

Letter from the Rector

As you read this we will be well and truly into 2010. Many of us have by now, reflected on 2009 bringing to mind its joys and its sorrows, its successes and its challenges. The older we become, the more we realise this gift we call 'life' is full of ups and downs. Now is the time to look forward into 2010.

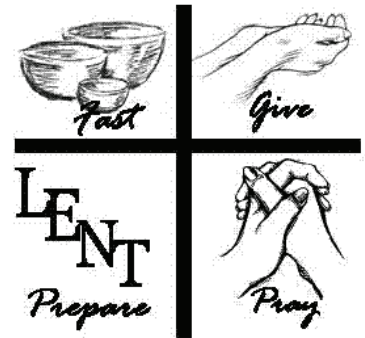
Throughout the Christian calendar, there are opportunities for reflection in order to make changes and adjustments to how we live out our lives. For me, prayer isn't just about asking God for things or 'talking' to God although this is important too. It is also about reflecting on the events and happenings in my life in a place of quiet and stillness.

At these times I like to take the opportunity to determine whether I could have done something differently, whether I could give up something, take on something new, or change my way of thinking and doing.

Advent, the month before Christmas provides one such period of opportunity in the Christian Calendar for reflection. Another significant period of course is Lent, which begins this year on Ash Wednesday 17th February. As many of you will know, there is a strong Biblical principle of 'tithing' where 10% of a person or group's income, time and resources are given away to others. The Church always aims to give away 10% of its annual income to various charities.

I am aware that during these challenging financial times it is not easy, even impossible for many to do this kind of offering, however, during Lent in this year which ends in '10', I invite you to consider other ways in which you might give '10' of something. For people of faith it might mean devoting 10 more minutes in prayer each day or week. Perhaps, we all might contribute 10% more to Children in Need or other charities. Perhaps we could attempt to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing output in our homes by 10%.

Lent isn't just about 'giving up'. It could be about 'taking up' or simply 'giving'. Why not try the 10% challenge in some way.



LENT COURSES 2010

The Benefice Lent Courses will take place at the following times and places. Please note that the courses begin **week commencing Monday 22nd February**.

Monday	2.30pm	Church Centre	Nether Stowey
Monday	7.30pm	Church Centre	Nether Stowey
Friday	2.30pm	Rectory Rooms	Spaxton