

## A Farewell Letter from Angela

By now it is common knowledge both in the United Benefice and also in the community of Molesey generally that I am shortly to move on to pastures new!

In the eight years that I have been in Molesey I have shared joyful and happy occasions with you, but also the sad and painful ones, and it has been a privilege for me to be involved with you in such a way.

It has also been a joy for me to have such a good relationship with St Lawrence School, both with the staff and youngsters alike, and through such links I hope it will be possible to continue to build on our work with youngsters and families in a very positive way.

I am aware that Molesey is a community in which people are there for each other - supporting and caring for one another - and that is important and refreshing to see in a society which has become so self-centred and demanding. I know that both St Paul's and St Mary's, within the United Benefice, have continued to be part of that community support and care as initiatives have sprung up over the years, and new initiatives are still happening as we reach out to bring the love of God into parts of our community.

The cups of tea, glasses of wine, meals - in fact all the hospitality which I have received from you over the past few years - have been much appreciated, as have the chats and encouraging words which have meant a lot.

So, it will be a wrench for me to move on – but I believe it is the right step to make.

I am retiring from full time parochial ministry to devote time working in the chaplaincy department of a hospice in Hertfordshire. Over the last two years I have enjoyed my Fridays working in the chaplaincy department at Princess Alice Hospice. I have learnt so much, not least what a privilege it is to accompany others at different stages on their journey towards death, and also to be alongside family, friends and staff.

I also would like to undertake a spiritual director's course, and to help out in the life of churches in that particular part of Hertfordshire where I will be living.

As I look to the future—an exciting prospect and challenge for which know God will equip and sustain me - I am aware that we are all being asked to move on into a different era in our lives as the United Benefice in East Molesey.

My last Sunday will be 4<sup>th</sup> April, so it will be a joy for me to be here for Easter and all the services that we have planned around what is the most special season of the Christian year. I do hope that many of you will take advantage of these, as we journey with Christ towards his suffering and death. And Easter Day brings us face to face with the greatest mystery of all – let us celebrate together the Resurrection of Christ and be prepared to meet the Risen Christ afresh as we allow the Resurrection to be a mystery into which God alone can lead us more fully.

As we do so, may our faith be strengthened and our love for God be deepened as we all face new beginnings and new challenges.

Angela