

# Are you in The Loop?

‘The Loop’, St James’s parish magazine, will help keep you informed about church and village matters. Each issue of 16-20 pages carries reports of events past and news of events to come from our schools, church and village organisations plus regular reports from the Parish Council. There’s a comprehensive ‘What’s On’ diary and lots of useful contacts.

To subscribe for the eight remaining issues of 2017 simply pop £8 in an envelope with your name and address and deliver it to Richard Harris, 6 Nodders Way or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive. Cheques should be made payable to Biddenham PCC.

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**A Joyful Day**  
Eric Lornax was licensed as vicar of the benefices of Kempston (All Saints) and Biddenham (St. James) Church on Tuesday evening, 31st January, at All Saints Church, Kempston, by the Bishop of St. Albans, The Right Reverend Dr Alan Smith, and the Archdeacon of Bedford, the Ven. Canon Paul Hughes.

The service started with a procession of a somewhat wet group of clergy and readers who had walked in the rain from the church hall. Many of these clergy had done a wonderful job by taking the services in both churches during the vacancy.

Eric was presented to the Bishop, and promised his allegiance to the Queen and to the Diocesan Bishop, after a reading from the Bible, from Luke Chapter 2 v.22-40, the Bishop preached on this passage, stressing the importance of now Christians should care for the very old, the very poor, and the very young.

There were many symbolic elements during the service. Once the Archdeacon had installed Eric as the incumbent of the two churches, the Bishop faced the congregation and said "I present to you your new vicar" and he was then formally welcomed by us all. He was then warmly welcomed by several people from the community and church including the Head Teacher of St. James' School and two of the pupils. At this point we were invited to greet each other in the exchange of the Peace.

Because ministry and mission is the privilege of all those who are baptised, this was demonstrated during the service in three ways. Water, representing Christian baptism, was poured into the font at the start of our Christian journey was presented to Eric in a flagon, and then after asking him, during his ministry, to bring new people to faith and baptism, poured into the font.

The Bible, in which God's word is uniquely revealed in Jesus, and is the word of God, was brought to Eric, and then after asking him to teach from God's word, was placed on the lectern.

Bread and wine, recalling Holy Communion in which Jesus, the Bread of Life comes to us, were presented to Eric, he was asked to lead his people in Holy Communion and these were then placed on the altar.

In these three actions it was stressed that it was our responsibility as well as Eric's, to make new disciples, to commit ourselves to going deeper into God through study of the Bible and to transform our communities by the presence of Christ in us. Prayers followed led by Eric and various lay people from the two communities, and the Bishop gave the blessing. It was a very joyful and uplifting service.

The evening concluded with excellent refreshments which were enjoyed by all in the Church Hall.

As one of Eric's interests is photography, the thought did cross my mind that I might have asked him to take some photos during the service, but somehow an ecclesiastical selfie might not have been appropriate.

Peta Martin

**come to our**

is due to be installed as vicar of St James's, Biddenham and the Archdeacon of Bedford is moving into the newly completed house. His contact details are on page 12.

**Biddenham's new sports facility**  
You may have noticed a significant building going up off the roundabout at the northern end of the new bypass and wondered what it is? Investigations reveal that a new sports centre is well on its way with splendid playing fields. You can read more about it in the Parish Council report on page 12.

**Picking!**  
for 2017  
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**They do listen sometimes.....**  
The naming of the site and the street names at the Bedford end of the new development are thanks to Peter Applewhite and Jon Gambold who worked together to persuade the builders to commemorate the King's Review of Troops at King's Field in October 1914. You can read more about how the regiments are commemorated in the street names on page 5.

**The Parish Church of St James as a service to Biddenham and Great Denham**  
The editors welcome contributions from residents and friends via email to loopeditor@gmail.com

‘The Loop’ is published by St James’s Church and any surplus funds go the church.