

A few words from the Vicarage ...



What a difference a few days can make! After the euphoria of Elizabeth's and my time at Westminster Abbey (as reported upon last month) we plunged to a rather dark place when our son fell seriously ill. Coupled with a whole array of other misfortunes, this was a difficult time for all.

The space afforded us was welcome and much needed – equally, the support through cards, flowers and messages was wonderful – and we thank you all for that. I was particularly grateful to fellow clergy and their offers to assist – and when Fr Rick, the Vicar of Kirkham, stepped in to take all services, a huge weight was lifted.

As you know, Lewis has responded well to the treatment; he is now back at home and making steady progress – for which we thank God with all our heart. The power of everyone's prayers was tangible, we felt surrounded by those prayers and the love and support from people far and wide – we are still learning of people and places where prayers were being offered on our behalf, which is both wonderful and most humbling.

So, now it is back to business for us – with some semblance of normality (*whatever that is!*) returning, but we are changed by the experience. Perspectives alter and priorities change; everything is seen in a new light and focus – what seemed important is less so and what seemed unimportant takes on a heightened significance. This is the same for

anyone no doubt who goes through a life-changing experience – so it is of no surprise to us that we are likewise affected.

On returning to full duties, one of the first of these saw St Paul's hosting the Archdeacon's Visitation at which Sheila and Keith were formally admitted to their positions as churchwardens for this next year – we wish them well in this work and I look forward to working with them. I also thank John for the support he has given as warden these last 2 years.

John continues to serve on the PCC where he is joined by three new members in Loraine, Dorothy and Helen. Each has their own skills to offer and their contribution to the work of this august body will be welcomed.

God bless you all,

Your Vicar,

*Fr D.*