

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

Life is full of surprises, and a big one for all of us was the Choir's decision to retire at the end of 2019!

I'm not sure how long we have had a choir. The late Hilda Lord was a mine of information about Ainsworth life in years gone by and told a tale of a junior choristers strike before the First World War. Her mother and aunt took part and, in negotiations with the Vicar, won an important concession; a fully paid annual charabanc trip.

This suggests to me that we have had a choir at Christ Church for well over a century!

So, the Choir's decision to hang up their spurs is a momentous event in the life of this Church. The sort of event that ought to find its way into an updated volume of our Church's history (when that comes to be written)!

I hope everyone, as I do, appreciates that the Choir have a sound reason for retiring. None of us is getting any younger and, collectively, Choir members felt that it was best to quit now whilst they were ahead. They thought it best to quit on a high note (if you will pardon the pun) rather than wait until things went flat.

It's a shame, the end of an era even, but their logic is faultless! So, I both understand and fully support their decision, as I hope you do. We certainly owe them a debt of gratitude for their many years of dedicated service.

Talking of giving up something (I know the link is tenuous), with Ash Wednesday on 26<sup>th</sup> February, Lent is fast approaching.

Many people give something up for Lent; chocolate, biscuits, cake, alcohol and, increasingly these days, social media. But Lent is a season for self-examination and spiritual growth so, rather than give up something, why not take on something

extra? Why not spend time doing something that will help you grow in faith?

It's not too early to begin planning.

You could make a point of attending one of our Lent devotionals (Tuesday evenings during Lent in Church).

You could attend worship more often, either on Sunday or our Wednesday Evening Service, Mid-Week Praise.

You might like to spend more time in prayer and reading your Bibles. For example, you could set yourself the task of reading all four Gospels. [Hint, modern translations, such as the NRSV or NIV are easier to understand than the 16<sup>th</sup> Century English of the old King James Bible.]

You could join us for First Friday for wine, pizza, chat and Bible study. There are two during Lent, 6<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April, both 7.30pm at the Vicarage.

Or you might like to join others for a Lent course. I'm in discussion with some neighbouring clergy about running a joint course at different local venues and at various times each week during Lent. I hope to have some further information soon.

So, start planning for a holy Lent.

Every Blessing

*Dave*