



St Mark's Church, Reigate

August 2018

Letter from the Curate, Reverend Anna Moore

Dear Friends

As the sabbatical ends and Father Martin re-joins us I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone for your love and support over the past four months. It has been a real joy to be able to inhabit the incumbent role for a small period. There have been some real challenges which have only been possible to address and overcome through teamwork. It has been a real eye opener just how many teams there are within St Mark's church that do so much. I won't name them as I am bound to forget a group but thank you for all that people do.

As some of you know I am now in my third year of my curacy (time flies when you are having fun!) and is now time for me to start spreading my wings that bit further. For this reason, I will be covering Buckland and Betchworth parishes part time to enable me to experience rural ministry and different types of services. This does feel rather daunting as I am very comfortable at St Mark's and that is because of the congregation and teams around me. However, life seldom stands still, comfortable is good for a while but if we stay there too long we can start to stagnate! I am apprehensive about the schedule of work, being in unfamiliar surroundings, leading unfamiliar services to an unfamiliar congregation, but and the big BUT is, it is also exciting. I am only able to feel comfortable pushing myself that bit more because of the solid foundation from St Mark's. Through the relationships that have been established, I am confident that no matter what is thrown my way I have people who I can trust and depend on to see me through. That is what family is about. Through this loving environment, I am confident to meet new people, form new relationships and encounter new experiences which also brings its challenges and joyful moments!

Jesus had his family, not just the biological family but the family through the disciples, people who he met and called to be alongside him. Jesus's journey preaching and teaching and showing God's love was achieved through his relationships to others. The relationships within St Mark's are so precious, so vital as we help one another along through ups and downs of life, we can often take this for granted! Without that sense of community there would be no church, as church is not individual, it is corporate. To be a Christian is personal, but it can never be truly experienced alone as that is opposite to how Jesus modelled a way of being. Church is community, it is not the building, 'where two or three gathered in my name, there am I with them' (Matthew 18:20 NIV).

So, for those of you who are considering a new episode, a new challenge which feels rather daunting, rather unsettling, embrace it, of course it is scary, but in taking a 'can do' attitude it is amazing to see where that new path leads, no pain no gain!

Please pray for me as I embark on this new adventure, I will still be around but a little less than usual, but please feel free to contact me, a cup of coffee is always welcome! St Mark's is a very special place with very special people who emanate that sense of family and that is something to be very proud of.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna." The letter 'A' is large and stylized, with a long vertical stroke and a small loop at the top. The rest of the name is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Reverend Anna