

## **A few words from the Vicarage ...**



The APCM has come and gone once more and we welcome those elected (or re-elected) to serve in their various capacities for the ensuing year. A warm welcome is extended to Sheila Swindells who joins John McIntyre in the post of churchwarden. We are indeed extremely fortunate to have this experienced pairing at the helm.

Of course this also means that we bid a fond farewell to retiring warden, Charlotte Johnstone, who has now completed a second period in office. Charlotte has been a real strength to me in this capacity – almost since the start of my ministry here – and she will be missed. I want to record my personal

gratitude to her for the service she has given and the gifts she has brought and shared with us all. Thankfully, however, she will not be disappearing totally from sight as she has very kindly agreed to continue with a whole host of ‘non-warden’ duties – much to the relief of John and Sheila!

In our three-yearly cycle of terms of office to PCC, I am happy to welcome back Margaret Darlington and Carole Johnson and am delighted to greet two new members to this august body – Michael Briers and Beryl Thompson. New blood with fresh ideas is always welcome and I’m sure that we are all looking forward to their contributions over the next three years.

It was good, too, to see such a strong team of Sidesmen/women offering themselves for this all important role. They are Pat Abbott, Marion Amos, David & Nancy Gaskell, Liz Geddes, Don & Nell Ingram, Eileen Russell, Dorothy Story and Beryl Thompson - my thanks to them all for agreeing to undertake this work.

Of course, all of this administrative activity has come hard on the heels of the wonderful experiences of Holy Week and Easter ... when we had a very full calendar. This was a very special time for us all and Holy Week was observed with much sensitivity and I’m sure helped in no small measure in our preparations for a truly meaningful Easter. It was good to have the opportunity to walk once more in Christ’s footsteps; to stand at the foot of his cross; and to be able to reflect upon the awfulness and the majesty of his sacrifice. My thanks go to all who helped to create this very special atmosphere ... which is unique to this time of year.

To conclude on a lighter note, hot cross buns a-plenty were consumed at the vicarage once more and it was a real pleasure to welcome all who came to call and share in this time of fellowship and refreshment.

Your Vicar,  
*Fr D.*