

## **Letter from the Vicar - March 2009**

### **Changes Changes**

The only thing that seems to stay the same these days is change! Everything changes! Even in these past few years so much has changed, from the Internet and Digital TV to Computer games, cars, shopping, even pubs! And change is often threatening, or disturbing, or challenging, so we seem to live in very challenging times.

And there's a concern about change in our Churches too, a certain expectation that (for better or worse) a new Vicar means changes, and that as we learn to work together as these five parishes that make up the 'Five Alive Mission Community' this will lead to certain developments, different services and different events.

Well, some of that is true – the reality is that some things need to change. But I am not someone who believes in change for the sake of change – in fact I take to heart St Paul's words from the letter to the Romans 12v9 ...“hold fast to that which is good”.

As we seek together to be a Christian Community that reaches out to those beyond our walls, as we seek to care for those both within and outside of our congregations, as we seek to worship God and to make our worship welcoming and appropriate, we may well find that some things need to change. But we may also want to state that what we are already doing is good, and to build on what we do well, and to keep the rich tapestry of worship and prayer, of pastoral care and outreach which we already have.

I would encourage you to talk with your PCC members and Churchwardens, with the Clergy and Readers and with each other about what we do well in our Churches, and to ask what we need to consider again. Things will change, but in all of this we have a faith and a God which remains unchanging, steadfast, faithful and true. So though, as Bob Dylan once sang, “the times they are a-changin’” we hold fast to the deeper truth of a God whose love for us is always the same and in whom we find our greatest security!