

Rev. Robert Shields brings his vision to Christ Church

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

On Sunday Jan. 12, Christ Church Anglican officially welcomed Rev. Robert Shields at a special Service of Induction.

Shields succeeded Rev. Paul Scuse, who left the parish last

August.

He came to Stouffville from Sharon with his wife Anne and nine month old daughter Elizabeth, and conducted his first service at Christ Church on Jan. 4.

"I was ordained in 1983 by the Bishop of Ottawa and was in the

diocese of Ottawa for about four years, moving to Sharon in 1987," he told *The Tribune*.

He and his family have already been made to feel very welcome here, he added.

While he's still getting to know Stouffville, he strongly believes

that the church should operate as part of the community.

"My feeling is that a parish isn't just a group of people that isolate themselves on Sunday mornings in these four square walls.

"It's my hope that by working together we'll have an impact on the larger community as well. If the message that we preach and speak

about is to have any reality, it's got to be felt and seen in the community, whether it's food banks, outreach or visiting shut-ins."

Stouffville is still a traditional, relatively safe community, he observed, and he looks forward to settling down here with his family.

"People have already made me feel very welcome," he concluded.

Caretaker Ken Halsted steps down from St. Mark's after 25 years service

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Ken Halsted's farewell party at St. Mark's School was an event he is unlikely to forget in a hurry.

Halsted has been a caretaker at the school for 25 years, and recently present and past staff members gave him a truly memorable send-off.

Known as Sam

"I knew they would do something, but I never realized they would go back that far and bring in people that worked with me in 1970," said Halsted, universally known as 'Sam.'

"It was well organized and a very enjoyable evening, and it was nice to be remembered. Something like this makes everything worthwhile."

He was presented with a card from each class, and about 70 people attended the party, said Principal Pat O'Halloran.

Balloon

"Former principals and former staff members came. One gift we got him was a hot air balloon ride, and we hope he can arrange to fly over the school and wave to the children."

His union presented him with a gold watch and staff and students gave him a sculpture.

He was also given a sander, Canadian Tire coupons and a book on woodworking, added O'Halloran.

Retiring

Halsted officially retires on Jan. 31, and as yet has no plans for the future.

"I'm going to wake up on Feb. 1st and decided then what I'm going to do," he concluded cheerfully.

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