

## Archdeacon's Visitation Service



This service took place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm at St Peter and All Hallows Church, West Huntspill and was led by Rev. Sharon Crossman, our Rural Dean, and Rev. Tonya Nixon, Vicar of Mark and the Huntspills, who welcomed the new Archdeacon of Wells, Anne Gell.

This annual service is when new churchwardens are sworn in and existing churchwardens renew their commitment to faithfully and diligently perform the duties of their office by the grace and power of God. The Archdeacon thanked all the churchwardens for the many and varied tasks they carry out from week to week, be it caring for buildings and churchyards, supporting clergy and congregations or sharing God's love with the communities where they live. The work they do is invaluable.

We are very grateful to our churchwardens in the Parish of Three Saints, who are Kathy Quinnell and Christine Hussey from St Mary's, Frances James and Mike Smith from St Michael's and Gwen Hatton from St Christopher's. As the Archdeacon said, when you are stuck with any kind of church problem and don't know who to turn to – "Ask the Churchwarden!"

This service was also an opportunity to present and commission the Lay Pastoral Assistants in our deanery – people who feel called by God to the ministry of care, hospitality and practical help. The foundation of Pastoral Care is listening and that is something we can all do. However the LPAs engage deliberately and intentionally in listening to others, thus reflecting the listening ear of God, who loves disciples to speak, pray and express our thoughts, feelings, challenges and needs.



The LPAs in our parish are Gwen Hatton, Dot Coles, Margaret Smith, Carla Searle, Jane Hannah, Tim Hannah, Anthony Barkle and Ginnie Soffe and we have all completed the Diocesan Lay Pastoral Assistants' Course and appropriate Safeguarding Training.

As LPAs we promised, with the help of God, to make Christ central in our lives, letting His peace rule in our hearts and His Word dwell in us richly.

We promised to clothe ourselves with Christ's compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience as we minister in His Name to others, and promised to endeavour to work faithfully as members of the Pastoral Team in our parish under the guidance of our Priest in Charge.

The Clergy and Readers also renewed their commitment to ministry, and the quietly meaningful service ended with prayer and a blessing.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another"