

The Annual Meeting of a parish is a great opportunity to reflect on the preceding 12 months of activity, mission, and outreach. Thanks to those who were able to attend – it was a great meeting. As I mentioned in the summary of my report that I presented, I feel as though we are “punching above our weight” in some respects, with all that we achieve in this place. I know that Parish Council are conscious of this, as we make decisions about additional ministries that we might engage in. Remember, for resurrection to occur there must be death, so if things we have done for a long time come to an end to make way for new things, this is not necessarily a bad thing, or something to be feared. Pray that we might have wisdom and discernment to let go, that we might be able to take something else up...

As I usually try to do, I attended the service of Ordination of Priests last Saturday, at the Cathedral. These are lovely occasions, of course for the candidates themselves (and their families and friends), but I find them also to be powerful reminders to me of my ordained ministry and the promises I made myself eight years ago. Many of you will remember Rev. Wendy Wade, who was the honorary Parish Deacon here some years ago. I was pleasantly surprised, as I saw the Order of Service, to find that Wendy was one of the Deacons who was to be made Priest at the service. She has been ministering at St. Hilary's, Kew, for about four years now, and will continue her priestly ministry in that place.

For those who may not yet have heard, I was delighted that we have been able to successfully fill the position of Playgroup Assistant. We interviewed four strong candidates, and Farrah Dunn was chosen from among them, as we believed she fulfilled all the requirements of the position description. You may recall that we received a significant grant late last year from the Collier Foundation. The purpose of this grant was to further the Christian mission of our Playgroup. Farrah's position will enable us to meet that objective, as she works alongside Rachel in reaching out in love and fellowship to Playgroup and Messy Church families. Please make yourselves known to Farrah, and join with me in praying for her as she begins this important ministry with us.

Many of you will by now have met Fr. Matthew Dowsey, a recently retired Priest who I am delighted to welcome to our community, and is worshipping with us, primarily at the 8am service on Sundays. He will be Presiding at the Eucharist this coming Wednesday as he celebrates the anniversary of his Ordination. I offer my congratulations and prayers for this important occasion.

May Nicholas of Myra, Ambrose of Milan, Richard Baxter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the Saints walk with you this week...

*Sam*