

CHURCH NEWS LETTER

I don't know about you, but 2015 is simply flying by. Where have the first five months of the year gone? It seems like only yesterday that we had our Carol Service on Christmas Eve, yet such a lot has happened since. The village community store is now up and running, there have been plant sales, local elections, the General Election and many other events, both in the village and in our personal lives.

It has been the same in the Christian calendar. Looking at 2015 so far, we can see how busy it has been.

We have had the rest of the Christmas season including Epiphany, then Candlemas; Ash Wednesday marking the start of Lent, Palm Sunday beginning Holy Week leading up to the death and subsequent resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ; then comes the Ascension of Christ, Pentecost and Trinity. And all this before the end of May!

The Church's year then calms down a bit and enters the season of 'Ordinary Time' which takes it through to around Harvest, give or take the odd festival. This gives us time and space to prepare ourselves for the Church's New Year beginning on Advent Sunday. However, for the Quantocks Villages Benefice the next few months will be anything but 'Ordinary'.

In case you are not aware, the expression 'Benefice' is used when several parishes are joined together under the care of one incumbent who may be known as Vicar, Rector, Parish Priest or other title, hopefully not too unflattering!

As you know, Rev Craig moved to pastures new last October and Rev Martin has been holding the fort since then. Therefore, our Benefice, consisting of the parishes of Spaxton, Enmore, Goathurst, Aisholt, Nether Stowey and Over Stowey are delighted to announce that a new Rector has been appointed and will take up her post in September.

Our new Rector will be Reverend Chloe Kingdon, who will be joining us from her previous role as Assistant Curate of the Winsmoor Benefice. Chloe was born and bred in Somerset and is only too aware of the immense benefits and challenges of rural life in this millennium. Rev Chloe and her family will be living in the Rectory in Nether Stowey, as did Rev Craig, but of course will be a presence in all six villages from time to time.

So the next few months; ordinary – no; exciting – YES!

Please remember Chloe and her family in your prayers as they embark on this new chapter of their lives and as we look forward to welcoming them into our community.

Miriam.

