

Letter from the Vicar - March 2010
View from the Vicarage

March madness!

The coming month sees a lot happening — as we continue with our Lenten observance; including our Thursday Evening Bible Studies with Compline, other village Bible Studies and services and lent lunches. We then move via Mothering Sunday (March 14th) to Palm Sunday (March 28th) and into Holy Week, with special services all through that week and into April when we celebrate Easter Day on April 4th.

With all the activity going on, and that always seems to go on, in our villages it is easy to lose sight of the reason for Lent — it is meant to be a time of self examination, prayer and reflection in preparation for the Churches greatest feast of Easter. I have said before and make no apologies for saying again that in this busy world in which we live time for silence and space for the spirit is important and we should make time to allow God to speak to us in our schedules.

In any relationship we get to know a person by making time to be with them. We (hopefully) learn to listen as much as we speak. If we really care about someone then we will go out of our way to be with them, and make them a priority in planning our day. Our spiritual life should be the same — if we take our relationship with God in Jesus seriously then we should make a little bit of time each day to be with God, sometimes in silence, sometimes using set prayers, sometimes reading (our Bibles and Christian books), sometimes perhaps even singing! There is no set formula for any relationship, but we know that taking time and making another person a priority in our lives improves the quality of our relationships and benefits both ourselves and the other person. If we fill our time with our own cares and concerns, if we busy ourselves with activity then we don't have time to get to know other people, it is the same with God.

Lent is a good time to consider our relationship with the God who loves us and loves being with us. It shouldn't end there, of course, but might be a good time to start again in allowing God to speak to us, and reminding ourselves of the importance of allowing God to be a part of our lives. Have a blessed Lent, and I look forward to sharing Easter with you all again!

Alastair