Bless your MP!

Just when you thought life was complicated enough, someone decides to bring politics into it. I make no apologies.

If you know me you will realise that it isn’t long before I do bring politics into it; prior to ordination I was active in a political party and since ordination, while I haven’t belonged to any political party (deliberately so) I have sought to encourage Christians to get involved at every level in politics, whatever the mainstream party. This is because as Christians we should be interested in and concerned for the common good seeking to make our communities and our society a better place to enable all to prosper.

I have the privilege of speaking with, praying for and in some cases praying with the MPs in this county, what strikes me is how hard they work and how much abuse they get on social media and other forms of communication.

Regardless of which way you voted or will vote in the future, I would ask the local church in Cumbria to do something to bless your local MP.

I want to encourage the local church to pray for your MP; send them a card or even a box of chocolates. Let them know that you value the work that they try to do on behalf of the community. Let them see that the church is not just another lobby group, but a community of faith that cares for their local community and wants all to prosper.

Honestly, they get so much flak both verbally and on social media and from within their own party. It is so important for them to know that someone appreciates what they are doing and is praying for them.

The key is not to see your MP as the enemy, but as someone who wants to see good in their community, and there is considerable overlap with what we want as a church.

If you want any information on how to do this drop me a line at [archdeacon.south@carlislediocese.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.south@carlislediocese.org.uk).

***Vernon Ross - Archdeacon of Westmorland and Furness***