



## The Vicar writes ...

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) went very smoothly thanks to the organisational skills of Helena Cornish, without whom this parish would be considerably poorer in all sorts of ways.

Once again, some members of our Parochial Church Council (PCC) retired by rotation having served their three year term - our thanks go to Nick Cornish, Paul Irving, Tricia Pocock, and Marion Williams. Alan Speed has offered his services once again, and Diane Carter and Mary Weygang have come onto the PCC freshly-minted! Alan has decided to step down as Lay Vice Chair, and we offer him our grateful thanks for his wisdom and discernment in that role.

The Annual Report and Accounts and the splendid *Year in the Life of St Catharine's* essentially look backwards. This view has shown us that the platform which we built last year - key appointments and our *We Have A Dream* document - has actually constructed the most wonderful launch-pad for our future together. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- ❖ St Catharine's life of worship continues to grow and develop - our music is maturing in a number of different directions under Sarah Todd's careful nurture; the 9.30 service is beginning to explore the riches of Common Worship and we are exploring what constitutes "membership" of St Catharine's in 11.15 mode,
- ❖ The Mothers Union is holding a watching brief on our Nurture Group with people offering their help through the T3 forms,
- ❖ We much look forward to Andrew's Ordination as Priest this Summer, and to Marion Williams' Ordination as Deacon to serve here at St Catharine's,
- ❖ *The Centenary Project* - taking our *We Have A Dream* document forward, the PCC has been working on all the thoughts, ideas, visions, hopes and dreams of what facilities we will need, what we will look like,

and what we will be in eight years time (as we celebrate our Centenary). They have developed a prioritised list of projects and tasks and are busy getting detailed plans into place,

and finally, once again ...

... none of these will be of much value if our own journeys of discipleship are not progressing. At whatever stage we are, there is growth to be enjoyed - in Bible Study, in prayer and worship, in understanding what our Lord has done for us, why, and what difference that makes to our own lives. We intend to run another Alpha course in the Autumn to address some of the questions people ask about the Christian faith. It is a great forum for asking the questions you always wanted to ask but thought you shouldn't ... and the food and fellowship are tremendous.

I continue to be convinced that our growth as disciples is best nurtured in small groups - places where we can feel safe, free to ask questions, free to be who we really are. We hope to spin out one or more new small groups from the recent Advent and Lent courses, and out of the Alpha course.

Finally, I have recently qualified as a practitioner in the Myers Briggs Type Indicator® (MBTI®), a personality type indicator based on the work of the Swiss psychologist Carl Gustav Jung. I use the MBTI® in my work as a Spiritual Director, and run workshops in developing prayer life with the help of the MBTI®, so I hope to put all this at the disposal of the parish - come on in, the water's lovely!

May I wish you a joyful and blessed Pentecost.

*Graham Coburn*