

A message from Jonathan about his leaving All Saints

The time has come for me to leave my post here as Rector of the Kingston Team and so no longer to be Vicar of All Saints Church. This being the Church of England nothing happens very fast and so I will be here for another 4 months with my last Sunday taking services being the 17th October. Which leaves plenty of time to say goodbye but also to think about how the interregnum, the period between me leaving and my successor coming, will be managed - services to continue and the busy life of our parish to carry on. I'm really delighted to say that William Allberry, along with Sandy Cragg of course, are available to us for this time and will be leading our worship in the normal way and I'll be discussing with the PCC tomorrow some plans I've discussed with the Wardens for managing other aspects of our life - our Heritage programme, community use of our building and the fantastic work that our army of volunteers undertake on our behalf - served as they so wonderfully are by our two fantastic office based staff, Jenny Bridges PA to the Rector and Pippa Joiner our Learning and Engagement Officer. Of course, during an interregnum, the role of the PCC and their leaders, the two Churchwardens, becomes even more important and we are especially blessed in having two fantastic Wardens in Roshan Jathanna and John Dewhurst to oversee, with William and Sandy, our worshipping and community life. I know, absolutely, that you will support and assist them in that interregnum time and let's say now a massive thank you to them for all that they will give to All Saints.

If you're interested I can tell you what the future looks like for us as a family. I'm not going to another clergy job but instead will be looking to develop my mental health work as a Psychotherapist, alongside, perhaps furthering the charity work I've been involved with for most of my working life, and maybe some further study. All of this will be in Devon to where we will move - Maxine is already there (she thought she was getting away but actually we're just going to follow her), Melissa is going to start a course to train as a Veterinary nurse and Linda and Matt will commute between here and there while Matt finishes his last year at school. In due course I will seek permission to officiate in the Diocese there and so join the army of unpaid priests who keep the Church of England going (!) and, in the meantime, I am greatly looking forward to sitting in a pew - like you. I suppose the conclusion could be drawn that, because I'm not going to another paid job in the church, that something has happened to my faith, but that would be entirely wrong. My faith has - as I think faith should - changed over my life time but I can safely say that my faith in God is as strong now as it ever was and I'm excited to see how it might further develop but I'd like to continue that journey of exploration now without the burden of a Bishop's license and all that that entails.

I'll put up on the website the substance of this message for anyone to read if they'd like to and, as I say, there's lots of time to talk personally some more.