



**St Mark's Church, Reigate**

June 2017

**Letter from the Curate, Reverend Anna Moore**

Dear Friends

As I approach my ordination in Petertide, I have been reflecting on the past diaconal year at St Mark's. The past year has been a journey of learning and adjustment, not only for me but for my family too. A change of home and school for the children and a change of title for me, becoming Reverend Anna Moore, which still feels a little strange to me! This time last year, I was excited at the prospect of a new chapter beginning but also reluctant to let go of all that was familiar to me and my family. As well as moments of utmost joy there have also been times of tears and frustration! However, it was during the most challenging times that I felt God's presence stronger than ever. God's love came in many forms including the friendly phone call or text, laughter with family, new friendships, new glimpses of wildlife, not to mention the breathtaking views from Colley Hill! God was with us every step of the way, I just needed to pause to recognize it.

Many people now, especially children in year 6 who are leaving primary school, or leaving to go to college/university, contemplating a career change, or perhaps deciding whether to retire will no doubt be familiar with the feeling of being excited and anxious at the same time, being ready for change yet reluctant to let go of what is comfortable and familiar. I don't think we are ever alone in this whirlwind of emotional conflict.

This calls to mind what it may have been like for the first disciples, Simon who is called Peter and his brother Andrew. Both were fishermen and were called by Jesus to be 'fishers of men' (Matthew 4 18-22). Being called, they chose to drop their nets immediately and journey with Jesus, leaving their homes, their livelihoods and all that was familiar, to follow and trust in Jesus. They did not know what lay ahead, only that everything was about to change, a new chapter was beginning.

Our lives are constantly changing, it's part of what keeps life interesting. We each take individual journeys, which require adjustment at times to what is familiar, but we are not doing this in our own strength, but by the grace and power of God. In times of change, we just need to take time to pause and recognize where God is guiding and directing us.

We pray now for all who are embarking on, or considering a new chapter in their lives, especially those leaving primary school. That, through the anxiety of leaving all that is familiar, to the excitement of the unknown, they may be comforted by God's all loving and abiding presence. Be with them, Lord, and the ones they hold dear; give them strength and courage as they move forward, safe in the knowledge you are right by their side every step of the way.

Amen

*Rev'd Anna Moore*