

A few words from the vicarage ...



As we await the New Year, making ready for the 'Shortbread & Sherry' event at the vicarage, I would just like to thank everyone for the many cards and good wishes received again this year – it never ceases to amaze me just how many cards are popped through the vicarage letterbox!

The aforementioned 'Shortbread & Sherry' is a first for us, replacing the Christmas Mince Pie & Sherry of the last two years. It is just our simple way of saying thanks to all of you for the hard work you have put in over the last 12 months of 2010 – and I hope that we have as good a turn out this year as on previous occasions. Elizabeth and I hope that, by moving the date to the 1st of January, this will suit those who have other commitments at Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a word of thanks to our retiring treasurer, Terry Jones, who ceased in that role on 31 December. Terry has been a stalwart since my arrival at St Paul's and has guided me through the intricacies of parish finances with his amazing expertise and acumen. On behalf of the whole parish, I say a huge thanks to Terry and wish him well. I know he has promised to give assistance to his replacement – Ken Pocock – and, indeed, has undertaken to complete the end of year figures – yet another sign of his dedication and commitment.

So, now, as we welcome Ken to his new role, we must also thank him for volunteering to take the reins. The role of Church Treasurer is not one many people seek, so we are indeed fortunate that Ken has been willing to 'step up to the plate' on our behalf.

The end of 2010 has been fraught with problems caused by extremes of weather – with the heavy snowfalls once more. That said, it has been truly wonderful to see so many people making their way through the snow to attend the various church services throughout Advent and Christmas. Despite the treacherous conditions, so many people have been determined to play their part in our celebrations and to acknowledge their faith in this holiest of seasons.

I have said before that we are blessed at St Paul's by having so many faithful servants who work tirelessly for the rest of the community here in Ansdell & Fairhaven – and I could not begin to name all concerned as I would still be writing at the end of January! Suffice to say that the parish is in good shape because of all YOUR hard work, and it is my hope and prayer that this support will continue throughout the year ahead.

May this new year, 2011, be all that you wish it to be for you and for those whom you love, care and pray for ... and I leave you with my sincere best wishes to you all.

Fr D.

Requests for Weddings, Baptisms, etc.

Anyone wishing to arrange a wedding or baptism or perhaps to make an appointment on another matter, please:

- visit our website and complete/submit the form available,
- see me after the 10:30 service on a Sunday morning,
- speak to one of the churchwardens,
- ring or email the parish office; or
- contact me at the vicarage to arrange an appointment.

The relevant contact details are provided elsewhere.

Please note that baptisms may be accommodated at any of our services with the main options being:

- during the Sunday morning 10.30 service;
- a separate family service at 12 noon on a Sunday; or
- at the Family Service on Thursday at 6.15pm

Fr D.