

A few words from the Vicar

“You shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.” Leviticus 25:10

A date for your diaries; next year – 29th June to 1st July to be precise – we will be holding another flower festival.



I must admit I was rather pleased when a couple of ladies from Church approached me to suggest that it might be time to hold another flower festival. This had been on my hit list of things to do anyway and, as the Church Council has given the green light to the venture, planning is already underway.

The flower festival is scheduled to take place just four weeks after the weekend set aside to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, so the theme rather suggested itself; ‘Jubilee – something to celebrate!’

For me the theme suggests two things.

The first is obvious really. There is the explicit link with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and some of the displays will doubtless pick up upon this theme. Her Majesty is, under God, ‘Defender of the Faith’ and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. To my mind, therefore, there would be something seriously wrong if, as a parish, we failed to mark the 60th anniversary of the beginning of Her Majesty’s reign.

The second strand to our theme is maybe a little less obvious. In ancient Israel (according to Leviticus 25) every fiftieth year was a Jubilee year in which slaves and captives were to be freed and property (apart from some exceptions) that had been sold to pay off debts was to be returned to its original owners. Furthermore, the land was to lie fallow so, in other words, the Jubilee was a yearlong public holiday.

It is impossible to say whether all this really happened in Jubilee years but, nonetheless, we have a picture of a time of celebration, enjoyment, justice, restitution and release from bondage. So, it is hoped that some of our flower festival displays will pick up upon some of these themes and, specifically, the many things we celebrate in life.

As usual our various Church organisations have volunteered to take responsibility for individual displays. Indeed there has been a veritable stampede! However, if you’re not one of the usual suspects and fancy assembling a small team to have a go at putting together a display, then we may still be able to squeeze you in. Speak to Lillian Haworth (0161 761 6187) or Jean Eddleston (0161 761 2147) if you are interested.

Jubilee or not, flower festival or not, Jesus tells us that if we follow him then we are freed from slavery to sin and are truly free (John 8:31-36). Now I think that really is something to celebrate!

Dave