

A few words from the Vicarage ...



As we are now at the height of the holiday season (sadly, our own holiday is but a distant memory already), it is important that this time is taken to relax and to reflect. The fact that the sun has already shone on us certainly helps in that regard - there is nothing like a bit of sun on your back to encourage the relaxation process.

This is the time we all need to prepare ourselves for what lies ahead; we are re-created as we refresh ourselves in body, mind and spirit. If we fail to do that, then we're in grave danger of burning ourselves out ~ and if that is what happens, then we are little good to anyone!

Holidays are essential ~ and so I was extremely grateful to a former colleague when he was able to step in and provide cover for me whilst I took some time away from the parish. In fact, we worked together in the Team Parish of West Preston where I was Team Curate whilst Rev'd Chris Entwistle was the Team Vicar ~ so, it was good to be able to team up once again in this way.

That is what Church life is all about ~ team work. None of us can afford to 'stand alone'; we need each other and we need to work as a team if we are to achieve the goals we set ourselves.

Teams are so important and teamwork is vital.

Recently our team has been extended and, indeed, strengthened with the arrival of Beavers and Cubs groups to St Paul's. Their respective investitures were held mid-July at the Fylde District Scouts Activity Centre at which I was joined by Keith Turner and Peter Swindells - both with Scouting backgrounds, indeed Peter was instrumental in setting up the previous Cub group here at St Paul's. These events were held just in time for their summer recess - and we warmly welcome these two groups into our team as they compliment the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows who are established team members.

Much was said over the teamwork displayed by the German football World Cup winning squad - a prime example of what can be achieved when a group of people work together in harmony. Another example of this was shown when, again in harmony, we were visited by the Heyhouses Community Choir at a service of Evening Prayer - thanks to them.

It won't be long before all our activities will be starting up afresh and we will need all our team players to be united and at the top of their game; relaxed and refreshed after the quiet of the summer months.

I look forward to having the full squad available, fully fit and ready for action, as we launch into the new season of activities.

God bless you,
your Vicar *and Team Captain*,
Fr D.