

A few words from the vicarage ...



Once again the Annual Parochial Meeting is upon us and I wish to record my most sincere gratitude to all who have brought the parish through another year in which much good work has been achieved. It is at this time that we begin to plan ahead with a number of changes taking place at least insofar as the management team [the PCC] is concerned.

We also say thanks to those who hand over that role of managing the parish to their successors. It is easy to forget that so much work is carried out by relatively few people and that it is done willingly and voluntarily – without desire or expectation of reward. The APCM affords us that opportunity to record these achievements and to offer our thanks – so, it is my hope that we will see a large turnout in attendance this year.

As a departure from previous years, but quite normal practice, my report will be presented as the sermon on the morning of the APCM. Thus it will not be included within the Annual Reports documentation though a copy will be given to the PCC Secretary for inclusion with the minutes as an Appendix for future reference.

I hope that this will be appreciated as a move to help streamline the necessary business of the meeting – and let everyone make it home in time for Sunday lunch!

With regard to the recent immense effort with the Organ Repair Fund, it must be said how welcome this was. The generosity displayed was, without question, a-ma-zing [to echo the expression of one of the 'Strictly' judges!] This means that, once the Faculty approval is given and the work completed, we ought to have an instrument worthy of the demands placed upon it and worthy of the use to which it is put – providing music to support our worship as we seek to glorify our creator and redeemer.

As we approach Easter, we cannot but turn our thoughts to Holy Week and the time we spend walking with Jesus on the way to Calvary. This is a reflective and penitential time of preparation and we need this time to help energise us for the times ahead. We look forward with anticipation of the glorious Easter morning when we welcome again our Risen Lord – but first we must share his pain of the cross. There is that saying, is there not, of 'no pain, no gain'. I doubt it was ever meant to apply to Holy Week – but I feel it is wholly appropriate.

I wish you all a good Lent, a truly Holy Week and a most blessed Easter.

Fr D.