

Rector's Rambles

March 2017

Important message to all the Church Family in Holy Trinity and St. Wulstan's

Dear Friends

I wanted to write to you today to bring to your attention that we are approaching a significant new phase in the life of the Parish and to encourage prayers and reflections as we seek God's wisdom for His direction in this coming period

Kate's Journey

At the heart of all ministry is a willingness to be available to Jesus to do whatever he calls you to in the confidence that he provides the resources we need. Sometimes this leads us along unexpected paths, as it did for Kate when she began to realise that she was being called into ordained ministry. In many ways this has been a journey into the unknown for her and it is our privilege, as her church family, to pray alongside her as God reveals more of the path to her. Recently, following discussion with Archbishop Sentamu, some of this direction came more clearly into focus. We now know that she will be ordained Deacon on July 2nd and this will be to a stipendiary (paid) post. We also know that funding of her current post will end this summer (and would have done so whether she was ordained or not). In the next few weeks Kate will begin the process of looking at curacy posts available and discerning where God is leading her in this next phase of her ministry. Please pray for her that she and Ian will be given clear discernment to recognise the place that God has already prepared for her and that they will know the close presence of Jesus as they make this big step in their lives.

Our Journey

Firstly there is an emotional journey: To many across the Parish, and especially in St. Wulstan's, Kate is more than a minister, she is a friend and source of strength. Initially Kate came to us on a five year contract and we are fortunate that this has been extended twice but we knew that there would come a time when that funding would come to an end. Kate has (quite rightly) often described St. Wulstan's as her family and her leaving will be a wrench for her but also for her church family. As a parent I know how hard it is to let family members leave and move on but also rejoice that their lives are moving on. Kate's leaving will be sad but also a time for hope and anticipation as she moves forward in her calling to ministry.

Secondly we have a very practical journey. Moving from two leaders to one full time leader will have significant impact across the parish. We will have to make several important decisions about the life of the two churches with the most pressing affecting Sunday Mornings. At present we have three congregations meeting across Holy Trinity and St. Wulstan's at overlapping times every Sunday morning. The big question here is how do I provide effective ministry and oversight in both churches and across all our congregations. I will want to hear from as many as possible in the coming weeks about practical ways forward and where there is flexibility. I hope we will all find the grace to look at the decisions we will have to make with grace and awareness of the needs of others, as well our own interests.

With love and prayers

Michael Woodmansey