

## View from the Rectory 2021 Midsummer:

Dear Christian brothers and sisters of the Quidenham Group of Parishes,

The Lord be with you.

The longest day of the year is upon us this weekend – the march to winter begins! 🌞

This summer sees the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Burrows of Banham having his first go at the church organ when he was just a teenager. To celebrate we arranged a special trip for him to play the cathedral organ in Norwich.



After evensong, as the church was locked up, a small band of us were allowed to set up in the nave while George experimented for an hour with the guidance and help of David Dunnett, the cathedral organist. It was a wonderful occasion and David and George showed us a wonderful range of moods the instrument could play.



Other celebrations – after a year with almost no weddings, we are having a bumper year for them this year (Harry and Rebecca in Banham last Saturday pictured here – the groom arrived in the gold Maserati and the bride with the horse and carriage from Banham Zoo). They have been joyful occasions – pray for those who hoped to be unrestricted in numbers in July but now must tell a certain number of guests they can't come.



Another event coming up for Deanery Synod – we have the commissioning of a new Rural Dean – me! This Sunday in Eccles at 6pm. All welcome, but FHB\* if there are not enough seats in the church for those attending. Please allow visitors from other places seats inside and wait to greet them afterwards, though I hope there will be room for all. It will be a short evening prayer service followed by very brief deanery business before we meet outside to greet Bishop Alan and visitors from other parishes. Pray for good weather and a smooth joyful running of this event, the first deanery meeting since November 2019.

Finance – I was talking about finance in church last week – for those who didn't hear it, some headlines: in order to adapt to reduced income (our own benefice has been unable to make its full share for some years too) a number of staff at Diocesan House are being made redundant, and the number of clergy is being reduced by 10% over the next few years. I ask your prayer for the church at large that we might find ways to maintain our witness in our land in the years ahead.

And finally, Through Faith Missions are walking the width of the land, coming through our benefice on the first weekend of July. Most of our services will have representatives coming to tell us what they are up to. If you'd like to know more, click [here](#), and invite them for an alfresco cuppa with friends and neighbours if you wish – contact me for more details if required.

Wishing you all well,  
Steve

\*family hold back