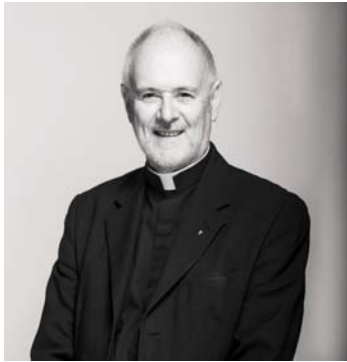


A few words from the Vicarage ...



As we prepare for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting once more, we may reflect upon yet another busy year during which much has been achieved ... yet we also must be looking ahead, planning and working for another year in service of our Lord and Saviour, as part of the Christian family here at St Paul's and in the wider community as part of the Churches Together covenanted group of churches.

This month we will be having our Easter *Extravaganza*, which is a slight departure from our normal fund raising fairs and we have a major star to open it - none other than local comedian, Bobby Ball. We also hope to make this as much about having fun as about raising money; with donkey rides and a bouncy castle for the children, along with other fun games and attractions and stalls linking in with the Easter theme.

There is also a serious side to this month of course with Holy Week and Easter services, and I need not remind anyone that these are hugely important and significant in our church calendar. Again we have put together the following full programme for Holy Week - essential for our preparations as we walk the road to Calvary once more and seek to experience afresh the trauma of Maundy Thursday and the agonies of Good Friday. This is a road we must travel and experience if we are to fully appreciate and celebrate the joys of the Risen Christ on Easter Day - we cannot fully have one without the other.

Palm Sunday

08:30 Holy Communion
10:30 Parish Family Communion
16:00 Evensong

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

09:00 Morning Prayer
19:30 Compline

Wednesday

10:00 Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday

19:30 Eucharist with Footwashing and Vigil

Good Friday

09:30 Churches Together – united Act of Worship at St Paul’s shop on Woodlands Road, followed by procession of witness and ecumenical service at Fairhaven Methodist Church.

12:00 Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day

08:30 Holy Communion

10:30 Parish Family Communion

16:00 Evensong

We will also be holding our annual business meeting with the APCM on Palm Sunday. It is important that as many people attend and participate in this as possible if it is to have the effect of representing the life and work of the church here in this parish.

I offer no apologies when I say it is the duty of every signed-up member to be there if you possibly can. If you are able to get out and about at other times, don't just send an apology, make it your business to attend in person. I fully appreciate that not everyone will be able to be there, but let's see if we can fill the church hall this time as we discuss the church's business affairs, elect churchwardens and PCC members and we appoint sidesmen and women. These are all key roles in the life of the parish and I hope that you will also give consideration as to whether you feel able to offer yourself for work of this nature, which is God's work.

God bless you all,

Your Vicar,

Fr D.