

CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS

Newsletter from Rev. Canon Barbara,

I am writing this letter just as the Archbishop of Canterbury has announced that he will retire at the end of the year. I am reminded of the Bible scene where Jesus calmed the Sea of Galilee when his disciples were so frightened of the storm. I think that Rowan Williams was also called to steer a very full boat, containing a disparate crew through some very stormy seas and he has, with great skill, led the Anglican Church through some extremely difficult decision-making. We have been extremely fortunate to have such a wise and learned man to lead us through the stormy waves and leave the church in calmer waters.

I am very pleased to announce that the Archbishop will be in the Coventry Diocese on the weekend of 25th to 27th May. As part of this visit he will be preaching at a special service intended for rural communities at the Kenilworth Showground, Stoneleigh. This service, on Sunday 27th May at 12noon, will be suitable for all ages, and will be followed by informal entertainment, an opportunity to possibly meet the Archbishop and also purchase subsidised food and drink. Please contact me if you would like to join us, or for further details of this special event.

We are fortunate to welcome Kevin Downham to our Benefice as an additional Reader to work alongside Elizabeth and myself. Kevin will be licensed at the Easter Day service at 6pm on 8th April at St. Peter's, Bourton. You are most welcome to come and support Kevin as he is formally licensed as our Reader.

April is the time of year for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which is open to anyone who lives in the parish or who is on the church electoral roll. We are very fortunate to have so many committed people who help keep our lovely churches in good order, giving time to help clean it, arrange flowers, read lessons, serve coffee, mow grass and much more. If you feel able to share in any of these tasks, do contact a churchwarden or myself, and please come to the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at our Easter services where we can continue to celebrate new life and the resurrection of our Lord.

Wishing you all a joyous and blessed Easter,

With love and prayers,

Barbara

Rev. Canon Barbara Clutton 01788 810372 or 07808 137550
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

SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK

Sunday 1st April 11 am, Palm Sunday

One or both of Peter and Sue Law's donkeys have kindly (or reluctantly) agreed to lead a Palm Sunday procession! We will meet at the War Memorial at 11 am and walk down Main Street to Birdingbury church.

Thursday 5th April 7.30 pm, Maundy Thursday service at Stretton

Friday 6th April, Good Friday

11 am at Stretton Church: Holiday Bible Club workshop followed by Hot Cross Bun service at Stretton Church

2 pm at Frankton Church: Good Friday Devotions

Sunday 8th April 9.15 am, Easter Sunday

New Benefice venture: 'HBC.Saturday'

We have planned a new monthly benefice activity for families and younger children. 'HBC.Saturday' is informal (crafts, songs, story and prayers) and will take place in various suitable venues in the benefice on the second Saturday each month. We will start at 3.30pm and finish by 5.15pm after some home-made refreshments.

You won't need to book places— just come along. Leave your children with us or stay and join in the fun. We start in May - see the notice on p. 6 for details or visit our website, www.draycotegroup.org.

Wednesday 18th April 7.30pm at St. Leonard's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting [APCM]

We look forward to seeing as many parishioners as possible at this annual meeting. It will begin with refreshments and then move on to the business part, which includes firstly electing Church Wardens, then discussing the Annual Report and electing PCC members for the coming year.

If you would like a copy of the report in advance, either via email or a hard copy, please get in touch with one of us.

Dick and Karen

EASTER LILIES

Once again we are going to decorate our church with arrangements of lilies in time for Easter Sunday (8th April). As in previous years, we will dedicate these arrangements to the memory of loved ones.

If you would like to add a name (or names) to this list, please forward details (along with a donation towards the cost of the lilies) to our treasurer, Jacky Hart, The White House, Marton Road, Birdingbury.

ALTAR GUILD AGM and 'THANK YOU' SUPPER

A reminder for all Altar Guild Members that this is on **Wednesday 25th April, 7.15 pm at Marton Glebe Farm.** We hope to see you there. Please RSVP to Eira (632876) or Aileen (632644) Eira Owen

News, people, places

Derek Moore

The sudden death of Derek in February was a shock to us all. Our thoughts and prayers go to Barbara, Jeremy and Jonathan and family. We will especially miss his cheery smile, gentle teasing and mischievous sense of humour.

Mary Pugh

Mary, who sadly died in February, lived at the top of Main Street for many years. She was a regular member of our church congregation. Lots of us knew her as a caring, thoughtful person who valued her independence, so it was very sad to see her decline in recent years, until eventually she was cared for at Greenways in Long Itchington. We send our condolences to her family.

Roy Ward has been in hospital recently and is now making a good recovery.

Roy Rogers is still not very well but his determination enabled him to carry out his wish to go on a cruise with Cynthia to see the Northern Lights in Norway recently.

Welcome to baby **Freddy** and congratulations to his parents, **Susie and Stuart**, at Kisdon, Marton Road.

Welcome also to **Jenny and John Barr** who have moved into The Old Orchard in Back Lane. We hope that you settle in quickly and enjoy living in Birdingbury.

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

Date	Place	Time	Service	Readings	Prayers	Comm. Server	Coffee	Sidesperson	Flowers	Cleaning	Churchyard
Sun 1 April Palm Sunday	Frankton Birdingbury Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Palm Sunday Walk Holy Communion	E. Ellis <i>Isaiah ch50 vv4-9</i> D. Withington <i>Mark ch11 vv1-11</i> K. Armbrister <i>Psalm 118 vv1-2 &19-24</i>	Revd Barbara			P. Law	No flowers - Lent	Mel Palmer	
Sun 8 April Easter Day	Princethorpe Birdingbury Stretton Frankton Bourton	8.00 am 9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	A. Armbrister <i>Acts ch10 vv34-43</i> <i>John ch20 vv1-18</i>	K. Armbrister	J. Hawes	E. Ellis P. Law	J and G Johnstone	A. Laverick	Mel Palmer	O. Bartmanis C. Sedgfield
Sun 15 April	Bourton Birdingbury Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Praise Evening Worship	W. Lloyd <i>Acts ch4 vv32-35</i> <i>John ch20 vv19-end</i>	E. Owen	K. Armbrister		A. Sedgfield	A. Laverick	Liz Tompkins	
Sun 22 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	K. Armbrister <i>Acts ch3 vv12-19</i> <i>Luke ch24 vv36-48</i>	D. Withington		W and B Lloyd	E. Ellis	K. Armbrister	Liz Tompkins	G. Johnstone
Sun 29 April	Birdingbury	10.00 am	United Benefice Service	tba <i>Acts ch4 vv5-12</i> <i>John ch10 vv11-18</i>	K. Armbrister		A. Sedgfield	W and B Lloyd	K. Armbrister	Lyn Tipton	
Sun 6 May	Frankton Bourton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Rogation Service Holy Communion						Liz Ellis	Lyn Tipton	S. Whitfield + Taylor family
Sun 13 May	Birdingbury Stretton Bourton	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Morning Praise Holy Communion	S. Davy <i>Acts ch10 vv44-end</i> <i>John ch15 vv9-17</i>	D. Hanson	J. Hawes	A and D Hanson	A and D Hanson	Liz Ellis	Xenia Munro	
Sun 20 May Rogation Sunday	Bourton Birdingbury Frankton Stretton	9.15 am 11.00 am 11.00 pm 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Rogation Service at Davenport Cottage Rogation Service Evening Worship	B. Tompkins <i>Acts ch1 vv15-17 &21-end</i> <i>John ch17 vv6-19</i>	E. Owen	M. Bartmanis	E. Ellis	O. Bartmanis	Angela Hanson	Xenia Munro	J. Owen D. Hayden
Sun 27 May 4	Stretton Stoneleigh Abbey	9.15 am 12 noon	Holy Communion Diocesan Service Archbishop Rowan Williams						Angela Hanson	Ros Murray	

What else is on here in April and May

Home Communion

Wed April 8th 0.30am (NB date change) at Jenny Hawes, Gables House, Back Lane

Wed May 9th in The Birbury hosted by Valerie Smith

Do please come and join in. Transport can be arranged if necessary: phone Jackie Westcott on 632494.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN MAY

Thursday 17th May 7.30 pm, Ascension Day

Holy Communion at Princethorpe Church

Sunday 20th May 11am, Rogation Sunday

Thanks to Andrew and Karen, this year's annual Rogation Service will be held in their garden at Davenport Cottage, Back Lane. Refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 27th May 12 noon, Service with the Archbishop at Stoneleigh

You will see from the list of services that there is no service at St Leonard's on 27th but a very special service for the diocese at Stoneleigh. We will organise transport from the village, so please get in touch with us if you would like a lift.

Advance notices

Diamond Jubilee floral decorations in Church

Barbara Munro is co-ordinating red, white and blue themed flower displays in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. If you would like to volunteer to help with this (preferably on Friday 1st), please contact Barbara on 632026.

St Leonard's Church Fete, Saturday June 23rd 2012 from 2.30pm

Please put this in your diary. Further details will be in the next edition.

Dick, Karen and Barbara

What's on in our local group of churches

THE DRAYCOTE GROUP OF PARISHES

'HBC.SATURDAY'

SATURDAY 12 MAY at ALL SAINTS' STRETTON

3.30PM to 5.15PM

COME AND JOIN US FOR PLANTING ACTIVITIES, SONGS,
STORIES, PRAYERS AND REFRESHMENTS

Suitable for families and children of all ages. Come with your children or leave them with us (if they are age 5 and over)

WWW.DRAYCOTEGROUP.ORG

Music for Easter

It is interesting to reflect that Easter, a feast established to relieve human suffering and rebirth, has given rise to some of the most sensuous and beautiful music there is.

J. S. Bach tells the Easter story in both his 'St. Matthew Passion' and 'St. John Passion'. I remember the tingling feeling I had in certain sections of St. Matthew Passion when my choir sang it a few years ago. If you prefer shorter pieces, many of Bach's cantatas are suitably reflective for Easter.

The medieval 'Stabat Mater', which describes Mary standing at the foot of the cross, has been set to the most painfully beautiful music by Dvorak, Vivaldi, Verdi and Parsifal. Vivaldi's version is perhaps the most well-known but Dvorak's 'Stabat Mater', which was composed on the death of his two-day-old daughter, is heart-rending.

It is also worth remembering that Handel's 'Messiah' was originally intended to be performed at Easter rather than Christmas.

Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring' is music of a less religious nature, which is stirring, joyful yet, at times, nightmarish – in common, you could say, with the overtly religious Passions, Stabat Maters and the Messiah.

You could, of course, intersperse one or two of these classical pieces with secular pieces such as Irving Berlin's 'Easter Parade', or the old favourite, 'Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns'!



"Christ Crucified" by Helen Huntingdon Jenning in Coventry Cathedral

Aileen Withington

On the same musical theme: A Spring Concert in Birmingham Town Hall

A friend of mine sings with the **New English Orchestra and Singers**, who are giving a **Spring Concert on Saturday 21st April 2012** at the **Town Hall in Birmingham**. They are a group with a Christian focus.

The programme includes:

HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba and Hallelujah Chorus (from Messiah)

HAYDN Trumpet concerto in E and Symphony No. 100 in G major ("Military")

JETHRO TULL Music for Flute and Orchestra

BRUCH Adagio on Celtic Themes for Cello and Orchestra

NEO sings Bach Chorales and Spiritual songs

Tickets from Town Hall Box Office – www.thsh.co.uk or phone 0121 780 3333

Mel Palmer

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday with a difference - a café in our lovely church.

As we walked in, the aroma of bacon welcomed us. On offer from Aileen and Eira was a breakfast “combo”, bacon, mushrooms and sausage in brown bread or rolls, plus tea or coffee. Looking at our tempting “combo”, the question was, how to eat it? A contented hush descended as we tucked in.

Very, young and not so young enjoyed breakfast, a service led by Barbara and Dick, and left church with flowers for all.

As Barbara said, mothering, in a sense, is looking out for each other. We are so blessed to live in Birdingbury village; let us appreciate what we have.

Josie Price



Contact information

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