

Our Area Vicar Trevor Hicks (Vicar of Bolsover) writes on: THIS MMA BUSINESS

For the past two years the Diocese of Derby has been wrestling with the problem of reducing numbers of stipendiary clergy and the problems of maintaining ministry in many areas of our Diocese in the light of present day costs and resources. The overall title of the exercise is **Renewing Ministry**.

The most important matter before us all is the Mission of the Church. This means sharing together with others the Good News of Christ's Gospel. Too much concentration on cutting back finance and personnel will necessarily blunt the edge of mission in which the whole Church should be engaged. Instead new ways, along with a re-evaluation of old ways, are needed in order to rise to the challenge of maintaining adequate ministry and mission in Derbyshire in the twenty-first century.

Groupings of parishes and a fresh look at their ministry have followed and we decided a little while ago to seek a closer working relationship between our particular parishes. We are now working towards the establishment of our own Mission and Ministry Area including all the parishes mentioned above. There is little argument that in these parishes there is enormous potential in the general population and the church membership for growth in Christian leadership and service and in worship.

It is true that, eventually, the number of stipendiary clergy will reduce from three to two. At the moment we are fortunate in having three full-time incumbents and also the expertise and ability of Terry Williams, Curate of Bolsover. Things are fine at the moment.

This is the time when we shall be looking at the implications of losing

one priest from the grouping. We shall need the cooperation and knowledge of our Wardens and PCC members in this and also the discussions centring on our Steering Group which has representation from all our parishes.

The financial implications of Parish Share will become an issue within the MMA as will the necessity for that share to be apportioned among our parishes. We shall also be looking at the provision of worship throughout our church buildings and hopefully building a pattern which ensures that the needs of the faithful and of parishioners generally, can be met.

This will almost certainly mean fewer services across the board where the ministrations of a priest are required. However, there will also be opportunities for a wider group of people to become involved with the preparation and leading of worship both locally and across the grouping.

We cannot avoid the fact that things are going to change and that they will be driven by availability of clergy and of finance. However, this is very far from a negative situation. With prayer and sacrament at the centre of all our planning and efforts we may trust that God will provide for his Church and lead us into new and exciting ways. It will be a journey of faith and maybe we shall take a wrong turning or two along the way, but the end of the road will surely be the Kingdom of God.

Well I hope and pray it may be so, but I am convinced that, as clergy, are already richly blessed in you, with whom God has called us to begin the journey.

Thank you all for taking those first steps with us.

Introducing The Benefice of St Michael & All Angels, Brimington

In 1650 Brimington was described in a parliamentary survey as being a Chapel of ease to the Parish of Chesterfield and remained as such until 1715. From this time on the building was subject to various changes in its construction until 1808 when a new brick building was erected with the only part of the building left in its previous state being the tower,

which had been added in 1798 by Joshua Jebb. This building did not last long however for the current building was put in its place in 1846, it was claimed at that time that the church could hold 572 persons. I fail to see how they came to this number, even though they would not have had pews to worry about, it is difficult to see how so many could fit in. In 1844 the parish of Brimington became a distinct parish for all civil and ecclesiastical purposes.

Unlike Calow and Sutton-cum-Duckmanton, this is the first time since 1844 that the parish has been joined with any other. We view it as a time to look to our neighbours, to see what we can learn from them, and how we can work closer with them to forge a new identity without losing any of the good things in each of the parishes that are coming together.

In Brimington we have in the past year tried to come up with a sense of identity and a way forward for our parish. We now have a mission statement, which we have all agreed to as a way of describing ourselves, what we are and what we do and it is this:

We are members of the family of God.

Our purpose is to bring people into Christian Fellowship,

And guide them into a greater understanding of the good news of Jesus Christ.

We believe that this statement goes a long way to not only describing us, but also helps us to look at ourselves critically, to see if we are doing what we should be doing, and is a measure that we can apply to all our actions.

Yours In Christ – *Malcolm Shaw*

Introducing The Benefice of Calow with Sutton-cum-Duckmanton

The benefice of Calow and Sutton-cum-Duckmanton is the product of two unions. The first took place in 1558, when the parish of Duckmanton was joined to the parish of Sutton. The second took place in 1985, when Calow was taken out of the Deanery of Chesterfield in order to join Sutton-cum-Duckmanton in a united benefice within the Deanery of Bolsover and Staveley.

Pastoral reorganisation is therefore nothing new to this part of the MMA. Sutton-cum-Duckmanton lost its last resident incumbent twenty-

six years ago; Calow's long-standing links with the Chesterfield were severed not much later. Neither of these changes met with universal acclaim at the time, but working together has brought at least some advantages. The different traditions complement each other, and firm friendships have been built up across boundaries which, for the most part, are no longer seen as barriers.

Meeting the parish of Brimington at the southern end of Brimington Common and stretching to the bottom of Bolsover hill, the benefice includes the Markham industrial regeneration site around the new junction 29A on the M1, Sutton Spring Wood, the new Arkwright Town, the hamlet of Calow Green and the ruined Sutton Scarsdale Hall - a popular visitor attraction. Most of it lies within the District of North East Derbyshire, though Mid and Far Duckmanton are part of the Borough of Chesterfield. There's nothing monochrome about our MMA - and especially this part of it!

Michael Champneys

Forthcoming Events:

Benefice Lent Course – Five Tuesdays beginning 8th March, Calow Church meeting room 7:30-9:00pm.

Calow Gift Day – Saturday 25th March. Open church, displays, free light refreshments.

Bolsover, Brimington and Calow with Sutton-cum-Duckmanton MMA

Sunday Services

PARISH	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
Bolsover	0930 S.E. 1800 Evensong	0800 H.C. 0930 S.E. 1800 Evensong	0930 S.E. 1800 Evensong	0800 H.C. 0930 S.E. 1800 Evensong	0930 S.E. 1800 Evensong
Brimington	0830 H.C. 1000 Family Service With communion 1200 Baptism	0830 H.C. 1000 S.E. 1200 Baptism	0830 H.C. 1000 S.E. 1200 Baptism	0830 H.C. 1000 S.E. 1200 Baptism	0830 H.C. 1000 S.E. 1200 Baptism
Calow	0915 S.E. 1400 Baptism 1800 Evensong	0915 S.E.	0915 S.E. 1800 Evensong	0915 S.E.	09.15 S.E.
Duckmanton		1100 P.C.	1100 Matins	1100 P.C.	1100 P.C.
Sutton	1100 P.C.	1500 Evensong	1500 P.C.	1500 Evensong	1500 Evensong