

Hello Friends

Welcome to our first Church News 'post vicar', or metavicar (if you prefer the Greek!).

The new, approved phrase for not having a vicar is that we are 'in vacancy'. Apparently the previous term, 'interregnum' had intimations of a vicar's 'reign', not something we want to encourage!

Generally, things will be different from here on in, but still ... thoughtful, inspiring, challenging, fun!

As for Church News, there won't be a newsletter attached, but the readings and collect for this Sunday will be there, as will any 'posters' or fliers about events etc.

We will mention in the email about what's happening this week and trail any news for the future.

We had two very special services last Sunday. We had our normal service in St. Andrew's at 9.30 which was the last time that Eileen led our Service of Holy Communion.

It was a very simple and moving celebration of our life together and of worship to God.

We gave thanks for Eileen's service to us and to her husband Brian for all his support too.

We also gave her a gift which you can see in the photo. Thanks to all those who contributed.

Both Eileen and Brian were very moved by the gift of a block of crystal glass with an etching of the church on it.

Sunday afternoon at 4.00 in Gainford was a service of celebration with all four parishes that Eileen has been looking after, Winston, Gainford, Staindrop and Ingleton.

This was a very different affair, a much louder, joyful occasion with lots of people and organisations participating and which went on for nearly two hours!

It was a worthy and celebratory send off for Eileen and Brian as they move into their next phase of life together.

As for other news, we have a last minute notice, Barnard Castle School Choral Society and the B.C. Youth Choir have a joint English Choral Music Concert this Saturday 6th June at 6.30 in St. Mary's Church in Barney.

And now advance notice of an Organ Recital in our own church in Winston.

Annie Dolphin's grandson, Matthew Gibson, who is Assistant Director of Music at King's College, Wimbledon, is coming to play for us again on Friday 17th July at 7.00pm

The last time he came it was a beautiful experience. Please plan to come along and please bring friends too, tickets are £10 including a drink. It's in support of church funds.

Please see the poster attached.

Please also put in your diaries that Tea and Chat are going out for lunch on Monday the 15th June at 12

noon, more details next week.

This weekend, the Rev. Ian Gomersall will be with us again on Sunday to lead our Service of Holy Communion and the readings are attached.

Hope to see you there.