

Upper Itchen Benefice

Parishes of Beauworth, Bramdean, Cheriton, Hinton Ampner, Kilmeston, and Tichborne

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Rectors Report February 2018

In the period from Oct 2017, there have been two weddings, 2 Baptisms 4 funerals and 2 memorial services. We also have had 5 people Confirmed by the Bishop of Basingstoke Rt. Revd. David Williams in the Benefice at St Michael's in November. He returns in May 2018 to Confirm four more candidates.

+David and his wife Helen also visited the benefice in January, coming to All Saints Hinton Ampner. It was a wonderful service, and +David also brought along a visiting Bishop from the DRC. The church was full, and +David was his usual exuberant, entertaining self.

Christmas was a particularly wonderful period of celebration and Christian witness. Congregations were vibrant and each of the churches was well supported by their local community. I wish to thank everybody who gave so much time organising and delivering services and supporting the mission here.

Jan had a bad fall just before Christmas ending up in Southampton Hospital. She then required a period of convalescence and it has taken a little time for her to heal. We welcome her back into the team this month (Feb). Our Curate Caroline continues to assist me in taking services and visiting across the benefice – her curacy finishes in July this year. Bruce our LLM offers a brilliant ministry at Hinton Ampner/Kilmeston/Bramdean and I am very grateful to him for his support and assistance. We have two new Bishop Commissions in the team. Gillian Gray Knight (Cheriton) and Sarah Gill (Kilmeston) who each will hold a license to lead worship from the Bishop of Winchester +Tim. Congratulations to them.

I continue to write for the Christian Comment in the Hampshire Chronicle.

I am on the board of Governors at Cheriton School. I take assembly there once a fortnight. I am a member also of the Diocesan Board of Education and the Executive Resource Group of the DBE.

I continue to be on Diocesan Synod, and I have just completed my 2nd year as Area Dean. I have had my license extended for a further 3-year period in that role by the Bishop of Basingstoke.

The Deanery is going through a complex and difficult planning stage at the moment. And I want to express my sincere thanks to the deanery reps, the DMPC members and the deanery Lay Chair. Also, it would seem appropriate to thank Gillian as benefice secretary - she has proved a skilled listener and colleague, helping me to deal with many complex and often difficult situations.

I am a visiting Chaplain at Winchester Cathedral. I take a lunch time communion service there once a month.

We have installed a Projector and Screen in to St Michael's, and the sale of the Village Hall progresses. We have an ongoing structural project at Bramdean, and a lighting project at Hinton Ampner, as well as an archaeological project at St Andrew's Kilmeston.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Café on the Green. I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who is a Church officer - Church Wardens, Treasurers, secretaries and PCC members – Thank you. Also, everyone involved in all the other wonderful activities and gathering that so many people enjoy - 1st Monday club (which my Mother very much enjoys), Christmas bazaars, fundraisers, talk organisers, flower arrangers, brass cleaners, and the parish visitors – thank you to everyone for all your dedication, hard work and generosity.

Graham

Rector