

A few words from the Vicar

Well June has arrived and what a busy month we have ahead of us.

First of all, on Sunday the 12th we have our annual joint Walk of Witness when, together with Ainsworth Methodists, we process around the village.

As always, there will be a brass band so that everyone in the village can hear us coming and come out to watch. The Walk of Witness has been an annual village fixture for a long time and it is always good to see so many well-wishers watching and waving as we pass by.

Last year I couldn't help noticing some adults who had children participating in the walk were watching from the side lines. Everyone is more than welcome to join us for the walk; you don't need to stand and watch.

We assemble at ACCH ready to set off at 10.30am. The route is the same as always although there is an important difference this year. The date coincides with Her Majesty's official birthday celebrations, so there will be a bring and share celebration lunch in ACCH afterwards. All are welcome. Just bring some food to share, which you can leave in ACCH before the Walk of Witness to save you carrying it around with you.

So this year we will be doing two things:

Firstly, as we walk around the village we will be witnessing to our faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Whilst being sensitive to the sensibilities of others (naturally), the Church is not a secret society and, as Christians, we are called to be open about our love for God and our allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Secondly, the Queen is not backward about coming forward regarding her faith in Jesus Christ. So, as we enjoy ourselves over lunch, we will be giving thanks for Her Majesty's unstinting

service to this nation and for her faithful Christian witness over the years.

What else is happening in June? Well, there is the EU Referendum on 23rd June.

Unlike some CofE clergy, I try to be careful not to express my political opinions in public. Call me old fashioned, but I have a duty to minister to all in the parish regardless of their politics (it is rather quaintly called the 'Cure of Souls'). If I were to bang on about my political beliefs ad nauseam, this could deter some with spiritual needs from coming to see me.

So, I'm saying nothing. I will be casting my vote though and I hope you will be too. We live in a democracy and all of us have a civic duty to vote.

Then, on Sunday 26th June at 6pm ten members of our congregation will be Confirmed at All saints, Stand.

Confirmation is for those who are ready to own for themselves the Baptism promises made on their behalf by parents and godparents. Despite what some might think, Confirmation is not a passing out parade. Rather, it is about being a committed disciple ready to take the next step in our lifetime's journey of faith with Jesus. So please come along to support our candidates.

Finally, on Wednesday 30th June at 7.30pm we have a vigil to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The experience of the two world wars in the first half of the last century is etched deeply in our collective memories and a glance at the names listed on any war memorial reminds us why. We shall remember them.

Every Blessing

Dave