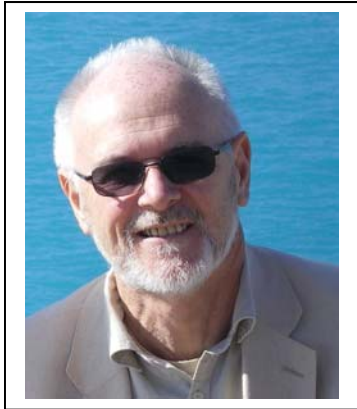


## A few words from the vicarage ...



Huge thanks must go to all who worked so hard to make our Harvest Festival service such a success. It was more than a Harvest festival, of course, in that it was combined with the *Back to Church* initiative and, to complete the 'cocktail' of the mixture, it adopted the '*Songs of Praise*' format with a number of the 'favourite hymns' submitted by members of the congregation in recent weeks.

Since then, I have taken counsel from a number of parishioners and have given serious consideration to repeating this format – that is, '*Songs of Praise*' – on future occasions.

What is proposed is that, on the fifth Sunday in those months where there are five Sundays, we replace the usual Family Eucharist with the '*Songs of Praise*' service. By implementing this change in 2012, there are no fewer than five opportunities to celebrate in this way. This also links in with the fact that, for those Sundays, there will be two separate opportunities for people to make their communion – at 8.30am Holy Communion and at the 4.00pm Healing & Wholeness service. Hopefully this will satisfy the wishes of those who are keen to maintain the Sacramental aspects of their worship whilst also reaching out in other ways as we seek to move forward.

I must say a big 'thank you' to all who went along to the service at Trinity Hospice in Bispham on the afternoon of Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> October – the support shown was very encouraging and made the service so much more meaningful. We are blessed to have such a facility close at hand and it was good to be able to give this kind of support to the staff, volunteers and patients in this very tangible way. Many have said that they look forward to our next visit.

It was also good to have such a wonderful turnout at our weekday service on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October when we welcomed the Bishop of Blackburn, the Archdeacon of Lancaster, the Area Dean and Mr Hilton, our Patron. I refer, of course, to the occasion of my Installation and Induction as the Incumbent of the Parish. It was a moving and, for me, very touching moment as I became only the 8<sup>th</sup> Vicar of the parish. It was also confirmation that the parish has its own clear and distinctive identity here on the Fylde.

A lot of trust has been placed upon us all and we need now to rally round and go forward together – this is your *call to arms* and it is important that, not only is the call heard, but that it is answered. St Paul's has laid down its marker once more on the Diocesan map and it is our job – your job as much as mine (*if not more so yours*) to make sure that it stays there. As with all seven vicars who have preceded me, it is inevitable that I will leave St Paul's at some stage – but you will remain, so the future lies fairly and squarely in your hands.

Whilst I am here (and rest assured, I have no plans to leave for some time), I will do my utmost to assist you to reach your goals – but I need the help and support of everyone – so that means YOU, not someone else, YOU!

For too long there have been too many distractions, some which were necessary and some which were not – now it is time to strike out and move on, learn from the past but leave it behind. Only by doing so will the targets set be achieved, only by doing so will it be proved that the trust shown has not been misplaced.

Your Vicar,

*Fr D.*