

St Mary's has a new Vicar! The eightieth in Goldington's history or thereabouts

After a two year wait since Richard's departure, Rev'd Simon Dommett was licensed as Priest-in-Charge by the Bishop of St. Albans and installed by the Archdeacon of Bedford at a lovely service on Monday 5th November 2018.

Before the service the teams of sidesmen, caterers, flower arrangers, servers and the choir under the direction of the church wardens had prepared for the service. The church looked wonderful and began to fill up from 7.00 pm. As one of the sidesmen I welcomed the Mayor and his wife and escorted them to their seats. By 7.30 it was fuller than it has been for a long while. In addition to the Mayor there were local dignitaries, several councillors, representatives from the local churches and supporting clergy and people from the Astwick Vale Benefice (Simon's previous parish) and people from Wootton (who knew Simon and Heather when they lived there).

There were four hymns all well-known and an anthem. All were

sung with gusto. The anthem was sung by the augmented choir of St. Mary's, the First Sunday Singers and several members from St. Peters. It was a wonderfully cheerful item *Jubilemus Exultemus* from the Motet de Sainte Suzanne by Couperin.

The Bishop preached a stirring sermon based on the first chapter of Revelation.

The licensing was completed and then on to the installation, and we had our new Vicar!

The service ended very appropriately with the organist Paul Edwards playing us out to music from the Royal Fireworks Suite.

Over to the hall for a wonderful spread of food and wine and again I do not remember seeing quite so many people in the hall. There were fireworks and everyone went home happy and relieved that we have a new Incumbent.

So best wishes to Simon and Heather and welcome to you both from St Mary's.