

## Christ the King November 22nd 2020

Today is our Patronal festival, It may not seem like it as we are all either watching over social media or listening in on the telephone .But that is Christ the King, ever a challenge to overcome.

Which got me thinking back over the 35 years of our church.

I joined on the second Sunday and to which was a very laid back church and with 6 children in tow was like a breath of fresh air. No one minded that they were looking around as the Sunday school was then in the back of the hall on a gym mat and I remember them making musical instruments out of yoghurt pots and elastic bands and playing a short ditty at the end and everyone clapped and praised them, the children loved it here and so our journey began .

There are so many stories about our small church of Christ the King its hard to pick one and stick with it, so I have picked out a few that have stayed with me.

The first one is the year I and my children were to be confirmed in the school hall along with a quite a few others, so imagine getting up looking out and seeing the heavy snow fall over night. Our faces fell, but not for long as on walking round the corner to church that morning the main roads were quite passable so as usual we all just pulled together to dig the path and road way of Clifton Crescent clear so the Bishop could get through. So we will always remember the day of our confirmation not only as a family but for the reason of the determination of Christ the King .

We at some point or other have, I think, worshipped every which way in the hall . We have worked around the full planetary system of stars and moons spread out in all its

splendour all around and in the middle of the hall too. As one member said "I never thought I would be sitting next to Saturn and all its rings in church today" .

We did make a beautiful Garden one Easter complete with a tomb which the Head Teacher had told us got the children of the school asking a lot of questions .

We had a large youth group and would do treasure hunts around Shirley or Solihull and these usually ended in a burger bar somewhere. We had new year dances and always plenty of food. We have laughed together and cried; we have shared special moments; we have pulled together through interregnums and at one time we toured around the parish when the school was shut down for repairs. And now the last few years of coming together and the growing of the 3 churches of becoming the Parish of Shirley .

So today we are still facing a challenge, this is the one of still being church either over social media telephone or by letter, but church we very much still are.

God is in this with us all as a church and as a Parish and its with his help and guidance that we are, and can still pull together,

We are keeping God in our hearts and our actions. We still care for one another and I have seen the strength that the Parish has, the new friendships formed and the way things have continued - the food bank, the eco church, the coffee mornings, Easter, the Discipleship course, Tuesday cafe bingo, Remembrance day, the summer fayre and now soon the Christmas Fayre too.

We still are doing God's work, we are still pulling together, we are still remembering each other in our prayers and contacts in what ever shape they take .

So God be with you all till we meet again, and we will!

Denise Smith