

Chairman's Report: 2019 APCM 14/4/19

It's almost 6 months to the day since I was licensed as Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church, Little Drayton. I first saw this advert, or one similar except for the date, in January 2018, and was drawn to this, and to the Parish Profile, but it was too soon for me, prior to the completion of my curacy.

Yet we, and I deliberately include Mr. Morris in this, prayed and thought, and visited! One Friday, incognito, where we were warmly welcomed by Jean as she cleaned the church one Friday morning.

Six months later, and here we all are! It's been busy- Harvest, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent, alongside the normal parish ministry work, and loads of funerals.

I'd like to say, right from the outset, that you are a strong, healthy church. This is demonstrated in the way you flourished in the vacancy, and how hard you work and work *together* still. So: thank you to you all for pulling together and ensuring that everything continued, with passion and energy, for those who worked hard to prepare the vicarage and coachhouse for our arrival, and for the wonderful, warm welcome we received.

I keep this advert on our computer desk, and check every now and again that I'm measuring up.

I'd also like to publicly thank all the teams who maintain and develop our mission, by always being there, being well-prepared, and being hospitable. Messy Church, Job Club, work in the churchyard, preparing for our worship Services, the choir and organists, the Film Club, Art Group, Social and Fundraising Committee, the Property team, and, of course, the admin folk- be it gift-aid, finance, publishing, magazine, and so on. And a big thank you, of course, to Emma- who cheerfully prods and reminds me, and who organises wedding and baptism bookings, meetings, the pewsheets and monthly notice sheets, etc, etc, etc, and who knows so much about technical and practical matters. What a treasure!

Our motto of being a 'traditional, welcoming and caring' church is a good one, but it is also tied up closely with a desire not to sit still, but to always be listening to God speaking in and through us, as we aim to strengthen our caring within, and also look at

mission outside our church. I'm sure that together, we will come before the Lord and wait for his direction, and then work to achieve this. And, as we settle in, and become embedded in the parish, I'm becoming more aware of being 'our vicar'- such a privilege. Looking forward, I can't keep up with suggestions and ideas- which is wonderful! But be patient with me- I am technically only working part-time (0.6). But we will look again at the Mission Action Plan, we will be clear on our role and vision, and we will look forward to God using and blessing us, and through us, to those whom we serve.

Jane Morris (Rev'd), 11/4/19