

*Combined Parishes of Goetre,
Llanover, Mamhilad and
Monkswood with Glascoed
Rectors Letter Harvest 2015*

Dear Friends

It was lovely to see so many friends and family of those being confirmed at St Peters. Jayne and I have spent an enjoyable few weeks with them, opening up doors, and explaining how we as a church is a church for everyone.

We anticipate our newest members not being so rigidly attached to one church within the group, but rather attending services convenient to them wherever that may be.

It was a joy and a pleasure to see Bishop Richard again, we can all attest that he hasn't lost his wicked sense of humour, but as

someone said he has just the right amount of informality in what was a moving service.

For those of you who weren't there Bishop Richard gave thanks for Edith South's ministry, and he dedicated the priests board in her memory, it was lovely to see Dianne and Richard supporting Harry.

It is thanks to Harry's skilful hands we now have an aumbrey for the group. This is a secure place to store the holy sacrament, and it will enable our Lay Ministers to take out the holy sacrament to those not able to share with us in church. As I have said many times as we move to a ministry area Lay Ministers will become increasingly important in building up and sharing God's kingdom on earth.

While I am talking about Lay Ministries you may have noticed that there is a celebration of Lay Ministries in the Cathedral on Sunday

4th October at 3-00 pm. I will be licensed as Chaplain to Lay Ministries in the Diocese at that service, and everyone is welcome to come along and share this celebration with us, and give thanks for what Lay Ministers do in our Diocese.

I am grateful to those who sent messages when I was in hospital recently, thankfully I wasn't in too long, and things carried on as normal – I was hardly missed !!

My experience in hospital brought home to me how people from so many different backgrounds and experiences get on so well together in this environment and support each other through the frustrations which we all experienced at different times.

I am still working through the PCCs planned for September, and once these are completed

I will hold another shadow ministry council meeting to take this forward.

In the spirit of fellowship I think it would be good to hold a 'Rectors / Vicars Christmas Party'. I have provisionally booked the date of 4th December, so watch the pews news and keep the date in your diary please.

At this Harvest season please give thanks for all the good things that God has given us, but also please remember those who are not so lucky, and pray for those escaping war and violence as well as those in our community who suffer.

With every blessing

John