

Future ministry in Shirley parish

One of the certainties in life is that things don't stay the same. There will always be change. And I would like to share some changes that will be happening to the ministry team here in Shirley Parish.

Rich Brooker joined us last year to complete his curacy. Many of you know that his wife, Tina, is a Methodist minister in Leamington. Rich and Tina will be physically moving to a new home in Leamington at the end of July, and he is currently looking at ministry posts in the Leamington area. It is likely he will leave us sometime in the late Summer.

The other change on the horizon is that I will be retiring at the end of August. I came to the Parish as Associate Vicar at the end of 2017 and became Vicar shortly after Peter Law Jones' retirement in 2020. Much has happened here in that time as together we came through the Covid pandemic and have grown and developed into the Church God wants us to be – a friendly church community that not only welcomes everyone but also enables them to grow in the knowledge of God and his love and purposes for them. I am sure God will continue that work in the Parish long after Kate and I leave.

But in the weeks and months ahead the parish will have to face up to these new challenges. I am pleased to say that Richard Haynes will continue to serve you as Curate in the months to come and, together with the Church Wardens and Area Dean, will ensure that you don't just keep things going but that you continue to grow and develop. And I am sure that the moments when all we can do is say "Wow" at what God is doing here will continue to happen and be shared as an encouragement to all.

There will be plenty of opportunities in the weeks to come for me to express my gratitude to all who make this place such a wonderful place to be Vicar, but meanwhile both Kate and I will hold you all in our prayers as you face this exciting future.

Our prayer for growth

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**