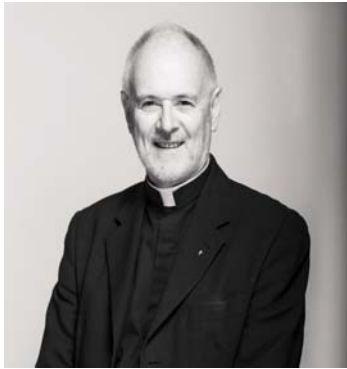


## **A few words from the Vicarage ...**



It was good to have the Bishop of Lancaster with us again during January to conduct a Confirmation service here in St Paul's for the first time since November, 2004. Whilst we have had a number of people confirmed in the last two years, we have gone to other parishes for these.

So, it was a delight that we were able to host this service and now we congratulate our three newly confirmed members as we welcome them into our Christian family – Leann Baines, Frank Booth and Carole Johnson. Whilst already well known within the family, this was their public affirmation of their baptism vows to become full members of our communion as they take their place at the Lord's Table.

I would also like to take this timely opportunity to thank a few people, firstly Joy Barnes for her work over the years raising money for church through her card stall. Joy has decided reluctantly to retire from this and we are indebted to her (and Clive) for running her stall and giving so generously of their time and talents – as well as for the generous amount of money added to church funds.

Then there is Bronwyn and Pam who deserve our thanks once more for their marvellous fund raising efforts. Their sales table raised £1600 last year, 10% of which was donated to various charities whilst the rest came into church funds. Their special effort with the Christmas Greetings table in church saw £70 being raised and this, coupled with an equivalent sum from the sales table, was donated to Brian House, the children's hospice.

We are hugely indebted to all who do work of this nature and it is a privilege to be a part of a parish which has this kind of selfless mission at its heart. So, thank you all, and well done.

We are now looking forward to an exciting time ahead with a full Lent, Holy Week and Easter programme being lined up. Not least being our ***Easter Extravaganza*** for which details are still being formulated but which will be opened by the popular comedian, Bobby Ball. I will be contacting a number of people to ask for assistance to manage this event which will be on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

I am looking forward to another ‘all hands to the pump’ affair as we seek to make this as extravagant as it sounds! There will be all the usual stalls and attractions along with a few others which will hopefully whet the appetite. I am always open to new ideas and suggestions so, if you have a burning desire to be involved in some way, please let me know.

This year we are due to renew our Electoral Roll – so please ensure that you obtain, complete and return YOUR form by 23<sup>rd</sup> February – the date by which it is required if you are to have a say at this year’s Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which will be on Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March [in the church hall] following the 10.30am service.

Please note these dates in your diaries and come along to both.

God bless you all,

Your Vicar,  
*Fr D.*