

## **A Reflection from a St Mary's Churchwarden (Charles Wilson)**

We've had some amazing weather in June and July and BBQs have been fired up constantly in recent weeks. Many of you will remember the wonderful BBQ day we had in August last year to say "farewell" to Desmond and Pennie as they left our Parish. I'm not sure that retirement for Desmond lasted more than a few hours as they have both kept very busy since, working hard in their local parish in East Sussex and on various other projects too; Pennie is kindly organising a Balcombe village trip to Windsor on 29<sup>th</sup> September, sold out already, a tribute to her success in these events!

I'm pleased to say that Archdeacon Fiona Windsor has now read and approved the PCC's Parish Profile document which describes our church life so that prospective priests can consider applying to take the vacancy in Balcombe parish. As a six-month letting of the Rectory (from May to November 2018) was always envisaged by the Diocese, the wheels of recruitment will only start churning in earnest in September. The Profile now goes to the Bishop, who is responsible for all appointments and he and the Archdeacon will appoint an interview panel and arrange for advertisement of the position. Hooray! From then, we may have interviews in October, but with such a shortage of priests generally, we will have to be very fortunate to secure an appointment by Christmas. But let's pray for that!

Talking of prayer, I know many people pray but don't necessarily visit a church. We have had so many outstanding talks from our visiting priests over the last year so I was delighted to find on my return from Istanbul that John Twisleton's sermon on Prayer at St Mary's on 24<sup>th</sup> June is available to read on the internet, see <http://johntwisleton.blogspot.com>. Many found it inspiring and instructive.

Perhaps some of you are praying for our new Rector/priest-in-charge? Well, just so you know, our PCC have made a resolution to say that a female applicant will certainly be considered for the post. This has never yet happened in Balcombe's history. It may surprise you that this resolution is legally necessary, but apparently it is. So, who will the LORD guide here, I wonder?

Our family services continue on the first Sunday of each month: our topic on 5<sup>th</sup> August is "A Marvellous Picnic" and on 2<sup>nd</sup> September is "Jonah the Groaner". Until yesterday, I had no idea what a picnic *could* be like... in Dorset, Julia's sister hired a secluded lakeside pavilion for us to enjoy all day, with wonderful sculptures, wildlife, fish and birds to view, plus comfy sofas and huge sun umbrella. Fantastic! A considerable upgrade on the picnics that Julia and I had on holiday, standing beside a motorbike in the baking sun.

And, by the way, it's been great to hear from many of you who are latent bikers or pillion-riders, thanks!