



St Mark's Church, Reigate

March 2019

Letter from the Curate, Reverend Anna Moore

Dear Friends

As I write this final letter to you, I am thinking back to the time I joined St Marks in July 2016 and reflecting on how nervous I was being fresh out of theological college and wearing the collar for the first time! In the blink of an eye nearly three years has passed and what an amazing experience it has been. From being the annoying over enthusiastic puppy who was constantly annoying Fr Martin with question after question, I slowly began to find my feet and my place at St Marks. Last year I was given the opportunity to lead St Marks through the sabbatical, which was an eye opener to all that is required of Father Martin, and the teamwork which is so vital.

I have formed wonderful friendships too, and so it is with both excitement and sadness that I leave this wonderful community to take on a new challenge as Rector of Buckland and Betchworth. It is very apt that my last Sunday celebrates the transfiguration. The word "transfiguration" comes from the Latin roots trans- ("across") and figura ("form, shape"). It therefore signifies a change of form or appearance.

The Transfiguration was a special event where God allowed the apostles Peter James and John to have a privileged spiritual experience that was meant to strengthen their faith for the challenges they would later endure. This event is revealed to us too in 2019. There are certain times in this life where God gives us experiences of his grace that strengthen our faith when we need it the most. The transfiguration also reminds us that we should not expect these experiences of grace to continue indefinitely, nor should we be afraid or resentful when they cease. They are perhaps meant only as momentary glimpses of the joy of heaven to sustain us as we face the challenges of this life, to help strengthen us when the road is hard, and our faith is shaken.

Toby Garrood the amazing director of St Marks Singers asked me what song I would like played for my last service. The one I picked sparked a nervous laugh from Toby, but he agreed to try. The song I chose was performed by Miley Cyrus called 'The Climb' which I think sums up not only my journey here at St Marks and on to St Michael and St Marys, it also relates to each and every one of us who face daily challenges. It serves as a reminder to me and hopefully to you too that, our experiences both joyful and sorrowful are what form and shape us (figura) if we recognise God in all we do.

'The struggles I'm facing, the chances I'm taking
Sometimes might knock me down but, No I'm not breaking
I may not know it, but these are the moments that
I'm going to remember most yeah, just got to keep going
And I, I gotta be strong, just keep pushing on, 'cause.....

Chorus:

There's always gonna be another mountain

I'm always gonna wanna make it move

Always gonna be an uphill battle

Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose

Ain't about how fast I get there

Ain't about what's waiting on the other side

It's the climb'

The transfiguration is not about the end result, it is about the journey we take with God and with each other, taking the good times and the bad and learning from those experiences. By taking those moments from our uphill battles and recognising God's presence within them ... that is the transfiguration the astonishing transformation within ourselves! The Climb!

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you all at St Mark, but this is not "Goodbye" it's "See you soon!"

Love and God Bless

Anna