



## **From the New Churchwarden**

When in March someone asked me whether I would be willing to stand as Churchwarden I knew immediately that I would be crazy to do it. So I followed the example of that great biblical leader, Moses, when asked to take on a challenging leadership role, and said no. I'm not the right person. I already have a busy life, with a demanding full-time job, singing in the Choir and being Stewardship Officer. Surely there must be somebody else who could do it better?

Then we passed through Holy Week and Easter and as I listened to the Gospel narratives of Peter's denial, fleeing disciples and doubting Thomas, I was reminded again that the Christian Church arose from very unpromising leaders: unlikely people doing crazy things. But just as I was beginning to reconsider, I arrived to sing Choral Evensong to find a flooded choir vestry, one Churchwarden (and David Dean) on the roof making emergency repairs and the other on his phone contacting the church insurers and architect, following a theft of lead. Yes, I would definitely be crazy to do this job.

And yet we coped. The Choir dodged the drips, moved the piano and robes out of harm's way and sang God's praises as planned. Over the next two weeks I discussed the Churchwarden's role with Jo and Colin and agreed to stand. The day after my election, builders arrived and made a watertight temporary repair to the vestry roof.

The role of Churchwarden is an ancient and important one. We are responsible for the Church fabric and finances, and for ensuring that religious services are conducted in an orderly manner (hence the Big Stick).

I write this just after attending the Archdeacon's Visitation where I was

formally admitted into the role, during that rather bereft ten days between Ascension and Pentecost when Jesus has gone but the Holy Spirit has not yet come. Rather like those bewildered early disciples, I am still not sure what I have let myself in for and know that we face many challenges as a Church: how to make ourselves financially sustainable; how to do everything we want to do with, it seems, a diminishing number of people who are willing and able to help; how to proclaim the Gospel in a meaningful way in 21<sup>st</sup> century Hertford and make new disciples.

I don't have the answers but with Jo, Colin and the PCC, will be seeking them over the coming months. I look for your support and prayers.

Love, Julia