

## The (Spiritual) Gift of Administration

When I was first appointed to these Parishes in January 2019, there seemed to be 2 agreed 'easy wins' to get sorted in the first few months if not weeks! Well, time has moved on and the Pandemic has disrupted so much over the last 18 months, but the first of these 'easy wins' – setting up administrative support - we are finally getting sorted. You will see from the advert in this Newsletter we are seeking to recruit someone to this new role.

As we come to Harvest in September and October each year – and indeed to Christmas, Easter, Remembrance, as well as organising Baptisms Weddings and Funerals, and planning meetings and keeping the dairy up to date, I am reminded again and again how much time is needed for effective communication and administration, how important it is, and yet how many of us are overwhelmed by it and others are just 'natural' and sort things quickly and efficiently and seemingly easily and effortlessly!

Clergy are primarily expected to teach and preach to all who will hear and come to us the truths of the bible and the good news of Jesus, and pastor and care for people in prayer, ministry and service, and encourage and lead in worship, meetings and gatherings. Indeed, the academic work ministers do in training and preparation is in 'Theological and Pastoral Studies'. But all these tasks take planning and organisation.

When St Paul writes to the early Christians at Corinth, he discusses a number of Spiritual Gifts:

'And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, **those with gifts of administration**, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.' 1 Corinthians 12:28 New International Version 1984 (my emphasise)

The original words can be translated variously 'assists, governing, directings, administrating'. It is noteworthy that this gift is up with all the important gifts Paul mentions in the church, so we believe God equips some people especially in this gift of administration, as He does all other gifts for His church.

At Harvest time we give thank for all God's good gifts to us – perhaps this year we include our thanks to God for the gift of administration, which is also a gift our farmers and all who produce our food need as well.

Timothy Wilson

PS if you want to know what the other initial 'easy win' I discerned when I came, you need to ask me!