

## From the Churchwardens

We are only in the second month of the year but we certainly seem to have “hit the ground running”.

The PCC had a very productive meeting with Bishop Christopher in January and, as you will find details of that meeting on the PCC page, we will only say that we are very excited by what the immediate future holds. Please pray that the “right person” will come forward to be the next Priest in this Parish.

Regarding our proposed redevelopment of St. James', the New Year saw the architect beginning the tender process by issuing the document to three contractors. Those tenders were to be returned by the 27<sup>th</sup> January and we very much hope that the PCC at the February meeting will make decisions as to the way forward.

Ash Wednesday falls on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month. We are holding two Services with the Imposition of Ashes. There will be a Eucharist at 10.00 am and a Sung Eucharist at 7.30 pm. This hopefully will enable all to attend. If you have any of last year's palms would you please leave them at the back of church by Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> February.

We have considered what extra services / courses can be offered for the period of Lent. We will be holding the service of Stations of the Cross each Sunday night at 6.30 pm throughout Lent in the hope that many will use this as their form of Lenten Devotion.

Regarding courses, as we are in Interregnum, we feel unable to arrange anything during Lent. However, we understand that Churches Together will be starting a course towards the end of this month. Full details will be available in church.

Thank you to all visiting Clergy and members of the congregation who continue to encourage us during this busy and difficult time. We will continue to serve God in this place to the best of our ability. But beware, we may (and sometimes do) make mistakes!

As we look towards the season of Lent with the promise of Easter joy on the horizon we pray:-

*God our Father,  
in your love and goodness you have taught us  
to overcome our sins with prayer, fasting and generosity,  
accept our Lenten disciplines,  
and when we fall by our weakness,  
raise us up by your unfailing mercy,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.*

*Carole and David*