

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

A few words from Reverend Ali

Dear Friends

The Risk of Birth, An Advent Poem by Madeleine L'Engle (1973)

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn—
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

It feels again, as at so many times in history that 'this is no time for a child to be born'. Not just because of war and conflict around the world but because of how the rhetoric of division and hatred has once again become mainstream.

And yet, 'Love still takes the risk of birth' and once more we celebrate the birth of a child – a Middle Eastern, refugee child – a child born for the redemption of all of creation. In him is Hope, a reason to keep hoping and trusting and risking all for Love. This Advent and Christmas can we, amongst the excitement and the tinsel, be part of that redemption, to make the world a better place for everyone? Can we challenge those who seek to sow hatred and division? Can we gather around the Christ child and commit ourselves to the cause of Love and peace?

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

I wish you all the joy and peace and challenge that Advent and Christmas can bring, and the bright hope of the Christ child who came to be the Prince of Peace, for the New Year and beyond.

Love and prayers
Ali

A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.



Worship in the Draycote Benefice

| Date | Place | Time | Service | Readings |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 2 nd Dec | Frankton Bourton Stretton | 9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm | Holy Communion Family worship Holy Communion | <u>Jeremiah Ch33 vv14-16</u> Psalm 25 vv1-9 1 Thessalonians Ch3 vv9-12 <u>Luke Ch21 vv25-36</u> |
| Sun 9 th Dec | Birdingbury Birdingbury | 9.15 am 4.00 pm | Holy Communion CHRISTINGLE | <u>Malachi Ch3 vv1-4</u> <i>Canticle Benedictus</i> Philippians Ch1 vv3-11 <u>Luke Ch3 vv1-6</u> |
| Sun 16 th Dec | Bourton Frankton Stretton | 9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm | Holy Communion Carols and Crib Evening Worship | <u>Zephaniah Ch3 v14-end</u> Psalm 146 vv4-end Philippians Ch4 vv4-17 <u>Luke Ch3 vv7-18</u> |
| Sun 23 rd Dec | Bondon Farm Birdingbury | 4.00pm | LIVE NATIVITY | <u>Micah Ch5 vv2-5a</u> Psalm 80 vv1-8 Hebrews Ch20 vv5-10 <u>Luke Ch1 vv39-45 (46-55)</u> |
| Mon 24 th Dec Christmas Eve | Birdingbury | 11.00pm | Midnight Mass | <u>Isaiah Ch9 vv2-7</u> Psalm 96 Titus Ch2 vv11-14 <u>Luke Ch2 vv1-14 (5-12)</u> |
| Tues 25 th Dec Christmas Day | Birdingbury | 10.30am | Family Service | <u>Isaiah Ch52 vv7-10</u> Psalm 98 Hebrews Ch1 vv1-4 (5-120) <u>John Ch1 vv14-</u> |
| Sun 30 th Dec | Bourton | 10.30am | BENEFICE Holy Communion | <u>1 Samuel Ch2 vv18-20,26</u> Psalm 148 Collosians Ch3 vv12-17 <u>Luke Ch2 vv41-end</u> |

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 6 th Jan | Frankton Bourton Stretton | 9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm | Holy Communion Family worship Holy Communion | <u>Isaiah Ch60 vv1-6</u> Psalm 72 Ephesians Ch3 vv 1-12 <u>Matthew Ch2 vv1-12</u> |
| 13 th Jan | Birdingbury | 9.15am | Holy Communion | <u>Isaiah Ch43 vv1-7</u> Psalm 29 ActsCh8 vv14-27 Luke Ch3 vv15-17,21-22 |
| 20 th Jan | Bourton Frankton Stretton | 9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm | Holy Communion Family Worship Evening Worship | <u>Isaiah Ch52 vv1-5</u> Psalm 36 1 Corinthians Ch12 vv1-11 <u>John Ch2 vv1-1</u> |
| 27 th Jan | Birdingbury | 11.00am | Morning Worship | <u>Nehemiah Ch8 vv1-3,5-6,8-10</u> Psalm 19 1 Corinthians Ch12 vv12-31a Luke Ch4 vv14-2 |

Scripture underlined will be read aloud in Church services.

Other Events and Activities

Morning Prayer at St Leonards Church Birdingbury on Tuesday mornings 9.00am

*11th December
22nd January*



***Service and Tea at Bourton & Frankton Village Hall 2.30pm
6th December***

***Home Communion in Birdingbury at 10.30am
12th December Loen, Main Street, Birdingbury
9th January TBA***

Celebrate@4 An opportunity for informal worship for all at 3.45 pm

26th January at Bourton & Frankton Village Hall

Coffee and a chat on Thursday mornings at 10.30am in the Birbury, Birdingbury

31st January 2019



Please check notice boards for information about other services and events.

Details of all our activities for the seasons can be found on our website

www.draycotegroup.org.uk

Poppy Installation 'Remembrance to Peace'

You'll see the write up of the exhibition and photographs in the Birdsong pages of this edition, but I just want to say a HUGE THANKYOU to all those who participated in this community project. When we were first charged by Rev Ali to 'create a poppy installation in Church to commemorate the Armistice' my first thought was 'How do we get others engaged in this?'

I am so grateful to Julie Colledge for all her design ideas and for leading this project so thoroughly and efficiently ('she's not bossy; she has leadership skills' as her t-shirt said!) and to all those over 100 of you who made poppies of ALL sorts at home or at our workshops, helped set up, did jobs behind the scenes, came and did a hospitality and welcoming duty, took wonderful photographs and helped us clear it all up.

According to our records, over 150 people took time to visit and reflect on both the sacrifice made by those who went before us, and how we can all make a personal commitment to peace in our time.

Birdingbury is a wonderful community and I am so very proud to be a part of it.

Karen

Christmas Events and Activities at St Leonard's

What would you do with 30 minutes of QUIET TIME during Advent?

Are you rushing around buying presents, making lists, organising guests, attending parties, writing cards, making more lists, buying more food; rush, rush, rushing around?

Then please do think about coming and joining us at St Leonard's for some QUIET TIME; no rushing, no lists, no shouting, no traffic; just the peace and quiet of our little church, some gentle lighting and music and time to just be.....

Midweek Services

Advent Reflection at St Leonards Birdingbury

Monday 3rd Dec 7.00pm

Monday 10th Dec 7.00pm

Advent Compline at St Leonards

Monday 17th Dec 7.00pm

Go on - DO IT!





Sunday 23rd December 2018

4pm

Bondon Farm, Birdingbury

(by kind permission of Wallace and
Josie McCurdie)

A Draycote Benefice

LIVE NATIVITY SERVICE in the Barn

Come and be a part of the most
inspirational story of the first Christmas

'Follow the Star' from Birdingbury Club
forecourt at 3.40pm

Dress warmly, bring torches or lanterns
(battery operated please). On-site parking
is available as well.

Following the service, refreshments will be served at Birdingbury Club
and the bar will be open. Hot sausage rolls, mince pies , mulled wine, tea
and coffee all available and everyone is welcome to join in some
community carol singing.

COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

*Thursday 20 December from 5.30pm
Meet on the Club forecourt for a one hour
stroll around the village*

*Dress warmly and bring a torch or lantern
All ages welcomed. Song sheets will be provided*



Rugby Winter Night Shelter 2018/2019

Once again we have a full team of people wanting to help with our Thursday night shift, from 1 December to 31 March, at St Matthews and St Oswalds in Rugby. In fact, in true Birdingbury fashion, we are doing more than last year as we will be covering the whole shift in January, February and March, doing overnights and breakfast as well thanks to some lovely willing people who are prepared to go even further than the extra mile!! Thank you for caring enough to help those who aren't as fortunate as ourselves

AFTER SCHOOL DROP IN

Returns in February 2019!

See next Church News for dates and details

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| St Leonard's Contact information |
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Rector Rev Ali Massey 07837 124509 reverendalimassey@gmail.com

Rev Ali's usual Working days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, but do feel free to contact her outside these hours if needed:

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