

## **A few words from the vicarage ...**

At our Patronal Eucharist on 25<sup>th</sup> January [*also Burn's Night, as it happens*], we launched our appeal to raise the sum of £10,000 in aid of the essential repairs and maintenance work needed for our church organ.

The organ was originally built by Mr Ainscough from Preston, and it has served the parish extremely well over the years, with little money having been spent on it other than tuning and minor maintenance.

I would like to ask everyone to pray for a speedy and effective campaign as we look to all who are linked to the parish to help us with this fund. The organ plays an integral part in most services and it is always appreciated – due in no small part to the excellent playing of our organist, Mrs Linda Carrington.

During the last couple of months we have lost the services of two of our long serving members of PCC with the departure of both Greg Musi and Sue Jones. We thank them both for their hard work over the years and wish them well in the future. Keith Turner was accepted by the PCC to take up the casual vacancy on Deanery Synod as a consequence of Greg's departure. We thank Keith for volunteering to do this important work on our behalf.

We shall be hosting the next two meetings of that Synod with the first being in March when the topic for debate will be the controversial and emotive issue surrounding

Women bishops. Synod may be assured of a lively debate, no doubt,

I also want to record my thanks, on behalf of the congregation, to Julie Carter-Lindsay who has handed over the reigns of the Thursday evening family service. Having witnessed Julie's work first hand over the last 28 months, she has a particular gift which will be difficult to replace and her work with the families at this service will be greatly missed. Whilst Sue is continuing in her leadership role, being supported at present by Elizabeth Carey and, in my new full-time capacity, by me, I feel it is essential that we seek a replacement for Julie as a matter of urgency. If you are interested in working with these families or if you know of someone may be interested, please get in touch with Sue, Elizabeth or me ... as soon as possible.

From Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February I shall be holding an open *Vicar's Surgery* from 4.00 to 5.00pm in our fundraising shop on Woodlands Road. No prior appointments are necessary [but can be arranged if preferred] – simply turn up to discuss weddings, baptisms or any other matter of concern.

*Fr D.*