

It is always good to get away and take a break. But it is also nice to come home! Thanks to everyone who supported the parish while I was on leave, and particularly to Rev. Graham Bride. We are very lucky to have someone like Graham who is happy to keep contributing to the parish in so many ways, as he does. I extend a special welcome this morning to any who have come especially for the service of Blessing of the Pets. Please feel very welcome to enter into all aspects of the service as you feel able – you are very welcome.

The beginning of October really marks the start of a busy time for us in the church. For this parish, it means we are gearing up for Spring Into Gardening, next Sunday. It is wonderful that we can have a presence at that event, because it acknowledges the parish as one of the important parts of the community of Stonnington, as well as being a great source of fund-raising. Thanks to all who have been involved in planning, as well as all who will work hard in the coming week to ensure the success of the stall on the day.

October is traditionally Synod month, so I and the 2 parish Synod representatives (Ann Baker and Meredith Rogers) will be ploughing through our copious material in preparation for that event later in the month.

We then turn our attention to the special event of November – St. Martin's Day. This year I am very pleased to announce that our presider and preacher for the day will be Bishop Genieve Blackwell, Assistant Bishop of Melbourne. Bishop Genieve is the Bishop of the Marningatha area of Episcopal care, to which we belong, and it will be her first experience of being with us at Hawksburn. I remind you that there will be a single service at 10am on that day (Sunday 9th), followed by a shared lunch.

Later in November is the scheduled time for our Annual Parish Meeting. As well as receiving the important reports of the activities of the parish, and reviewing our financial situation (I expect that the Treasurer will report a small surplus for this financial year, and I hope that Parish Council will present a balanced budget for 2016/17), I propose to bring a discussion item to the meeting regarding our mission giving, specifically the areas and agencies to which we direct it.

Other than that, there is the important job of electing people as Wardens and Parish Council members. Please consider whether this is one way in which you could help serve God in this place, as a representative on Parish Council.

May Francis of Assisi, William Tyndale, and all the Saints walk with you this week...

Sam