

From The Chaplain

It was a good Reunion weekend at the end of October in Stafford and as I said in my sermon at church on the Sunday morning, our Reunion is a time to catch up with one another, to enjoy time together, to renew friendships and make new ones. This year was no exception.

The Gala Dinner was memorable for 'Holy Bear' who managed to collect over £30.00 on an impromptu walkabout. He put in an appearance at church on Sunday morning, sitting in the front row.



The collection at Sunday's service meant that altogether I was able to send £117.40 on behalf of the Association to Tearfund, www.tearfund.org/ a church development organization who are recognized for their professional expertise in development, disaster response, disaster risk reduction and advocacy. Tearfund's level of professionalism and expertise, matched with the enduring, sustainable effectiveness of the local church, is a powerful force in the face of poverty.

This reaching out to others lies at the heart of what it means to live a Christian life. The readiness to think of others, matched with kindness and generosity, goes with being a Christian and adopting a Christian life-style.

At the heart of the Christmas message is the mystery and a miracle of God coming amongst us that we might know what he is like, and that we might know him as a friend.

Christmas, a special catch-up time with God; the celebration of God reaching out to us, and his invitation to us to reach out to him.



**MAY YOU, AND THOSE NEAR AND DEAR TO YOU,
FEEL AND KNOW THE FRIENDSHIP OF GOD,
HIS KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY
THIS CHRISTMAS-TIDE AND IN THE NEW YEAR**

RICHARD +