

# 50 YEARS A PRIEST

29 May 2017

On Sunday 21 May 2017 we celebrated the Holy Eucharist. We prayed, sang hymns, listened to scripture and a sermon, we shared the bread and wine which had been broken and blessed by one of our cherished retired clergy, the Reverend Canon David Pickering. And we celebrated David Pickering too, as that Sunday was the exact anniversary date of his ordination to the priesthood FIFTY years before!

Father Pickering was originally from England and in the Diocese of Leicester. His family attended and he was schooled in the parish of All Saints, Narborough just 50 kms south-west of the great city of Leicester.

Following his study at seminary, Fr Pickering was ordained on 21 May 1967 by the Rt Revd Geoffrey Allen, The Bishop of Derby at Derby Cathedral. He ministered in the diocese of Derby and was made an Honorary Canon of Derby Cathedral in 2004. On his retirement in 2006, with 39 years of ministry, he became Canon Emeritus with Permission to Officiate. Subsequently he worked in Hong Kong for 18 months as the priest-in-charge of Emmanuel Church, Pokfulam. His ministry then moved for the next two years to Hong Kong's St John's Cathedral, in the heart of the city's financial downtown district. For the last six-months of his cathodal ministry, he was appointed acting Dean before his second retirement in 2012.

Christine Portman, David's wife, is also a leader in Christian ministry as an active Reader. Christine and Fr David came to the Diocese in Europe in July 2012 where they have been a reliable rock of leadership within the ministry team at All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence.

For our service on 21 May 2017, Canon Pickering presided and a good friend of his from his seminary days preached - the Rev. Stephen Weissman, Priest Associate at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Asheville, North Carolina, U.S.A.



Following our morning's worship, the congregation remained for strawberry cake and several bottles of chilled champagne. Hip Hip Hooray for Fr David Pickering – all to the glory of God.

Canon David Pickering with his classmate of 1967, Father Stephen Weissman, our preacher for the morning.