

Rector's *ramblings*

July 2009 Number 7

Dear friends,

As I write this, it's thundering and pouring with rain, so summer must be here! With thoughts turning to holidays and keeping children amused for a few weeks (and wondering how long the dreaded b-word will take to be uttered: 'Dad, I'm BORED!'), I've prepared a summer edition of Rector's Ramblings to give you something to help send you to sleep in your tent/caravan/cottage/villa/hotel/B&B/gite/own bed over the holiday period!

Whether you're going away in this country, heading off to exotic foreign parts, or having a break at home, may I wish you a happy and refreshing time, and that God will bless you over these coming weeks.

Yours in Christ's service,



Children & Families Pastor and Youth Pastor Vacancies.

We had quite a positive number of enquiries about our two part-time vacancies, but only one application for each post. Unfortunately, we were not able to appoint either of these applicants. The PCC considered this situation at its meeting on Thursday 16th July. The outcome is that the PCC has decided to re-advertise the Children and Families Pastor post as a full-time job instead of part-time, in the expectation that this will attract a wider field of applicants, and will result in a good appointment being made. Adverts have been placed locally, and also nationally in the September issues of Christianity and Youthwork magazines, and on www.jobsearchmonitor.com. The closing date for applications will be 10th September, with shortlisting the next day, and interviews on 15th September.

This means that we will have to wait a bit longer to have someone in post, but I'm sure you'll agree that it is more important to have the right person. I know that Chris has Junior Church plans in place for the Autumn term that take account of this possibility.

What about the Youth Pastor job? Well, the PCC further decided that it would be right to seek a Careforce volunteer to fill this role. This has several benefits. One, we would get someone full time rather than part-time. Two, the cost to All Saints is much less than even a part-time salary. Three, we would get someone highly motivated to serve God and the church and community. The disadvantage of this is that we are unlikely to get someone placed with us until January 2010 (the September intake is already fully committed), unless we identify someone locally who wants to volunteer with us, and who would like to place themselves under the Careforce support structures. So, if you know of anyone who would like such an opportunity, please let me know! As with the Children's work, Chris has planned the Autumn term Get Real and Substance programmes allowing for the possibility that we would not be able to appoint immediately.

Find out more about the Careforce volunteer scheme here: www.careforce.co.uk. 'Careforce... Gospel volunteers who commend Jesus by life, word and deed seeking to enable individual lives and communities within the UK to be transformed to the glory and praise of Jesus Christ.'

The PCC, Churchwardens and I are working hard to secure the best people to take forward the mission of God to the Children, Families and Youth of our church and community, and I would really value your continued prayers as we take this process forward in the coming weeks.

Chris and Kate Farmer

Chris and Kate will be with us for the last time on Sunday August 16th, as Chris leaves to take up his new job as Youth Worker at Histon Baptist Church. We shall miss them both. Kate has worked hard with Barry Brown in getting the All Saints Night Live events off the ground, and has made them a great success. She has also been part of the welcome team, and has been involved in other ways during her time with us - we will miss her enthusiasm and cheerful smile, and her determination to see things through!

Chris has taken the role of Children's and Youth Worker and made it his own. It was a new position for All Saints, and Chris's first full-time job after his youth work training, and the job has developed and grown as Chris has settled in to it, and has developed and grown himself. It hardly seems possible that it was three years ago that he started, but he has achieved a lot in that time. It was very good to hear from the Head Teacher of Milton Primary School at their end of term service in Church recently how much Chris's involvement with the school has been appreciated by the staff and the children. Our children and young people here at All Saints, could, I am sure, tell many stories of the way that Chris has helped them in the past three years.

We are all very grateful to you Chris and Kate, and wish you every blessing and success in the future, and great joy as you take the Milton baby boom to Histon Baptist Church!

Ridley Students

I'm delighted to let you know that we will be receiving three ordinands on attachment from Ridley Hall in the autumn. As usual, they will bring an unpredictable mix of gifts, interests and children with them! I think that we receive far more as a church from having ordinands on placement than we can possibly give to them, but they usually say exactly the opposite when they leave us, so I suppose we can conclude that we all benefit from this excellent arrangement! Please keep a look out for them over the next few weeks, and make them very welcome, as I know you will.

PCC Membership - Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for one member of the PCC. I would really like to be able to fill the vacancy so that we have a full complement of members. Being a PCC member means entails six or so

evening meetings a year (bi-monthly), with the possibility of an occasional 'away morning' (no more than annually). The meetings, contrary to what you might think, can be interesting and informative, and are an important part of the decision making in the life of our church. It's not just about toilets and gutters (although they are mentioned!); the PCC's role is, among other things, to, 'co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.' Intrigued? Of course you are - have a word with me or one of the Churchwardens to find out more.

Corin and Nicky Redsell

Many of you will have heard the exciting news that Corin has been recommended for training for ordained ministry in the Church of England, and will begin his training at Ridley Hall this September. I am delighted by this news, as I have seen this coming for a while, and I'm confident that Corin and Nicky will be a real blessing to any church in which they serve, as they have been to us over the years. It does mean, sadly, that Corin and Nicky will be attached to another parish during term-time, so, although they will continue to live in their home in Milton, we will inevitably see a lot less of them. Please uphold them both in your prayers as they take this important and significant step in their journey with God.

Swine Flu and Holy Communion

The Bishop of Ely has issued advice to churches concerning, amongst other things, how to approach the issue of receiving the wine at Holy Communion during the current outbreak of swine flu. It will be perfectly acceptable to receive the bread only at Holy Communion - the Church of England has always been clear that it is sufficient to receive in one kind only where need requires it. We are advised that the practice of 'intinction' - dipping your bread in the wine - should **not** be used at this time, as there is a risk of infection passing from your fingers into the wine. **Therefore, until this current outbreak subsides, only the bread will be distributed at Holy Communion at All Saints Milton.** Wine will still be consecrated, but will be consumed by the celebrant only. This may seem like an over-reaction, but I am concerned that we do all that we can to minimise the risk of infection, especially considering the large proportion of elderly people in our congregation. Thanks for your understanding!