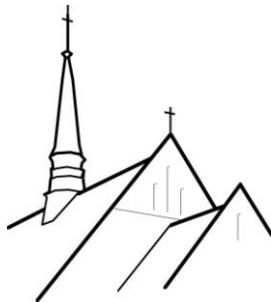


Curate, Andrew Swift writes...

This is the first 'Month in the Life' of St Catharine's for 2010, and so many things have happened over the past two months. We have seen Advent and Christmas, with so many services and social activities - a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Lord! New Year came, celebrated in loud style at the 'Resolution' in the church. Bishop John visited us, then we were visited by three wise men at Epiphany the next week! It has been such a busy, wonderful time.



In parallel, however, we have had to struggle with adverse weather over these past two months. Black ice and snow have made it hard to safely move around the city, people have been hurt and journeys disrupted. Thankfully neighbours and friends have again come to the aid of those affected by the wintry conditions, providing support, food and company.

Life at St Catharine's has also been somewhat disrupted. After the farewells to Graham as vicar in October, and the occasion of his institution and induction in Surrey in November we are now left with a gap! We have been able as a community to celebrate the Christmas season, largely due to the many, many people who carry the burden of ministry in this church. The panel, including our parish representatives, was not, however, able to fill the gap in January when applicants for the post of the new 'Priest-in-Charge' were interviewed. None was right for St Catharine's. The process of finding a new priest for our parish will now continue, but we have been disrupted in our plans and life, just as the snow and ice disrupted so many things. It will all take a bit longer!

We can take heart, as just as time passes and the weather turns and almost starts to feel like spring, so time will pass in the parish, worship will continue, small groups will meet, people will support and help each other in their Christian journey and all the other signs of a healthy church continue. Lent is just around the corner, with chances for discipleship, study and self-examination. Good Friday, when Archdeacon Geoffrey Sidaway will lead us in worship is getting closer. Easter, again with Bishop John presiding among us is not so very far away. The new priest for St Catharine's, whoever he or she may be, and whenever they find themselves moving into our community, will find a church in good health, good spirits and in a very good heart.

Andrew