

## Crosstalk May 2014

Today (27<sup>th</sup> April) we celebrate our AGM and I don't think it's insignificant that the month which is shortly to start has become one of commitment and promise. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Alan Dawson and Eleanor Taylor are to be married at Christ Church Parris Wood Road and then a little later in May, Jackie and Gary Rae are to renew their vows after 35 years!

We, too, face the great opportunity to look back, to celebrate, to remember, to grieve, to dream and above all to make a fresh commitment to God and to each other for the journey ahead. This is both a commitment we must make, and one we must remember. The paths ahead aren't going to be any easier than any of the paths behind and it will test us as a church and as disciples of Jesus.

The morning when two Marys went to look at the tomb, they, and all the disciples, thought everything was lost, their adventure was over. What they found was not an end, but a start - a fresh call and a renewed heart. My greatest sense of what has happened this year is that we've turned a corner, that as a church we have gone from being a little bit drawn in by the tomb, to hearing our name called by our Risen Saviour. We are starting to see fruit. The most recent being a fabulous day on 6<sup>th</sup> April with two full-immersion baptisms (well done, Luke Spilsbury and Lily Smith!) and then all the noise and hubbub of an increasingly busy Messy Church (well done to the team!).

This year, I hope we get to see the start of our renewed buildings, but don't allow ourselves to get completely drawn in by them, because I also hope to see more seekers becoming disciples and more friends becoming members - even in the scaffold and bricks of a renewed church!

So let's not get weighed down by the size of the possibilities this year brings. Let us move forward in faith in Jesus Christ, who is himself faithful and who commands his disciples (us included) to go, for he will go ahead and be there waiting (Matthew 28.10).

God Bless

Andy