reveal the empty tomb?  
No-one but you, Jesus, no-one but you.

(from Ali, courtesy of Faith and Worship.com)

### St. Leonard's contact information

Priest in Charge	Rev Ali Massey	07837124509	reverendalimassey@hotmail.com
Churchwardens	Dick Withington	01926 632644	dick@special-time.co.uk
	Karen Armbrister	01926632030	karen.armbrister@btinternet.com
Ch. News Editor	(offers please!)		