

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

*Well done, thou good and faithful servant. (Matthew 25:21)*

Later this month (Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>), Margaret our long-serving organist hangs up her spurs. Margaret has been our organist for 40 years, and prior to that spent a few years as assistant organist. Not that we shall be saying goodbye to her because, together with husband Roy, Margaret will be taking a place in the pews.

Margaret has ably served four Ainsworth vicars in her time. She relates how Revd Bullock asked her to take on the job because she could play the piano. He even operated the pedals for her whilst she learned!

We have all been blessed because Margaret was willing to take the job on. Not that she is giving up entirely; Margaret has offered to act as our stand in.

And then there is Roy. We celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last month. Every so often he says he is about to retire but doesn't quite manage it!

Roy has served us well in various ways over decades. He has been Sexton and Churchwarden. There is nothing he doesn't know about the churchyard and he has kept our records immaculately. He is a capable artist too!

Of course, Roy's crowning glory has been to build up the churchyard team, the group of volunteers who maintain the churchyard and do odd jobs around the church building. Roy might be the expert, but his is a gentle hand on the tiller. Indeed, the team love Roy to bits and threw a surprise party to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup>. There are brilliant photos on our Facebook page and the website.

Both Margaret and Roy have served this Church well and blessed us over many decades, so be sure to stay behind for a

chat and to share coffee and cake with them after the 10.30am service on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

And then there's Wyn, 90 this month. She is currently unable to attend Church through illness, but we still reserve a place for her on the front pew.

She too has served this Church well. For many years she was our Verger, and only dropped off the PCC a few years back.

Wyn had retired from the verger's role by the time I came here 8 years ago, but I do remember her in her prime. A few years prior to moving to Ainsworth, I came here on placement. I remember sneaking into a service, hoping to be unnoticed but Wyn discretely found out who I was. And before I left, the rest of the congregation knew who I was too!

From that time too, I remember Wyn willingly surrendering her verger's pew to visitors here for a Christening. Such a lovely gesture, I thought.

Then, for many years Wyn hosted a weekly communion at her home and, I know, Wyn can't wait to be well enough to return to ABC, where she has been a helper for very many years

Three folk from our Church who have reached or are about to reach important milestones in their lives. Three people who have served God and this Church well for a very long time and who continue to do so.

Next month, on 7<sup>th</sup> October, we have a special service during which I hope to encourage all of us to pray about how we serve God in our daily lives and in Church life. Margaret, Roy and Wyn are living proof that there is no upper age limit in God's service!

Every Blessing

*Dave*