

A few words from the Vicarage ...



What a busy time it has been over the last month with the Lent discussions, a full Holy Week programme and Easter. In the midst of all of that was our Annual Parochial Church Meeting - held again on Palm Sunday. It was a delight to see a good number attend that meeting in the church hall after the morning service; and to take part in the business of electing churchwardens, representatives to Deanery Synod, members of the Parochial Church Council and sidesmen and women.

As Sheila Swindells hands over her warden's staff at this month's Primary Visitation, we welcome Alan Wrapson as her replacement alongside Keith Turner who was re-elected. I am sure they will be a force to be reckoned with and I look forward to working with them in the year ahead. Both will be admitted to office by the Bishop on 6th May at St Andrew's, Cleveleys.

It was also good to see some new blood join both the Deanery Synod and the PCC - as we welcome Michael Briers (joining Keith Turner) onto Deanery Synod; and the PCC positions were filled by David Gaskell, Christine Challenger, Michele Briers, Keith Lakin, Pam Rowell and Sheila Swindells. This is a wonderful mixture of familiar faces with the new and it promises to provide for an exciting time ahead.

The single-most important omission from the scene continues to be a PCC Secretary. To ensure the smooth running of the parish business, it is essential that we find someone to take on this role - at present I am doing what I can to cover the essentials. However, this work diverts me from my main tasks in ministry - which is not good for any of us.

It is my prayer that from within the PCC, we will find someone willing to accept this post; your prayerful support will be welcome.

As we slip over from April into May, I will be fulfilling the role of Duty Chaplain at Westminster Abbey once more. The Abbey is a most inspiring place and I feel honoured to be returning to conduct this unique form of ministry there. It is a distinct privilege to be asked to minister to the thousands of visitors - both tourists and pilgrims - who cross the threshold each day. It is also humbling to walk towards the nave altar, there to lead the Abbey congregation in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Westminster Abbey may seem a far cry from the Fylde coast and the parish of St Paul, Ansdell & Fairhaven - but it is comforting to know that the purpose is the same; the liturgy is the same; and we are blessed to be able to approach the Lord's table in either place in the same way, as brothers and sisters in Christ, that same Christ, crucified and risen, saviour of us all.

God bless you,
your Vicar,

Fr D.