

Update on Vacancy

We have been informed by the office of the Archdeacon that no applications were received for our Vacancy. This obviously comes as a blow, and a dashing of our hopes and expectations and some of us will need a bit of time to reflect. We have been praying over this Vacancy, both corporately and individually, that God will be leading, guiding, stirring the person He wants to be our next Incumbent, and therefore we may believe that this apparent setback is just an indication that the time isn't yet right. In years to come perhaps we will be able to look back and see the reasons why, and be thankful and amazed at the workings of our God.

Following the news, we met with Alan Jeans (our Archdeacon) on Monday 19 February which was a very helpful and positive meeting. Alan has been to both churches in recent times and related how encouraged he was at what he found – comments he has passed onto the Bishop. It was good to hear how others see us!

With Bishop Ed retiring in April, Alan is tasked with heading up the Interview process and we have been given the following new dates:

Fresh Adverts – 13th and 20th April
 Closing date- 18th May
 Shortlisting- 4th June
 Familiarisation Day/Interviews -18/19th June

Although we were assured there wasn't anything intrinsically wrong with either our advert or Parish Profile, we (the Core Strategy Group that is) will be revisiting both. To put our Parish situation into context, there were over 70 adverts in the Church Times last week, and in the next 9 years 40% of stipendiary clergy will be retiring.

In the meantime, Alan was keen to assure us of his support and the attractiveness of our job vacancy despite the obvious competition for jobs. He does acknowledge the further loss we will encounter when Matt and Nele leave us on 20th May.

Our memory verse for this year is from Philippians 2 where we are encouraged to have the mindset of Christ. Later on, Paul goes on to say *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"*

We certainly have lots to be thankful for, and lots to pray about, but how wonderful that we are part of the body of Christ, serving our Risen Lord.

Mary Terry and Charles Dew-Jones, Parish Representatives

March 2018 Worship

Morning Prayer takes place at 9 am on Mondays Tuesdays, and Thursdays at St Mark's Church
Holy Communion takes place on Wednesdays 9.30 am at St Andrew's Church

Sunday 4 March Lent 3

"The place of rules in the Christian life"
 Exodus 20.1-17; John 2.13-22

9.00 am Breakfast@9 (St Andrew's)
 10.30 am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 9.00 am Holy Communion (St Mark's)
 10.00 am Together@ten (St Mark's)
 6.00 pm Prayer Meeting (St Mark's)

Sunday 11 March Mothering Sunday

"Family is more than relatives"
 1 Sam 1.20-end; John 19.25b-27

10.00 am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 10.30 am Holy Communion (St Mark's)

Sunday 18 March Lent 5

"New hearts, paid for by Jesus"
 Jeremiah 31.31-34; John 12.20-33

9.00 am Breakfast@9 (St Andrew's)
 10.30 am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 10.30 am Morning Worship (St Mark's)
 5.00 pm Holy Communion with hymns (St Mark's)

Sunday 25 March Palm Sunday

"Two perspectives on Palm Sunday"
 Psalm 118.1,2,9-14; Mark 11.1-11

9.00 am Breakfast@9 (St Andrew's)
 10.30 am Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 10.30 am Holy Communion (St Mark's)