

Revd. Patrick Sherring,  
The Rectory, 1 Rectory Close.  
[Patrick.sherring@ingatestoneparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:Patrick.sherring@ingatestoneparishchurch.org.uk)  
[Patrick.sherring@fryerningparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:Patrick.sherring@fryerningparishchurch.org.uk)  
01277 352 562.

Dear friends,

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of July was quite a day. I asked the 8 o'clock congregation at Fryerning to pray for Sue Cruse and all the others who were to be ordained Deacon at 11 o'clock at Chelmsford Cathedral. I also asked that they pray for all the training incumbents, including myself, who were to be entrusted with the responsibilities associated with receiving a new assistant curate. I would ask that you all pray regularly for all these clergy and particularly Sue and myself. She will have many new experiences in the coming weeks and months. Having been on placement with us for six months, she is known to many of you already. Her priority during the next few months is to get to know more people and to understand about life and the ministry here in our villages.

A lot of the emphasis in the ministry here during the last three years has been about engagement with the community. The Church of England stands in a unique position in relation to the community. If you live in Ingatestone or Fryerning, I am your incumbent and you are my parishioners. The church building in your village is your church building. The great strength of the Church of England is that it is just that, the Church of England, everyone in the land. The financial structures are set up in such a way that those who financially support the church are not just paying towards the maintenance and ministry of their local church, but the church throughout England. The Diocesan Parish Share does not disappear into some vast bureaucratic hole to be spent in a profligate and unaccountable way. It exists to help maintain the ministry throughout the Diocese. When occasions happen such as the ordination, the breadth of the ministry in the Diocese is clear to see. Sue was one of fourteen new Deacons, four to serve in the Barking Episcopal Area, four in the Bradwell Episcopal Area and six in the Colchester Episcopal Area. Places as diverse as Walthamstow, Becontree, Epping, Prittlewell, Saffron Walden, Brightlingsea and Colchester all received new deacons. So you can see how lucky we are to have Sue with us. Through our Parish Share we support ministry throughout Essex and initial and continuing training for clergy and others. For those interested, all the information

about the Parish Share expenditure is to be found on the Chelmsford Diocesan website. It can be linked to through our church websites.

At Ingatestone we are looking to celebrate the community through the flower festival at the end of the month. We have all been delighted with the response from local businesses to the requests for donations to sponsor the flower displays. I know the Flower Club have been working for months on designing appropriate displays. The result will be spectacular. The Church, your Church, will look magnificent. I hope everyone in the village will come along and support the weekend. If you can help in anyway, being in the Church for an hour, making a cake, helping set up or pack away, please contact either Allen Matthews, Michael Allen or myself. John Bayliss will be delighted to sell you a ticket for the Saturday evening Jazz concert. We hope to see you at either of the special services on Sunday morning and evening. It should be a great time. No teddy bear owner should miss the opportunity for their bear to bungee jump from the top of the Church tower!

The community in Fryerning continue to look to fundraise for the needed improvements to their Church building. It quite extra-ordinary that we need to look back to the 1800s to find the last time that major work was undertaken on such a fine small country Church building. We have been heartened by letters of support for the project from the Bishops of Chelmsford and Bradwell and the Archdeacon of Southend. However, much money still needs to be raised. If you care about the Fryerning Church building and do not wish to see it have an uncertain future, please consider giving the project your financial backing. No amount is too small. Donation forms can be accessed via the website, or are available from Roy Garnham. At the Father's Day BBQ Sir Alex Jarrett stated that this project gives the people in Fryerning the opportunity to all pull together and do something for the whole community. This is true. Despite the village having only 400 residents, well over 1,000 people attended at least one service in St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church during 2003. The building is often packed for weddings, funerals and baptisms. Bishop Laurie, in his letter, described Fryerning as 'a thriving Church community'. This might surprise some people.

Our buildings exist to serve the mission of God to our communities. It is not the Church of God that has a mission to the world, but the God of mission who has a Church in the world.

*Yours in Christ, Patrick.*

