

A few words from the Vicarage ...



Our Harvest celebration was a great success, many thanks to all who attended and gave so generously both in terms of goods for the local charity, *Face to Face*, and in money for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. We were able to send off £289.40 (rising to £320.65 after Gift Aid) in support of the Bishop's two overseas charities.

We were also delighted to welcome the pupils, staff and families from Ansdell Primary School into church for their Harvest Festival - it is always a huge pleasure to see the church full and to have the links to the school in this way.

We now look forward to our Christmas Fair on November 29th when local news reporter, Tony Durkin, will be with us to open this major fund raising event for us. I am grateful to Camille Cutler, a member of our PCC and one of the leaders within our Guiding group, for agreeing to coordinate this for us.

This event promises to be yet another resounding success - of course, it can only be so with your support, so I call upon the entire church family to come along between midday and 3.00pm on the day of the fair and join in the fun.

As the Autumn leaves are falling and with Advent just around the corner, we are mindful of the ever-changing seasons and the need to be vigilant of those around us. The evenings draw ever darker and people retreat behind closed curtains - so we need to ensure that no one is left alone and/or lonely. It is so easy to assume that everyone is fine - especially when they say so - but how often that can be the stoicism, the stiff upper lip speaking, which may be far from the reality.

Being independent is all well and good, but sometimes we need to set our 'pride' to one side and accept that help is needed. Often, I am the last person to hear of someone in need of help - which can be (and is) very frustrating. So, if you are (or if you know of someone who is, or may be) in need of assistance in any way, please let that need be known.

Far too often common sense plays little or no part in our judgement, either for ourselves or for one another. We are afraid of interfering or being a bother to others! So, be aware and be sensible - watch out for others and share concerns, both for them and for yourself.

We have had a long and good spell of weather; no doubt we will soon be in the grips of more wintry conditions when that awareness is less easy to apply - but so much more important.

As a church family, we are here for each other, so keep in touch and let us all unite in our journey through Advent and beyond.

God bless you,
your Vicar,
Fr D.