

## **The Processional Cross returns to St Peter & St Paul's**

*Father we thank you for the generosity which has made possible the refurbishment of this Cross; for the craftsmanship which made it; and the spirit of its original benefaction.*

*May it always inspire our worship, give light and joy to our gathering and allow us to focus only on whose cross is light and life to all.*

*In whose name we pray.*

*Amen*

Thus did Fr Nick lead a prayer on the occasion of the return to use of the Processional Cross at St Peter & St Paul's on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at our 9.45 Family Eucharist service.

He thanked Bob Dibben (Crucifer) for organising the refurbishment over the past months. Also Mr Harold & Mrs Hilda Taylor and the Anonymous Donor for their respective gifts which together funded the repair and refurbishment of the Cross which first saw service in our church at the time of the extension to the Chancel – c1886.

One of the features of the refurbishment is the application of a special lacquer onto the exquisitely cleaned brasswork, meaning that it will not need cleaning (hooray!). Over the years many hands have lovingly applied brass cleaner and plenty of 'elbow grease' in the weekly cleaning process. No longer will that be necessary, in fact the Cross must not be cleaned for fear of rubbing off the lacquer.

After the service the Cross was examined by many of the congregation, some remarking on their own, personal and touching, connections with it. To record the occasion the photo below was taken in the Lady Chapel, showing the three

Churchwardens – Thelma Chilcott, Sybil Farmer and John Berry - and Bob Dibben (in his Alb as he had been a Ministrant on this day).

For Church records a detailed photograph and summary of the refurbishment have been placed on file. If only it had been possible for a written piece (with or without a photograph) to have been kept as a record of the original donor and the exact date we should have been better informed. The Cross has lasted 130 years; may it continue, as Fr Nick's prayer sought, to allow us to focus on whose cross is light and life to us all.



*Bob Dibben*