

## Finance

The Accounts were presented to the parish. The parish's financial situation was outlined. Parishioners were encouraged to use the Dona machine or to contribute via Bank transfer. Finances are still in a precarious position. The current account is diminishing each month. Money will be required for remedial building work in the near future. Fr. Ian Patterson will be moving into the presbytery in the near future. This will have some impact on finances.

## Justice and Peace

The ceilidh was a great success. It also raised £554 for Hazlerigg Food Bank and Vincent's centre at St Dominic's. Many thanks to John and Barbara Dowling for organising this.

## Spiritual and Liturgical Activities

- First Communion Masses continue under the direction of Fr. Michael. Preparation continues to be carried out by a team of dedicated catechists.
- Children's Liturgy will be able to start on a monthly basis as soon as DBS clearances are confirmed. Several new, experienced volunteers have stepped forward, some of whom have attended the recent Diocesan training course.
- Confirmations were held on 9 July.
- Other groups continue to run.
- The Bereavement Service was held in November. Many thanks to Deacon John for leading this. Many people who attended told us that they found it a moving occasion.
- Prayers were again offered at Commonwealth War Graves in the cemetery on Remembrance Sunday. Many thanks to the Faith in Action Group from St. Oswald's, together with students from St. Mary's School, who led us in prayer at individual graves.
- The Carol Service, led mainly by our young people, was a success.
- Christmas tree/Carol Service at St. Columba's. Thanks to Bill Miller for facilitating our involvement - and the group of people who helped to decorate our tree.
- Service for Victims and Survivors of abuse was held in April. New ribbons, together with explanatory notices, have been placed on the fence and the cross at the entrance to the church grounds.
- Emmaus Group is considering the Bishop's vision for the Diocese using the Synodal model suggested by the Diocese.

## **The Toy Appeal**

Once again the parish's generosity was amazing Many thanks to Joan Donnelly and Pat Hedley who co-ordinate this appeal.

## **Gardens**

The First Communion Group planted bulbs. In addition, an enormous amount of work has been carried out in the gardens. Thanks to our Co-ordinator, Muriel, and all the volunteers who have worked on this.

## **Parish Website**

The website is now up and running. Many thanks to John Dowling and his team. Content has been updated and refreshed.

## **Social Activities**

- Michael Ratliff has co-ordinated two events : Christmas concert and Feast Day Get Together. Both were successful social events but also raised funds for the Toy Appeal, St. Oswald's Hospice and the British Heart Foundation. Our thanks go to Michael and his team.
- We were able to enjoy our usual pre-Christmas festivities and the jarping etc on Easter Sunday. Despite the hall being out of commission at Easter, we were able to celebrate in the church. Thanks to Amanda, Gareth and all their helpers.