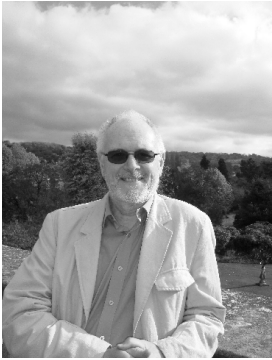


A few words from the Vicarage ...



What a difference a month makes! In the last few weeks we have seen the seed corn of a new Scout Group take root and we look forward to Beavers and Cubs starting up this month. We have also seen the first meeting of the new St Paul's Fellowship Group, with Len Curtis as speaker. The importance of such a group cannot be underestimated as it has a simple aim which is to allow like minded Christians to gather together whilst providing fun, friendship and fellowship in a convivial atmosphere with no agendas or pressures.

Then, at the Bishop's Primary Visitation, Keith and Alan, our churchwardens, were admitted to office and I look forward to working closely with them. In addition to all of that, when the PCC met in May, Mrs Pam Rowell was appointed to be our new PCC Secretary, thereby releasing a lot of pressure upon my time. I am extremely grateful to Pam and, again, I look forward to working with her in the weeks and months ahead.

The PCC also gave its agreement to extend the list of Holy Communion Assistants - we are required to review this annually and seek the Bishop's authorisation for them to perform this ministry - where they assist at Holy Communion by distributing the wine. Marian Wood has decided not to continue with this (remaining as Pastoral Assistant) and our thanks are due to her for her long service in this work. Indeed, Marian's duties extended to include taking Holy Communion to the sick and she did so regularly by visiting local Nursing Homes. Those continuing as assistants are Charlotte Johnston, Carole Johnson and Alan Wrapson, who are to be joined this year by Christine Challenger, Judith Lakin, Richard & Sheila Redcliffe and Helen Thompson. I warmly welcome them and appreciate their willingness to serve in this way. These developments *per se* may seem small in themselves but, when looked at collectively, show that there is much new growth in our witness and in our response to God's call to serve.

Already my time at Westminster Abbey seems a distant memory, although it was again hugely rewarding and an amazing experience. I am particularly delighted that over the last year a number of parishioners have availed themselves of the Parish Pass, affording free access to the Abbey, on their respective visits to the capital. This pass is available to any members of the congregation on request.

God bless you, your Vicar,
Fr D.