

## FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Easter is approaching, and we are now in the reflective season of Lent. For a flower arranger, this means not only the all-important Lent commitments but also the planning of flowers for the church for Easter. With that planning comes our appeal to you all for contributions to the Flower Fund. The congregation of St Faith and St Laurence has traditionally been very generous in supporting us with donations towards the cost of flowers for festivals which we are reliant upon. We are very grateful to you all. Your support over the years has been very much appreciated and we hope that you will support us again for this Easter's flowers. On the tables at the back of the church there will be some small brown envelopes, marked "Flower Fund" for you to put your donation into. Please then place the envelop into the box marked "Flower Fund" which is also on the table at the back of the church. If you wish, you might like to put your name on the envelop so that we can identify who has made the donation, which is always nice to know. Thank you.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you that at any time of the year, if you would like to fund a floral display in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a significant birthday or anniversary etc. we would be happy to do that for you. If you would like to discuss this further, Helen Hayward and myself (Josie Phillips) would be happy to talk this over with you and make the arrangements for you. Also, if at any time of the year you would like to make a donation to the general cost of flowers throughout the year, that would be very gratefully received too. If the Flower Fund box is not available, you can place your donation into a Flower Fund envelop and place the envelop onto the general plate. The counters will make sure your donation is separated from general funds as it will be identified by a Flower Fund envelope. If you wish, you can put your name on the envelop so that we know who has given the donation and supported our work.

Since we put a piece in the church magazine last Summer, the ladies who undertake the floral displays in our beautiful church have worked together to make some significant changes to enhance the way we work, which I would like to share with you.

Firstly, I am delighted to say that following an appeal last Summer for people to join us, our numbers have increased from 7 to 11. We were so pleased with the excellent response, and the result is that we now have 4 additional people which we were happy to welcome on board. They have brought with them much enthusiasm and different skill. They have all been assets to the team, which enabled us to make many improvements. However, this does not close the door; we would be happy to welcome anyone else who may be interested in joining the group. Helen Hayward - 07940133941 or Josie Phillips - 0121 421 2574, would be happy to discuss with you at any time.

We now have around 3 meetings per year to talk together and plan arrangements for Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. After our meetings we also enjoy lunch and a natter together, which is all important.

With the help of everyone in the group, we have achieved the completion of some long overdue administrative tasks which were a necessary church requirement and makes us compliant with church policies. We can gratefully put those tasks behind us now enabling us to get on with the enjoyable and all-important matter of floral displays. And, we now have an official name, which we all agreed upon, this is - St. Faith and St. Laurence Church Flower Group, or Church Flower Group for short. In addition, we have our own very special Group Prayer, which David Parker has kindly written for us and with which we begin our meetings.

**Josie Phillips**

I've added the prayer below:

Almighty God, whose Son rejoiced at the lilies of the field, saying "Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these", be with us as we seek to beautify your house with leaves and flowers to your praise and glory.

**Revd. David Parker**

As well as all that, we have divided up the important tasks of the group, such as - Administrative Tasks; Compiling a Rota; Monitoring Consumables Stock; and Flower Fund Monitoring. This means that things run more smoothly and helps ensure that we comply properly with church policies. In addition, and most importantly, this means that these tasks do not all fall on the shoulders of one person. The Group continues to work together to make improvements and achieve some very special floral displays. The Group have made some great strides forward in a short time, which they can be very proud of, and which is very special.

We hope that you will be able to help us with the cost of flowers for Easter and we thank you for your continued support, generosity and appreciation.

**St. Faith and St. Laurence Church Flower Group**