

## Thought for the Day – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

By Revd John Marshall

### Vicar

I googled vicar, there were 28,100,000 results in 0.49 seconds.

A vicar is a representative, deputy or substitute. Anyone acting “in the person of” or agent for a superior (compare vicarious in the case of at second hand.)

Linguistically vicar is cognate with the English prefix Vice – similarly meaning deputy.

That wasn't terribly helpful.

The question is, who is the vicar representative of, or deputy or substitute for? In the case of our parish the church and parish came from the parish of Holy Trinity Clapham, which had a rector and so a vicar might be appointed. The Rector of Holy Trinity is still one of our patrons.

Today the vicar is the representative of the Bishop.

It could also be argued that the vicar is the representative of God. (We might also argue that as humanity was created in the image of God that being a vicar goes with the territory.)

NB it does the Vicar has the cure of souls for the parish of St. James.

Kit has been leading us at St James for 11+ years. Whatever his title he has been serving God and the people and parish of St James.

We have been privileged to share in his ministry and we have been blessed together.

We have shared with him, including in the year of Of Things Not Seen.

It is great to continue to share in the ministry and to remember that “we are all workers together with Christ.” 2 Corinthians 6.1

May God bless you richly Kit.