

February 2017 Edition 14

Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.

Our Gifts

Well I wish you all a belated Happy New Year! As I write this piece we have survived Blue Monday which is described as the most depressing day of the year and we are fully into 2017 with both feet and there is no turning back!

In Ephesians 4, verses 1-3, Paul talks about our gifts, and makes it very clear we are all given gifts to help strengthen up the body of Christ. He begs us to lead a life worthy of our calling with humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

I want to ask you what gifts do you bring to the table and how can you fully utilise those gifts for the glory of our Almighty? There is no doubt that when Lynn arrives in May she will bring an amazing set

of gifts to shepherd, pastor and lead us here at St Mary's.

I encourage you to reflect and pray about what contribution you too can make here at St Mary's over the coming year. If you want to help please put your hand up. You will be welcomed with open arms and the opportunities are endless!!

We need all sorts of people with all sorts of gifts to help in all sorts of roles to make sure the Bright Light shines radiantly in our community. In doing so we are "leading a life to which we have been called".

Let's all be courageous and brave to use our God given gifts selflessly in 2017. I know that if we do we can make a real difference for those around us and help each other to bear witness to Him in our lives.

Jason Gray, Reader

Don't forget...

Lynn's licensing will be on Monday 8 May, in the evening.

Thank You

Last February Edition 2 of The Listening Post was the first of the monthly newsletters. On this first anniversary I would like to thank everyone who has submitted ideas, comments, suggestions, articles and photographs. Without you it would have quickly fizzled out. I hope you will continue to support TLP in the same way. And a special thanks from me to Rod who does the layout and has developed our house style.

To continue TLP we need more articles and photographs so please don't hold back. You can speak to me after the 9.30 service, text me on 07778 127670 or email me at thelisteningpost@cuddingtonparish.org.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Linda Charlton (Editor)

Reflection from a newbie to the PCC

When I was asked to consider putting myself up for election to the PCC my first reaction was one of nervous trepidation, but this led on to deep thought. Perhaps because of disability, and because it was many years since I had last attended formal committee meetings, I felt a little apprehensive and I doubted my ability to be of much practical or active use.

However, God calls us in many ways, often unexpectedly, and I am glad he gave me the chance and the strength to answer the call. I had often, perhaps from past experience, thought of committee meetings as dull, staid affairs. I was wrong and am now

honoured to serve in my small way, representing, hopefully to the best of my ability, both the congregation and the community outside the walls of the church building.

I dislike conflict but am more than happy to discuss and express differing views when they arise in a caring, compassionate and honest way. The way I believe God tells us to love one another.

So to anyone considering offering themselves for election to the PCC I say have faith, hope and conviction, knowing that you can and will make a difference and contribution to God's work here and outside in the wider world.

Colin Hooper, PCC member

St Mary's Church Kneelers



In 1967, during the time of the Reverend John Atkins, a group of ladies headed by Barbara Butler thought that the church could be brightened up by having new kneelers. Mrs Jack Wysehall then designed many of the kneelers to mark particular events and people, the last one being Helen Bisset's installation as Reader.

Canvas was purchased and cut to the right size and the right coloured wools bought. Some of the designs were drawn on to the canvas, others were copied from square paper, so you had to count the squares on the canvas which took more time and skill to complete. Every Friday morning the small church hall was opened so that you could collect any wool you needed or to return your completed canvas and collect another to work on.

Another team made up the kneelers completing the whole process. You will see two initials

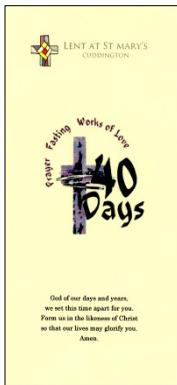
on each kneeler, one showing who designed it and another who did the actual stitching. It was not until 1974 that enough kneelers had been made to fill the church.

After nearly 50 years the foam filling in many had deteriorated, so recently a group of ladies has restored the kneelers with new foam. This has entailed taking apart the kneeler, emptying out the now foam dust, putting in a new foam centre and re-stitching together. This has enabled the church to keep the kneelers in good condition.

The designs were to represent life at St Mary's and in the parish. The lily design was to hang at the ends of the pews so that as you looked down the aisle they were all matching. If you look round the church you will see the many varied and beautiful kneelers we have. Let's look after them so they will last another 50 years.

Yvonne Daoud

Are You Ready for Lent?



Lent begins on 1st March and the Prayer & Spirituality Team (PAST) have lots of activities planned to keep you busy, both practically and spiritually.

Everything that's going on has been brought together in the leaflet (see left) and it contains some recommended reading, too!

Pick up yours today from the back of church.

March Services and Events

Wednesday 1	19.30	Ash Wednesday Sung Communion
Saturday 4	09.00	Men's Breakfast at The Plough Harvester
Sunday 5	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Sunday 12	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Café Church
	18.00	Evensong
Wednesday 15	20.30	PCC in Church
Saturday 18	10.00	Women's Group at Rowe Hall
Sunday 19	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Sunday 26	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Mothering Sunday Parade Service
Wednesday 29	19.30	Men's Carvery at The Hogsmill