

# Rector's Rambles

March 2018

## Looking Forward!

I know many of you have been keen to know how the Parish will look when Kate has retired and we have gone from two to one full time leader. Having discussed widely across the Parish, taken account of what people have expressed and considered prayerfully what can be continued I then had further discussions with Wardens, then warden team and with the PCC.

What was very encouraging was the way that almost everyone seems to have accepted the reality that the Parish will have to be different after Easter and recognises that change and cost are inevitable. Those of us who attended a "Leading Your Church Into Growth" conference have commended to the PCC that we adopt as a Mission Statement "To know and share the love of Jesus!" In all the decisions that have had to be made I have kept in mind the goal that we might be a Parish where we grow in numbers, spiritual commitment and service to our local community.

### **Sunday Morning Services**

Currently we have three morning congregations; 2 at Holy Trinity (9.30 & 10.45) and 1 at St. Wulstan's (10.00). Realistically I can only cover 2 services on any morning so the two congregations at Holy Trinity will have to merge. Ideally the two remaining congregations would start 90 minutes apart. However I have heard the comments that this would make Sunday's difficult; less attractive to visitors as well as inconvenient for regulars. Therefore, as an experiment to be reviewed towards the end of the year, **the newly merged congregation at Holy Trinity will meet at 10.45 am and the congregation at St. Wulstan's will meet at 9.45 am**

### **When will these new times start?**

In St. Wulstan's the new start time of 9.45 am will begin on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The process is more complicate at Holy Trinity so the move to one combined service will begin on May 6<sup>th</sup>. (On Second Sunday's of the month the old pattern of 9.30 am and Trinity Praise will be continued.)

### **Baptisms**

At Holy Trinity, Baptisms would overwhelm our newly combined congregations so, although I would far rather find a better solution, Baptisms will take place at 12.20 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. St. Wulstan's have fewer baptisms so it is my hope to conduct these within normal services.

### **Wooley Lambs and Play and Praise**

Both of these are crucial and I am clear in my desire that both not only remain open, but flourish. I will head both of these whilst seeking to utilise as much lay leadership as is available.

### **Homegroups/Coffee with God.**

The two Thursday groups will combine under the leadership of Ann Mansfield, with the hope that they may be able to meet at different venues across the parish. I will

continue to lead the Tuesday Group.

### **Meal Deal**

Regrettably, we do not have sufficient leaders with catering and hygiene qualifications and understanding to keep this open at present. However I do recognise what a valuable resource and mission this has been and hope that some replacement will be possible soon. I will hold a meeting in St. Wulstan's on Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 12.00 noon to which all the current team, and anyone who is interested in being involved in finding a new way forward, are invited.

### **Sunday afternoon services**

For the present I will be continuing with Glen Lodge services on the first Sunday of the month. We will also be having a service at St. Wulstan's at 4.00pm on the Second Sunday. Those who attend the Family Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month will agree that they carry the distinctive hallmarks of Kate's style and could not be continued in the same way by me. My current thought is to not have a 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Service in the summer term and reflect what sort of service, if any, should begin in the Autumn.

I appreciate that there will be some of you reading this with a heavy heart. For some of you, Kate's distinctive style of ministry and her care and friendship will be sorely missed. For some, these changes will mean the loss, or change, of something dear. For myself, I foresee extra strains and problems as I seek to absorb what I can of Kate's responsibilities. For all of us it is helpful to learn from the season of Easter. The Death of Jesus was also the death of hope for many of his followers but, on Sunday, their despair was turned to joy and new hope. We are an Easter people and death of things we value is followed by resurrection to new possibilities and direction which could not have happened without the former disappointment. In the words of Tony Campolo: It's Friday.....BUT SUNDAY IS COMING!

### **Important Dates post-Easter**

**April 8th 2.00pm** Farwell service and Tea for Kate

*(Prior to the afternoon there will be just one service in Holy Trinity at 9.30 am and a service at 10.00 am in St. Wulstan's)*

**April 15th** First 9.45 am service at St. Wulstan's (9.30 & 10.45 at Holy Trinity)

**April 22nd** Combined Parish service and Annual meeting at 10.45 am in Holy Trinity. We will be welcoming Revd Matt Woodcock as our preacher who will be encouraging us to look forward as a church that can grow in the Grace of God..



With love and prayers

*Michael Woodmansey*