

Dear Friends,

I can't tell you how much I appreciated my "send off" on 25th September and was amazed at the number of people there. THANK YOU, all of you, for all your love and kindness and for the lovely cards and wonderful gifts that you gave me. Also thank you to everyone who organised and contributed to my Leaving Service and the refreshments afterwards. It was very emotional but fantastic. There are things that I need for my photographic work including a new monitor and lenses and the cheques will come in so useful for purchasing those. I haven't mastered the flash guns yet but will have to go on a course for "flashers" so that I learn how to do it properly. I have to say that it's lovely to have the space and time to do things although since I left I've been busy sorting lots of things out, making sure that everyone official knows my change of address, moving the remaining things out of the Vicarage and so on. It isn't all quite done yet but hopefully the end is in sight. I haven't really cottoned on to the fact that I'm retired yet and I guess it will take some time for it to sink in. I look back on my time with you with much joy and affection and there are so many happy and precious memories of true friends and such a lot of laughter and good fun. I always wanted to let folks know that Christianity and being a minister was enjoyable despite the sad realities of some of the things I had to do. My ministry was literally to laugh with you and cry with you and you did that with me too. It was and will always be a privilege and I am proud, in all the right ways, to have served as your minister and friend. It would be good to keep in touch and so I've included here my mobile phone number and address. I've also included here my new e-mail address which will be operational in about a fortnight's time. It will be lovely to hear from you and although I can't take services or minister in the parishes any longer please do stay in touch. I would love to hear from you. I shall certainly keep you all in my thoughts and prayers during the interregnum and as you go about choosing a new Vicar that he or she is just the right person to lead St Mary's and St Denys' on to their next stage of life, ministry and witness to God's abiding love. The Lord promises that the good work that He has begun in you He will see through to completion and that His words are faithful and true and can be trusted. I look forward to hearing of all the "good work" that God is going to do in the future for whoever takes the task on could not have a better or more loving Team to work with or a more lovely village and people to live amongst and share ministry with. If they are as happy as I've been then they will be truly blessed. With all my love, prayers and blessings for the future

Peter Holzapfel

Here are those details...

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