

Easter Day 2011

What a wonderful day we celebrated together on 24<sup>th</sup> April! We brought our Holy Week devotions to a wonderful climax as we celebrated the resurrection of the Lord Jesus at three joyful morning services. And, if that were not enough we also had a service of confirmation and affirmation of baptismal vows during the afternoon!

The parish hasn't hosted a Confirmation service since 1991 at St Peter's and 1985 at St Andrew's so it really was a special moment in the life of our parish. Bishop Stephen Cottrell had very kindly agreed to come to us, having spent Holy Week amidst the grandeur of the Cathedral in Chelmsford. We had 9 people who wanted to be confirmed. For them it was the right moment to stand up and affirm publicly their faith in Jesus, to start receiving Holy Communion and to receive the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. In addition, Derek wished to reaffirm the promises he made as a boy at his confirmation.

It was a most uplifting and inspiring occasion. Bishop Stephen spoke powerfully and movingly and led the service with great energy and love. The music group and the singers excelled themselves; the wardens and sides people kept us all in order; the readers did a great job; the refreshments were fantastic; the church looked immaculate and the flowers had been arranged with such love and care; everyone joined in so well with the singing and the prayers. I was absolutely thrilled. A great team effort made for a truly memorable service. So thank you to all of you for your help, prayers and presence. Please continue to hold our candidates in your prayers as they continue growing in love and faith.

If you have been inspired to be confirmed or would like to find out more, please have a word. You are never too old to be confirmed or to reaffirm your faith.

***Louise Williams.***