

Peter's THANKYOUs – August 2009

One of the great things about the Church is that it comprises many people with different gifts who work together for the good of the whole. St. Paul likened the Church to the human body whose limbs and organs all play their part in enabling the body to function as it should. No part of the body is surplus to requirements even those that are small and out of view and here I should like to express my thanks to those people in our church family whose contribution is important but who rarely get mentioned.

- ❖ The grounds and flowerbeds around St. Mary's are lovingly tended and planted by our dear friend, Harry Lewis.
- ❖ The brasses are cleaned and polished regularly by Wendy Carter.
- ❖ Margaret Childs washes and irons our altar linen as well as keeping our sister chapel at Kerswell Green in tip top order.
- ❖ Mack makes sure that the grass is kept cut at Kerswell Green.
- ❖ Ann Blackwell uses her organisational and culinary skills to make sure that food is provided on many occasions including our Alpha Courses.
- ❖ Nigel Taylor, who set up our very successful and well-used web site, keeps our site bang up to date with the latest information.
- ❖ Duncan and Bev Smith edit our highly appreciated Magazine with its growing circulation and a small army of distributors make sure it gets delivered.
- ❖ Jean makes sure that our church is always spotless and looking good as, of course, do Fiona, Glenys and their team of very creative flower arrangers.
- ❖ Then, there are our refreshment providers after Sunday morning worship and on other occasions such as "Little Angels" on Friday mornings.
- ❖ Edna Cope who week in week out produces our Newsletter, which is so helpful in letting us know what's going on.
- ❖ Ann Windsor who frequently opens up the church, assists with funerals and who is always there for 8:00am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion.
- ❖ Gill Warfield and others who ensure that our Notice Boards are up to date, informative and attractive.
- ❖ And who could forget our bell ringers who regularly ring out God's praises.

All these people and many many more who all contribute to the continuing and vibrant life of our church and its witness within our community. **I JUST WANT TO SAY THANKYOU TO ALL OF YOU AND ASSURE YOU OF OUR APPRECIATION.**

There are, of course, many others who in a whole variety of ways give of themselves to this church and I say thankyou to you all. The Church could not function and witness in the way that it does without you.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking several people who have given a tremendous amount to St. Mary's in recent years but who now feel that God is calling them to something new in terms of worship and witness. I would like to thank Chris and Carol Cooke, Dave and Ann Norton, Paul and Chris Hunting, John and Beverley Abbs and Les and Liz Turner for all the love, energy and vision that they have brought to our church community. They have inspired and been involved in many aspects of church life including our Music Group, Youth Group, Alpha Courses and Prayer and Bible Study Groups as well as a great deal of supportive prayer and counsel to a number of individuals. Most of them have also served on the PCC.

I personally have been greatly supported and encouraged by them especially their zeal and energy in trying to reach the people of this village with the saving Truth and Love of Jesus. Together we have

sought God and the Lord has achieved much through their witness among us. I and we shall greatly miss them and not just as fellow Christians but as friends. The Lord's timing, however, is perfect and it is now time both for them and us to move on and discover the new thing that God is wanting to do in our lives building on the lessons we have learned and seeking new ways of sharing God's Love and Truth with others. It is certainly the end of a chapter in our Church life but certainly not the end of the book for with God there can be no stopping until His kingdom come.

We thus pray for Carol, Chris, Dave, Ann, Paul, Chris, John, Bev, Les and Liz every blessing for the future in thankfulness for all they have shared and given and in the certain knowledge that He who began a good work in us will see it through to completion.

Les, of course, headed up our Music Group at St. Mary's and, therefore, for the foreseeable future our Music Group will no longer be helping to lead our worship. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my deep thanks to the Music Group that has been an integral part of our worshipping life since I arrived here 10 years ago. They have brought something very special to St. Mary's and I deeply appreciate their commitment, constancy and willingness to share their musical gifts and abilities. It has really inspired me and has helped me tremendously to lead worship with freedom and joy. I and we shall greatly miss the contribution that our Music Group has made.

And so to Charlotte, Briony, Lucy, Beth, Lorna and all others who have served in the Music Group over the years I say THANKYOU in the sure knowledge that we couldn't have achieved what we have without your contribution.

We don't, of course, know what will happen in the future and it may well be that eventually a new Music Group will be formed. I hope and pray so for I remain convinced that there is a need for such a witness within our church.

THANKYOU ALL AND GOD BLESS YOU.

Peter

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