

## September Services in the Draycote Benefice

Date	Time	Service / Reading	Church
Sunday 1 September	9.15am	Holy Communion	Frankton
	11am	Family Worship	Bourton
	6pm	Holy Communion	Stretton
	Jeremiah Ch2 vv4-13, Luke Ch14 vv1 & 7-14		
Sunday 8 September	9.15am	Holy Communion	Birdingbury
	11am	Family Worship	Stretton
	Jeremiah Ch18 vv1-11, Luke Ch14 vv25-33		
Sunday 15 September	9.15am	Holy Communion	Bourton
	11am	Family Worship	Frankton
	6pm	Evening Worship	Stretton
	Jeremiah Ch4 vv11-12 & 22-28, Luke Ch15 vv1-10		
Sunday 22 September	9.15am	Holy Communion	Stretton
	11am	Morning Worship	Birdingbury
	Jeremiah Ch8 vv18-Ch9 vv1, Luke Ch16 vv1-13		
Sunday 29 September	10.30am	Benefice Communion	Stretton (Rev Ali's final service in the Benefice)
	Jeremiah Ch32 vv1-3a & 6-15, Luke Ch16 vv19-end		

## Midweek Services & Events in September

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9am	Morning Prayer at Birdingbury
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Service and Tea at BDF Village Hall
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Morning Prayer at Bourton
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Men's Breakfast, Oak and Black Dog
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	4.45pm	Communi-Tea at Stretton
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Morning Prayer at Frankton
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Morning Prayer at Stretton
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	3.45pm	Celebrate@the Farm!

## The Draycote Benefice

Dear Friends



September is always an interesting time of year. A time of endings and beginnings. The end of the summer; the end of the harvest; for young people the end of one phase of school - infants, juniors or secondary. But also beginnings, the beginning of a new school year, moving onto 'big' school or university or starting a first job and the beginning of autumn. The beautiful, very visual reminder of the changing seasons that comes with misty mornings and glorious displays of autumn leaves.

September is going to be a time of endings and beginnings for me too. As you know, I leave the Draycote Benefice at the end of September. It is an ending because I will no longer be your Rector, but it is a beginning too – the start of the next phase of my ministry. At the moment I do not know what that will be, where it will be, or how God will use the next season of my life. It is both an exciting, and a slightly daunting time, as I step out in faith that God still has lots of ministry for me to do and that God will nudge me in the right direction when the time is right.

I was talking to someone this morning after the service in church, and as we chatted I said that this was the first time in my life that I was leaving one job without going straight into another one. It is a very strange feeling of not knowing 'what next'. Many of us go through seasons of our lives with that same feeling. It may be because of a change of circumstances, breakdown of relationship, job or financial insecurity or bereavement. When things are beyond our control it is hard just to 'be', to trust that in the end, no matter how hard things are now, there *is* a brighter future ahead. But, as Christians, we believe that God has plans to prosper and not harm us, that God is with us throughout all the seasons of life, the good times and the bad. We have an assurance through God's Son, Jesus, that we are not alone. God, through Jesus, has experienced the whole range of human experience. All the laughter and the tears, the joy and the sadness, anger and the boredom. There is nothing in our lives that is too sad, difficult or messy to frighten God away. We may not always feel God's presence as situations unfold, but it is often in hindsight where we see the presence of God. That presence may be in another person, an unexpected event or encounter, or just a sense of peace that comes out of the blue.

So, my hope and prayer for us all, is that in our seasons of endings and beginnings we can always sense the loving, comforting and healing presence of God.

Love and prayers  
Ali

**Rector - Revd Ali Massey** 01788 814912 (Mob) 07837 124509  
[reverendalimassey@gmail.com](mailto:reverendalimassey@gmail.com)

## The New Sun Rising

There's so much yet to do  
before the flame finally flickers out,  
before the sun dips into the sea,  
our great star touching down gently  
into that golden water. We savour now  
the gift, this one last in-between time.  
So much to do before the leaves  
drift down one more time, the whoosh  
of passing cars stirring them  
back to life, yet another moment's  
pause before lying down, sodden  
and worn. I count back now  
from an end I can almost see, and yet,  
alert, attentive as ever, I lock onto  
the sounds, the scents, new realms  
I have never tasted before. I listen  
for all that stirs within me, while the sun  
holds for another hour, another year. I rest  
in this season of contentment, before putting down  
one last time into the deep unknown. All the while  
I am beckoned forward, toward something,  
like a new sun rising, something wholly  
new, something radiant. But for now  
there is so much yet to do. I am content.

Phil Eaton – [peatonblog.com](http://peatonblog.com)

### BIRDINGBURY

Karen Armbrister 01926 632030

### FRANKTON

Vacancy

### BOURTON & DRAYCOTE

David Snead 01926 633754

### STRETTON

Douglas Hutchinson 02476 540449  
Amanda Ross 02476 542895

### HOME GROUPS

Would you be interested in joining one  
of our Home Groups? They meet regularly on the following days:

#### MONDAYS

10am fortnightly at 1 Orchard Way, Stretton, contact Thelma Cain 02476 543256

4th Monday, monthly 7.30pm – 9pm - 'The God Squad; faith and friendship',  
Contact Karen Armbrister 01926 632030 or Maureen Hinton 024 76544546

#### TUESDAYS:

2nd & 4th - 7.30pm at 6 The Paddocks, Stretton  
Contact Janet & John Simmonds 02476 542350

**Birdingbury Home Group** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, monthly at 10.30 am, followed by  
refreshments.

Contact Jackie Westcott 01926 632494.

**Prayer Time** - 9am-9.30am - Every Saturday at Stretton Church

## Celebrate @4

### *Celebrate@The Farm!!*

Saturday 28 September at Bondon  
Farm, Birdingbury from 3.45pm

Come and join us as we celebrate Harvest  
and all things rural on the farm.

Home -made soup and scones / songs /  
crafts and very informal worship in the  
barn for all ages  
Featuring our new BAND!!

ALL ARE WELCOME

Enquiries:

[karen.armbrister@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.armbrister@btinternet.com)

## Knit & Natter

We're knitting green squares to create a  
Christmas tree to display in church in  
December

Saturday 7 September  
From 10.30am – 12.30pm  
at All Saints Church

*All welcome!*

## Crime Prevention and a Bacon Bap Breakfast

Saturday 14 September, 9.30am to  
11.00am

Come along for a bacon bap breakfast,  
coupled with a display of Crime  
Prevention information and FREE  
property marking kits

## United Benefice Service

All Saints, Stretton  
Sunday 29 September at 10.30am

Everyone is invited to Rev Ali's last  
service in the Benefice. It will be a  
time of celebration and thanksgiving  
for her work in Draycote and a  
chance to wish her well in the next  
chapter of her journey with God.

## Communi-teas at All Saints

**Sunday 15 September at 4.45pm**

A group is meeting at All Saints Church on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 4.45pm,  
to enjoy an hour of friendship, fellowship ...  
and Tea & Cakes.

**Everyone welcome**

More information from Vicky Deasley and  
Janice Robinson

### *Men's Breakfast*

8.30am on Saturday 14 September at  
**THE OAK & BLACK DOG** in Stretton on  
Dunsmore (please note new venue)

Cost: £7.50 for full English Breakfast

All men from the Benefice are welcome  
Please book with Paulin 024 7654 2932 or  
Zena 024 7654 0449 before Thursday 12  
September



Village Hall, Stretton on Dunsmore  
28 September, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Please join us to support the world's biggest coffee  
morning and be part of this very worthwhile cause.

If you are able to supply a cake of a raffle prize it  
would be appreciated.

Contact Veronica Ward 02476545896

## 'COFFEE AND A CHAT'

**THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

10-30.A.M.- 12.00 NOON  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

*(There is no charge, although a small donation  
would be welcome, to cover the cost of the hall)*

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

*Organised by Stretton Ladies Fellowship*