

Dear Friends,

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was due to take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April and this meeting it is a good opportunity to look back over the previous year, and then to look forward to all that is ahead of us for 2019. For St Andrew's the rest of the year is taken up with celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of events and special services. We are inviting back some of the preachers and priests who have been associated with St. Andrew's over the years and it will be very interesting to see what insights they can bring to us and especially any reflections on how far we have come and where we might go in the future.

It is good to take time aside to reflect on the lessons of the past, as this can give us hope and direction for the future. In the book of Jeremiah, the people of God have not learned the lessons of the past and are forced into exile. Although this is deserved, it gives the people of God time to reflect and to learn some valuable insights. It is in this time that the scholars revised and edited much of the Old Testament into the form we know today. They also learned about being good citizens in a strange land and took part in national life with people such as Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego. They also looked again at the prophetic writings and learned again of the promise of the coming Messiah who would bring hope and the promise of the Kingdom of God. In this, the exile is seen as a place of discipline, so that God's people might learn again what it is to be the people of God and to have renewed hope.

In Christian love

Paul