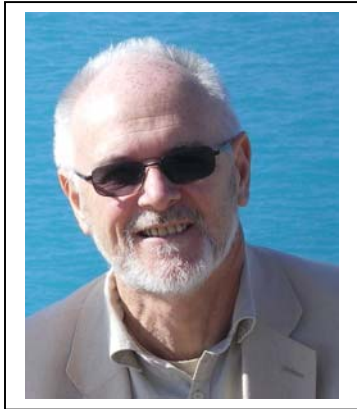


A few words from the vicarage ...



NEWS JUST IN ... we have heard from the Bishop's chaplain that the Bishop will conduct my Institution on Wednesday, 19th October, with the Archdeacon of Lancaster carrying out the Induction. This, in many ways completes a 'return journey' for the parish through the Institution of your present Priest-in-Charge to the post of Vicar once more. All the various preliminaries have been completed and we now await this final part in the process which will help to restore the parish to what many see as its rightful place.

It is indeed hoped that this will help everyone to move forward in a positive and creative manner as we work together in the mission of the wider church. To a certain extent we have all been focused upon this step – and understandably so – but now it is appropriate that we use our time profitably by seeking to expand and develop as a parish, committed to serve one another within our community.

There are challenges ahead for all of us and we must meet them head-on if we are to make achieve our aims.

Recently there has been a lot of time given to reflection of times and events past – notably '9/11' and the Battle of Britain – and next month we will have the annual Remembrance Day commemoration. Whilst these are hugely important, we must also look forward using the past as a springboard to launch into the new and exciting future – perhaps even into the strange uncertainties of the unknown.

Now that our baseline has been steadied in terms of the parish structure, this is the ideal opportunity to seek out new ways in which to explore our mission and to re-examine our levels of commitment.

I would love if everyone could come up with at least one suggested initiative which we may try – for example, it has already been mooted that occasionally we might conduct the Evensong service elsewhere than in church. It is certainly worth a try – perhaps you could suggest possible suitable locations.

Whilst on this train of initiatives, I am pleased to advise that shortly I shall be joining the rota of clergy invited to conduct services at Trinity Hospice in Bispham. These are quiet and reflective services which are held in the Hospice Chapel and begin at 3.30pm. Perhaps on those occasions when I will be on duty, those members of our Evensong congregation – and any others who might wish to come along – could join with me instead of meeting at St Paul's at 4.00pm. If that isn't felt to be a viable option, we could (and would) still do both.

Your further suggestions are awaited with interest!

Fr D.