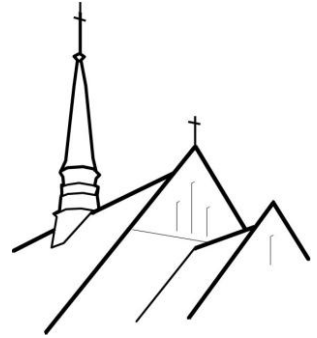


April 2008

The Curate writes...

As April, and spring, finally arrive, we finally have a month that isn't filled with frantic preparations for big church festivals! Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter have rushed past us at breakneck speed this year, or so it seems. April is the first month when we have a little more space and time to reflect.



So, what should we be using this space to reflect upon? The excitement of Advent and Christmas, the austerity of Lent and Holy week, the wonderful mysteries of Easter Day and the resurrection - there is so much spiritual food for thought in these seasons that it can seem hard to know where to start.

Joining a small group, or attending a study course (watch this space for details) might be ways to spiritually engage with our church. There is a wide variety of types of groups, and there is sure to be one that will suit everyone.

There is, of course, also time to think about for some of the practicalities of living together as a church. The Parochial Church Council is about to develop our 'Dream' at St. Catharine's, the things that we would like our church to become as we approach our centenary. Watch for displays of the projects identified as our priorities in becoming a warm, comfortable, hospitable place of worship and gathering. Fundraising will be needed, and help with managing and delivering the projects.

Our Sunday services are also growing, as new people join us to find out what 'being church' in this part of Gloucester is all about. As we grow, we need to manage the practicalities of this growth. We need people to help with children's work, with coffee, with welcoming, with actually putting the services themselves on - the list is long!

This is an exciting time to be in St. Catharine's. The mixture of practical and spiritual needs in our church needs prayer and support from all of us. As we approach this quieter, post-Easter, post-Lent, post-Christmas-and-Epiphany period, this is a perfect time to reflect on where we best fit into St Catharine's!

Every blessing, Andrew