



**St Mark's Church, Reigate**

May 2018

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

Dear Friends

I want to begin my letter with an overwhelming sense of thanks and gratitude to everyone at St Mark's, for the kindness and support I have received since joining in June 2016, and in particular, over the past week. It is an exciting yet challenging time as I take a step into a leadership role enabling me to spread my wings and develop in preparation for the next stage of my journey.

Life is a journey for every one of us, and frustratingly at times life never stands still as much as we would like it to! But having said that, it does keep life interesting. I've learnt from our wonderful parish administrator Shona that preparation is key! From the moment we learnt of Fr Martin's sabbatical we were in planning mode; what was coming up, what needs to happen, who needs to be involved etc etc. There are things that will naturally catch us unaware, but with teamwork we are able to adapt and deal with most situations.

The first thing I noticed in this preparation for leadership was the amount of teamwork that occurs within St Mark's that often slips under the radar as individuals are so efficient they are almost stealth like. Namely the serving team under our Sacristan James, who is 'Yoda' when it comes to the knowledge required for each service! Our Churchwardens together with the deputy wardens and welcomers ensure that our services run smoothly and for both congregation and clergy. The kitchen project team have worked tirelessly to ensure that funding is in place, the flower arrangers make our church look so beautiful, our choirs bring services to life, those involved in children's ministry enthusiastically nurture our children in the faith, the community lunch team help those who value company and give support to those alone, our treasurer and PCC Secretary/Organist dedicate a great deal of time to ensure that we are keeping on the straight and narrow! Our ministry team and pastoral team care for and visit those in need in our community, not to mention all the volunteers who assist with the various service and events that happen at St Mark's. I could go on but fear that I will miss one someone out, the point is that church is church because of all the valued skills of individuals who are willing to dedicate their time and talents into helping others.

Most of the great teamwork within St Mark's is voluntary, which demonstrates what a fantastic sense of community we have at St Mark's and is something we can be extremely proud of!

Relating this to the Bible, Jesus could not have carried out his ministry alone, he depended on those around him to work together and spread the good news, 'After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place' Luke 10 vs 1, emphasising the need to work together. We cannot get very far on our own, we are relational beings despite our differences at times, we rely on a combination of our different strengths and talents. John Pritchard once referred to the church being like a bouquet of flowers, the more a variety of flowers are added, the more beautiful the bouquet becomes.

St Mark's is a wonderful bouquet and I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU, for all that people do; it is an honour and a privilege serving and leading you. Through the next four months together I know we can, as the army says, 'adapt and overcome' any situation that is presented to us. Exciting times ahead!

God Bless.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna." The letter 'A' is large and stylized, with a long vertical stroke that curves slightly to the right at the top. The letters 'n', 'n', and 'a' are smaller and more standard in style, with a period following the final 'a'.

*Reverend Anna*