

Rev Martyn Neads Induction Day

Well, what a wonderful day it turned out to be. It was lovely to see the Church full, hear the singing, and see the grounds being used to their full advantage. Several of our local Church Leaders came, along with the Interfaith leader, at least 10 Reverends and even a Right Reverend Bishop!

A perfect day to welcome Martyn, Lyn and Alex into the Pastorate.

During the build up and planning stage Joyce and I decamped to a local coffee shop to work, enjoying the sunshine and coffee. Maybe we should have realised that to some members of our congregation, doing their shopping, we just looked like we were enjoying ourselves too much!! Little did we realise how much sunshine we were going to get.

The Marquee went up, helped in part by Ice lollies, chairs were collected and tables put out. It got hotter. Crockery was counted, cake stands borrowed, teapots were delivered, and still it got hotter! Joyce and I tried to get the correct seating plan for the Church, but were by this time becoming increasingly giggly, especially when we discovered a typo that I had made. I'm sure Philip has forgiven me for spelling his surname with a P instead of an R.

The day dawned and it was going to be the hottest day of the year. Cue minor panic regarding keeping people cool.

Major panic about keeping food cold. Still Joyce and I went to collect the food, with the air conditioning on in her estate car. There was a lot of food.....450 sandwiches, 150 mini Victoria cream sponges, 150 buttercream cup cakes ect.....and Joyce didn't know how to get the seats flat!! Well all I can say is Joyce and I would have made a great team on the Krypton Factor (for those of us old enough to remember that TV show) or play a mean game of Tetris (for those younger)! And then the drive back to the church....."Speed up the cakes are going to melt" or "slow down the cakes are going to fall over" .

Having made it back to the church, the only sensible solution was to get as much in the fridges and pack the rest in ice. Lots and lots of ice.

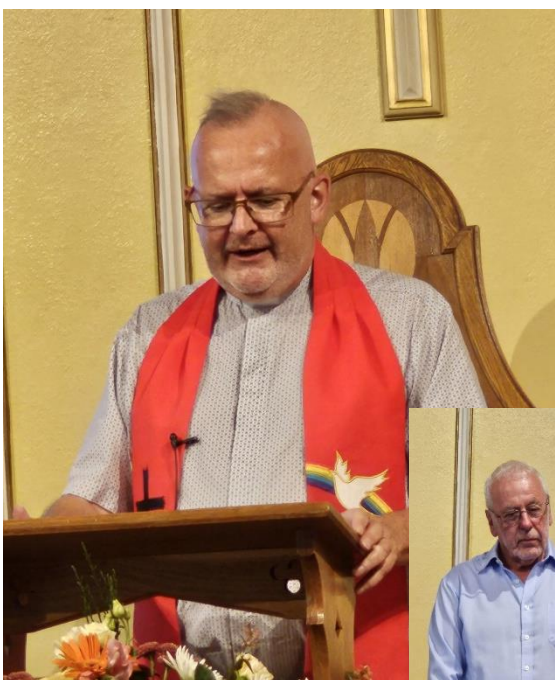
We waited till the last minute to get everything out and onto stands and plates. There were only two minor mishaps, a box of cakes got dropped but luckily, they were reassembled and nobody was any the wiser! And I managed to tip the contents of a box of melted ice down the front of me. Shockingly refreshing was

how best to describe it, but I dried out in about 10mins! Luckily the ice had done it's job and there have been no reports of food poisoning!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped, before, during and after the event. I would love to name you all, but we all know that is a dangerous thing to do, as someone always get forgotten. But you all know who you are, and I am extremely grateful.

However..... I would like to thank those people who are not members of the congregation, but just have the misfortune to be related to some bossy women! So many thanks to Joyce's husband Bruce, her granddaughter Skye, my husband David and daughter Abi. Also, Ian from community café, Michael, and Sean, whom I promise, we didn't have to bully!

Allison Giles











A retiring collection was held at the afternoon tea which followed Martyn's recent Induction to the Heartland Area Group with responsibility for the Pastorate Churches of Harpenden, Welwyn Garden City and Wheathampstead. A total of £240 was raised for local food banks which was Martyn's preferred charity, the cash was split 50 / 50 between WGC and Harpenden / Wheathampstead who both support the same food bank. A good result!

Philip

WGC Secretary's Notes for our Pastorate

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Martyn, Lynn and Alex on behalf of all your new friends at WGC URC who look forward to getting to know you all and working with you as we move forward into the future of our Pastorate of three churches.

As a Pastorate we have become much closer during the vacancy, and I pray we can continue to work together supporting Martyn and each other as we move to the future. We can develop and expand the bond we have created during the vacancy by attending each other's events, sharing our skills knowledge and expertise and by keeping in touch via email and our magazine.

On the 9th of September Induction Day our prayers were answered, and we were blessed with good weather although the excessive heat was a challenge when trying to keep food refrigerated until the last minute in our three available fridges. Allison and Skye plated the food during the service meaning they missed it live and had to watch the recording. Thank you both and to everyone from all three churches who helped leading up to the day, on the day and with the clearing away after the event. You all contributed to making Martyn's Induction an enjoyable and memorable day. I spoke to several people who said they had enjoyed their day and I have received a Thank You Card from Nora and Sue from Swanage. It was lovely to welcome several who had stayed in WGC overnight to our Sunday morning service before they headed home.



