



Time To Say... Farewell To Our Vicar

During March 2005 a small whirlwind in the shape of the Reverend Catherine Pennington landed at All Saints and St Giles in Nazeing. Her arrival precipitated opposition and controversy among some but galvanized many others to positive action. She was to be an antipodian inspiration geared to positive thinking, evolution and change in our parish.

Over the past years her mantra, 'If you are to do anything, then do it with joy', has prompted many into changing old habitual behaviour and opened the door to new, fresh ideas in respect to their worship of The Almighty.

Above all, her devout unquestioning faith in our Lord Jesus has brought amongst us the advent of her vibrant and enthusiastic church-womanship that has borne much fruit.

Our congregation, attracted by her methods is now larger and much more diverse, embracing villagers from all walks of life, and importantly, all age groups. We now boast a keen and lively choir, providing beautiful traditional and contemporary music.

Cate introduced to the congregation visits to Church of England retreats and has inspired a Christian book group (want to join?). The group has tackled literature that is often challenging but like her Bible classes, usually entertaining.

As far as fund-raising, gone was the tired old 'Flower Festival', and in came the Hog Roast with live music and dancing attracting all age groups.

Among many projects, large and small Cate has initiated the restoration of Church Cottage and inspired the building of a 'Refuge for Girls' in Kenya.

The first should generate much needed income and the latter alleviate unacceptable suffering in Africa.

The complexion of our services has also received a complete makeover, including a new altar, and votive candles. Cate still embraces tried and tested liturgy but has enhanced it by introducing melodious and atmospheric responses. Light, it must be said, often plays a cosmetic part in creating the right atmosphere conducive to the worship of our God, and candles and dimmer lights and a sound-system were proposed and introduced by Cate.

Under her guidance, a new team of dedicated individuals have been encouraged to take up important roles within our church as wardens, sides-people, servers, vergers and choir members. It is an ever changing team to ensure our church remains focused

and mindful of our community's religious needs.

Importantly, it is our belief that we are now a truly welcoming church focussed on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Cate is to leave us on 24th August to take up an inner-city challenge At St Mary's Magdelene in Adelaide back in her beloved Australia. It will no doubt be hard work and we all wish her well in all her endeavours.

More importantly, when she leaves these shores she leaves with our respect, our love and a very large thank-you for the job she has completed over the past 6 years here in Nazeing.

May God bless her and her daughter Phoebe.

Jack Kendall & David Crute
Churchwardens