

A few words from the Vicarage ...



The great news this month is that we are in the final stages of arranging to welcome our brothers and sisters within the local Churches Together to St Paul's – not simply as we host the annual Advent Carol Service on Wednesday, 5th December, but as all five denominations within the group will sign a local Covenant. It is an especial delight that Bishop Geoff, Bishop of Lancaster, will attend and will sign the Covenant on our behalf. The Rev'd Mike Hartley, Anglican Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese will also be with us in support of this initiative.

The Churches Together group in Ansdell & Fairhaven has been working away for some years now and I was delighted to continue this relationship with the other church families at Fairhaven Methodists, the White Church (URC), the Well Church Baptists and the Roman Catholics. During my four years here, there have been several changes in personnel within the group but the commitment has remained and it was felt appropriate that we should cement this relationship by laying down a marker for all to see – showing that we are together; although we are Christians of differing traditions, yet we are together in purpose and we are together in faith. It is my earnest desire that we will be able to pack the pews on this occasion and that the five church families may truly celebrate a wonderful and memorable evening – so, if you are able to attend, I would urge you to do so and show that the people at St Paul's are fully supportive and committed to this Covenant.

Another positive step has been the formation of our parish review group. The six-strong Mission Action Plan group has begun the task of reviewing our parish structures. This is a daunting task and I ask that you pray for them at this time and as we await their findings and recommendations.

As you are aware, our diocese is now in a state of change, having said farewell to Bishop Nicholas, and we await the appointment of his successor. So we pray for those charged with this duty and for the man (as yet unidentified) who will be consecrated to the Diocese of Blackburn as its next Bishop.

God bless you all,

Your Vicar,

Fr D.