

## A few words from the Vicarage ...



August was, for many, an extremely poignant time - as we reflected upon the events from a century ago with the outbreak of World War 1 on 4th August, 1914. This was marked by a County Commemoration Service in Blackburn Cathedral at which we were represented by Charlotte Johnston.

Charlotte said how moving this service was and she collected, on our behalf, the Commemorative Candle which we lit on the following Sunday in our own commemorative act. This candle was handed on to a young person to symbolise the passing over of the responsibility to remember to the new generation in the hope that such scenes will never be repeated. It was then placed before the Roll of Honour in the Memorial Aisle where it will remain unlit until Armistice, 2018 when it will be relit to mark the end of that awful period of conflict.

During the month we said farewell to the outgoing manager of our Charity Shop - and I wish to repeat my thanks to Jackie for her unswerving support over these last few years since she took on that role. Both her and David's contributions in time and energy will be missed and we are grateful to all they did in support of our mission and outreach work in the shop.

So it is that we open a new chapter in the shop following the appointment of Victoria Pallister as manager. Doubtless with a new broom, there will be changes - many of which are enforced as we seek to comply with the various requirements from outside agencies, not least HMRC! We wish Victoria every success in this work - her success will have the roll-on effect of success for the parish it seeks to serve. A number of volunteer staff took this time of change to retire - and we thank them all for their invaluable contribution. This means, of course, that we are seeking additional help as we move forward - so, if you are willing and able to spare an odd morning and/or afternoon,

please get in touch with Victoria to find out more of what is involved and what is needed.

August also brought me a series of 'firsts' - I conducted my first wedding in Scotland; this was also my first wedding in a castle; and it was the first time I'd conducted a wedding in a kilt! I am grateful to Joanne and Michael for giving me this opportunity and I hope and pray that their married life together will long and happy.

The month also saw the destructive effects of Hurricane Bertha which felled one of the trees in the parish grounds, partly demolishing a boundary wall and gate whilst causing havoc to traffic on Clifton Drive - this reminded me of the hymn, 'I feel the winds of God today'!

Now we are looking forward to things returning to what serves as normal with the Family Service restarting (4th); the choir returning (7th) and the schools' new term beginning (8th). Later in the month, on the 22nd, I begin my 7th year here - just where has the time gone? It is perhaps timely to thank everyone for all your hard work over the period - I certainly couldn't have done half of what has been achieved (and much has been achieved) without the loyal support of so many.

God bless you,  
your Vicar,

**Fr D.**