

Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Church should remain open and the Rev Gwyneth gave everyone a very strong shoulder to lean on and provided unerring guidance, support and encouragement that must not be forgotten.

The Rev Gwyneth was followed by the Rev Margaret Banks who brought a different style of leadership to Bretton Church. It was during the time that the Rev Margaret was in Bretton that the Sankey evenings, originally suggested by Jo Chaloner and initiated by Vera Jones, became part of the annual calendar. There were various Church outings, a little bit like Sunday School trips for grown ups! These included, for example, lunch in Rhos-on-Sea, a picnic at the top of the Orme in Llandudno and a guided tour of the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. We were very sorry when due to health reasons the Rev Margaret was forced to cut short her time in Bretton.

The Rev David Butterworth, like Gwyneth was still in training when he arrived in Bretton and there was an opportunity to attend another wonderful Ordination during the early summer of 2008. He had given up a high profile job which had taken him across the world, in order to enter the Ministry. A larger than life character, who was driven by the need to do God's work - at Church, in the street, on a bus, anywhere and at any time. He not only brought us ribbons, candles and laughter but made us believe that anything is possible and most things are acceptable – like the wonderful baptism of four children on the beach.

The Rev David is now working in one of the large London Churches, but before he left he expressed his love for the small Church in Bretton that offered him escape for moments of peace and prayer in an otherwise busy schedule. He was however concerned for Bretton Church, and its future, due to the small number of members and the ageing profile of the Church Council. He could foresee a time when those dealing with the management of the day to day running of the Church might not be able to cope and again some difficult questions were presented to Church Council. As a result Bretton Church is now described as a 'class of Saltney' and as such all responsibilities of Managing Trustees come under the Saltney Church Council.

At the time of this celebration our Minister is the Rev Paul Braisdell and we were delighted to welcome him to Bretton in 2008. Like others before him the Rev Paul is still studying and hopefully at some point, in the not too distant future, we will also be able to join in his Ordination service. We are enjoying working with him and we hope he has many opportunities to meet the people of Bretton village, perhaps through the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Church in Bretton.

Church Steward: **Mrs Jo Chaloner**

and

Organist and Treasurer: **Professor Maureen Wayman.**