

## Dressing for Worship

No this is not about suits or jeans; the worship committee has recently been discussing the robes worn by the President at the Eucharist. Our current practice is to wear an alb (long white robe) and stole (length of coloured fabric worn round the neck.) Traditionally this arrangement (alb and stole) is often worn in conjunction with a chasuble; a coloured garment in the appropriate seasonal colour which is worn over the whole lot.



The easiest way to describe a chasuble is that it's a bit like a poncho and it comes down to somewhere around the knees. Chasubles are often very beautiful and as well as the basic colour they usually have patterns, symbols and motifs

embroidered or appliquéd on to them.

The reasons for wearing chasubles are firstly (and most noticeably) that they inject a bright splash of colour into the proceedings. This is the big advantage of using them, especially in a very plain sanctuary like ours. Theologically chasubles have always been thought of as representing the seamless robe that Jesus wore and that the soldiers gambled for at his crucifixion. This is a useful image as the President at the Eucharist is in Jesus' place. Chasubles (like most of our robes) have their origin in the ordinary clothes of citizens in the early centuries of the Church so another reason for using them is that they are one way of expressing the unity of our Eucharist with the celebrations of earlier generations.

On a recent visit to BPC the Bishop expressed surprise that we didn't have

any Chasubles, hence our discussion at the worship committee. A range of views was expressed but we decided to give it a go and so on Easter Day you will see me wearing one. This particular one is my own (a present from Brenda when I was Ordained). Personally I think they would enhance the visual aspect of our worship no end but I'll be interested to hear what you think.

If we like the idea we could consider buying some or having some specially made for us, perhaps to go with our new Altar frontals.

*Michael Camp*

## Graces for all occasions

This is the third in a series on different graces. Please contribute any graces that you especially like. They can be handed to me in Church, left in the pigeonhole in the office, e-mailed or telephoned (details on back page).

**With Christ in the  
wilderness,  
5000 were fed,  
From two small fishes  
and five loaves of bread.**

**May the blessing of him  
who made the division,  
Rest upon us and upon  
our provision.**