

A few words from the Vicar

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’ (John 13:34-35)

Things are moving fast on the Ainsworth & Radcliffe Team front.

Diocesan lawyers are busy drafting the legal paperwork to establish the Team. When available, draft proposals will be issued to interested parties (including all four PCCs) and, following consideration of responses, a draft scheme will be published by the church Commissioners. If there are no objections, the Team will come into effect after a specified period.

Initially the Team will be staffed by a Team Rector and three Team Vicars (Revds Carol Hayden and Elizabeth Binns, plus me and plus one other yet to be appointed). This is good news because each parish will have a nominated minister with day to day responsibility for them. Individual clergy will also have specific responsibility for one or more areas of ministry throughout the Team.

The recruitment process for the role of Team Rector has begun. The Steering Group is busy pulling together the paperwork and PCCs are being asked to nominate two representatives for the selection and interview process.

Existing Team clergy may apply for the Team Rector's post and, should one of us be appointed, we will then recruit for a Team Vicar.

Although it is not possible to provide a definitive timescale, it is expected that the new Team will become operational by the end of this year.

Please continue to pray for the coming together of the Team and for discernment in the recruitment process.

Of course, establishing the Team legally and appointing Team clergy is only the beginning. We then begin the long process of making the Team work. But more of that at a later date.

What else is happening?

Well some really good news. As most of you will know already, Debra Johnstone has been selected for ordination training. Hooray!

Indeed, Debra has told me that she has been overwhelmed by your support and good wishes as she prepared for the interview process and since her selection has been announced.

Debra has been a Reader for many years, long before she joined us. This means it is unlikely Debra will be required to complete the whole course as she covered some of the syllabus when training to be a Reader.

So, at the time of writing we don't know how long it will be before Debra becomes Revd Debra. What we can be sure of, however, is that she can look forward to a lot of hard work. I am confident, though, that your love, support and prayers will sustain Debra throughout her ordination training. That's what we're like in Ainsworth – we are a friendly, loving church and long may that continue, whatever the future holds for us.

Finally, many of you will know Kenneth and Margaret Bullock. Kenneth was Vicar here for many years and both Margaret and he are still held in affection by many within the congregation and the wider community.

Well, they have written to me to say that we are in their thoughts and prayers and to wish us well in this our 500th anniversary year (particularly the anniversary lunch on July 19th).

Both have been on our prayer list for the past few months (Margaret has been unwell and Kenneth broke his hip) and they wish to thank everyone for all the cards and the payers.

As they both recover we will, of course, continue to hold Kenneth and Margaret in our prayers. I know this will happen because, as I said earlier, we are a friendly, loving church and long may that continue!

Every Blessing

Dave

Stop press: following the success of Messy Church, we are trying something new during the Summer holiday period – **Messy Fridays**. We'll meet 10am – 12 noon on Fridays 31st July and 7th & 14th August in the Church & Community.

Messy Fridays will be a mixture of stories, songs, messy craft activities and some refreshments. Suitable for children of all ages (who must be accompanied by an adult). In other words it's Messy Church but on a Friday!