

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

Reverend Canon Barbara's letter

We have recently welcomed two new leaders to guide Christians into the future: Pope Francis in the Catholic Church and our new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby as head of our Anglican community.

It seems that both churches will be led by humble men. Pope Francis has shown this by choosing the name of Francis of Assisi who led a simple almost austere life. It was touching that when Pope Francis was introduced to the vast crowd as the new Pope, one of the first things that he did was to ask the crowd to pray for him before he prayed for them. He has also shown his wish to simplify some of the worship in the Vatican by choosing to have his first service in the parish church not in the Basilica.

Archbishop Justin Welby also asked for prayer as he made a pilgrimage to five cathedrals during the week before his enthronement at Canterbury Cathedral. I was fortunate to be at Coventry Cathedral when he spent a day of prayer there. He came across as a man of the people, engaging easily with children and people of all ages. One of the pictures I will hold in my mind is of him sitting on the cathedral floor surrounded by school children. Archbishop Welby is of course well known in our Diocese as he spent 15 years working in this diocese from 1992 to 2007.

We are most fortunate in having a man of such spirituality, clarity and vision to lead us through what could be turbulent waters as the Anglican Church continues to wrestle with the issues of women as Bishops, gay marriage, church finances and many other issues. These issues may not immediately affect us in our small villages, but we do need to remember that we are part of the worldwide Anglican Church. There are more details and photographs of Archbishop Welby's visit to Coventry Cathedral on the Coventry Diocese website: www.coventry.anglican.org

It seems to me that both men live out the famous words of Francis of Assisi when he said, "Preach the gospel at all times, if necessary use words."

With love and prayers.

Barbara

PS – I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th April in Church.

Rev. Canon Barbara Clutton 01788 810372 or 07808 137550 or barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk
Please feel free to contact me anytime. However, Friday is my day off, so if you need help on this day, please contact Dick or Karen, your churchwardens.

St. Leonard's News and Notices from Dick and Karen

St Leonard's Annual Church Meeting (APCM)

This meeting will now be in church on **Thursday 18th April**, starting with refreshments at **7.30pm**. You are all very welcome. If you do not normally receive a copy of the Annual Report and would like one please ask one of us. Sadly, Angela Hanson and Eira Owen are not seeking re-election. They will be greatly missed. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all they have done for the PCC in recent years. We are especially grateful to Angela for her work as Rotas Organiser and to Eira for her work as Minuting Secretary. Please have a think if you feel there is any way you could help. If you are interested in what the PCC does, or in helping in some way with rotas, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Rogation Service

Thanks to Wallace & Josie McCurdie, this year's Rogation Day service on **Sunday May 19th at 11am** is at **Bondon Farm**. This Draycote Benefice service will be an informal, non-communion service in one of their barns, with the usual background sounds of animals! We hope you will be able to come and to stay afterwards for refreshments. If you haven't been before, go past the church then, on the bend down to the bridge, go straight ahead along the farm track.

St Leonard's Annual Fete, Sat 22nd June from 2pm at St. Leonard's

Nearer the day we would be very grateful to receive plants, books, cakes, tombola prizes etc. Equally, we would love to see you on the day. More details to follow.

Dick (dickwithington@hotmail.com) 632644

Karen (karen.armbrister@btinternet.com) 632030

Reviews, People and Places,

Church Café Casseroles

32 people came to church for our casseroles and crusty bread lunch. There was a choice of Beef and stout, Chicken tomato and mushroom or Spicy vegetable and lentil casseroles. Having organised ourselves with extension leads and three slow cookers to keep the food hot, we were away. We can't blow our own trumpet, of course, but there is a positive review from one of our customers on another page.

Thank you to all of you who came and also to Peter for helping out, especially with

serving cups of tea and coffee. The cost of our ingredients was well covered by your donations and we were pleased to give £71 profit to Daphne for Church Funds.

Eira and Aileen

Women's World Day of Prayer : 'I was a stranger and you took me in'

On March 7th the meeting at Bourton Village Hall celebrated Women's World Day of Prayer. The service was taken admirably by Elizabeth with several members of the congregation reading small portions from the service booklet. This year the service was prepared by the Christian women of France. The booklet gave a short history of the country and its ideals, which provided a fascinating read. Throughout the service we learnt about how well women immigrants were treated by the general population. Some fitted in extremely well although others found it more difficult. Altogether it was an interesting and enjoyable afternoon ending with tea and a most impressive array of cakes.

Jennifer Johnstone

Mothering Sunday

It was lovely to see so many in church to celebrate Mothering Sunday, particularly so many generations. Since my childhood, a large part of Mother's Day for me has been about attending St Leonards and the tradition of receiving/giving daffodils. It conjures up wonderful memories and I feel so blessed to be able to celebrate the service not just with my mother, but with one of my own children (only one as rugby takes over our Sundays at the moment!). Special thanks to Dick for taking the service, Gaynor for drinks and delicious pastries, Karen for organising the daffodils, David for reading, Angela for her prayers, my father for playing the organ and Eira for organising the team who made the beautiful flower baskets.

Maria Leret

Bereavements

John Hall, husband of **Christine** in Back Lane has sadly died. His funeral was at Frankton Church where he was born and brought up.

Amy Worrall, mother of **Jackie Line**, of Honeyvine, Marton Rd has also died. Please pray for Chris as she comes to terms with John's death and also for Jackie and John (Neale) as they mourn the death of Amy.

APRIL and MAY SERVICES in Draycote Benefice Churches and ROTA DUTIES for St. Leonard's, Birdingbury

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings	Prayers	Server	Sidesperson	Refreshments	Flowers	Cleaning	Churchyard
Sun 7 April	Birdingbury	10.00 am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Andrew Armbrister Acts ch5 vv27-32, John ch20 vv19-end	Dick Withington	Karen Armbrister	Matt Markham	Angie Sedgfield	Ann Carroll	Jasmine Coles	Geoffrey Johnstone
Sun 14 April	Birdingbury Stretton Bourton	9.15am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion	Bryan Tompkins Acts ch9 vv1-20, John ch21 vv1-19	Karen Armbrister	Andrew Armbrister	Peter Law	Gaynor and Simon Davy	Liz Ellis	Angie Sedgfield	
Sun 21 April	Bourton Birdingbury Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Praise Evening Worship	Aileen Withington Acts ch9 vv36-end, John ch10 vv22-30	Eira Owen	Dick Withington	Angie Sedgfield		Liz Ellis	Angie Sedgfield	Chris Morton John Owen
Sun 28 April	Stretton Birdingbury Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Worship Holy Communion	Dick Withington Acts ch11 vv1-18, John ch13 vv31-35			Jennifer and Geoffrey Johnstone	Peter Law	Phyllis Spence	Sue Law	
Sun 5 May	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Holy Communion						Phyllis Spence	Sue Law	Geoffrey Johnstone
Sun 12 May	Birdingbury Stretton Bourton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion	Matt Markham Acts ch16 vv16-34, John ch17 vv20-end	Karen Armbrister	Jenny Hawes	Gaynor and Simon Davy	Liz Ellis	Angela Hanson	Gaynor Davy	
Sun 19 May	Bourton Birdingbury	9.15 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Benefice Rogation Service at Bondon Farm	Karen Armbrister Acts ch2 vv1-21, John ch14 vv8-17 and 25-27	Dick Withington		Ian and Mel Palmer	Gaynor and Simon Davy	Angela Hanson	Gaynor Davy	John Starley Ian Tipton
Sun 26 May	Stretton Birdingbury Princethorpe Frankton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Morning Worship Holy Communion	Simon Davy Psalm 8, Romans ch5 vv1-5, John ch16 vv12-15			Liz Ellis	Angie Sedgfield	Cynthia Rogers	Wendy Bringloe	

PALM SUNDAY 2012 and 2013 What a contrast!

Last year it was warm and sunny for our Palm Sunday



Walk to church with
Mouse and Petrel.
This year it was so
snowy and cold that
Mouse and Petrel (who
didn't even poke his
face out of the stable
for the photograph)



Photos: Aileen W.

stayed at home and the walk was cancelled because of the cold! The service, however, was warm with fellowship—and hot coffee later.

AW

We thought that you might like to read the 'Thank You' email which Dick and Karen received from Maggie and Bart just before they left the village.

"Thank you dear people for the wonderful framed picture of our beloved church. As you can imagine I wept with emotion: such a beautiful setting in the cold, cold winter of a little place FULL of warmth and love.....made special by the people within, like you.

We are stressed beyond comprehension but the first thing I will do in Kenilworth is find a special place for our picture.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,
Maggie and Bart"

The gift she refers to was a photograph of St Leonard's taken early on a winter's morning by Mike Coles and given to them from the church community.

Other diary events for April and May

Wednesday 10th April 10.30am : Home Communion at Jackie Westcott's,
Loen, Main St.

Saturday 13th April: HBC Saturday. See Karen for details

Wednesday 24th April 7pm: Reminder about the **Altar Guild AGM and supper** at Jacky Hart's (The White House, Marton Rd). We hope to see as many members as can make it for a short meeting and relaxing supper.

Saturday 4th May 11 am: There will be a **Plant Sale** outside The Club and Birbury. See more details about this in the main bit of Birdsong.

Wednesday 8th May 10.30 am: **Home Communion** at Rev. Barbara's, Church Cottage, Grandborough

Thursday 9th May 7.30pm: **Holy Communion for Ascension Day** at Frankton Church

Saturday 11th May 3.30—5.15pm : **HBC Saturday**. See Karen for details

Lent talks about Stewardship

I managed to attend all of the Lent talks this year. Through three distinct themes, we were led to think about looking after the gifts that God has given to us. As is often the case, after each talk and discussion I finished up with more questions than answers on which to reflect. Maybe that is no bad thing!

I would like to share some of these with you.

'Stewardship of our creation' by Canon Glyn Evans, Rural Officer for Oxford Diocese. Glyn's talk echoed my own concerns on this issue: *How many of those who claim to believe in a creator God live a low carbon lifestyle?*

'Stewardship of our church finances' by Graham Wright, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser. Amongst many things, Graham talked about giving away 10% of our income. He said 'Maybe one way to achieve this is to give 5% to charities and 5% to your local church.' *How much do I give? This could be quite challenging.*

'Stewardship of our Spirituality' by Bishop John of Warwick.

This was my personal favourite session—and incidentally was the one that had the best refreshments, provided by the Birdingbury team. John Stroyans' talk left me thinking: *How do I nurture my faith? How can I best think through the things that challenge and trouble me most?*

Unfortunately the last session, 'A Passover Supper' led by Rev David Shaw from Stretton, was too late in March to get into this edition.

Dick Withington

Notes from the PCC Archives: Archdeacon's Visitation 1929

In 1929 Birdingbury parish (population 163) had just been united with Marton in Southam Rural Deanery. The Rector was Rev T. H. Douglas Long with Charles A. Reason and Thomas H. P. Truslove as his Churchwardens. The Archdeacon of Warwick, Venerable Herbert St. Barbe Holland, inspected the Church.

“Articles of Inquiry, to be answered by the Churchwardens of the parish, at the visitation of the Archdeacon of Warwick, in the year of our Lord, 1929”

Most of the answers to 7 pages of questions in this document were ‘Good’ ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. However, the following quotes may be of historical interest:

1. What is the accommodation of the Parish Church? ‘150’
How many seats are free and unappropriated? ‘All Free’
4. Is the lighting and ventilation of the Church satisfactory? ‘Yes’
Of what kind are they? ‘Paraffin lamps and candles’
What is the heating system? ‘Hot air’
Is it satisfactory? ‘Yes’
6. How many bells are there? ‘Two’
Are they rung? ‘Yes’
When and by whom were they last inspected? ‘———’ (*not answered*)
12. Is there a proper supply of linen for the Holy table, viz., at least two fair linen cloths, two corporals, and six purificators? ‘Yes’
14. Is there a celebration of Holy Communion every Sunday? ‘Yes’
17. How are expenses met, and was there any deficit in the accounts last year?
‘Church Collections, Annual Fête, Rent of Church Field etc.’

The Church building was insured for the princely sum of £5250 and the Church Plate (communion vessels, collection plates etc.) for £250.

St. Leonard's (volunteer) Church Archivist

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