

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**To:** All Saints Parish

**From:** the Vicar Rev Simon Martin

Dear All SainTERS

It with a heavy heart that I share the news of my resignation from being your vicar. I have been so incredibly blessed by this parish and the privilege of leading has shaped me into the person I am today. Fran, the boys and I are so grateful for the way we have been embraced as a family; we cannot think of a better place to belong.

On Wednesday this week I wrote to Bishop Steve Maina accepting his offer of appointment to the role of Bishop's Chaplain and Vicar General. The job of the Bishop's Chaplain is to 'vicar the vicars'; this involves supporting the parishes in whatever way possible; through change or conflict, with care and encouragement, with assessment and planning. I feel a deep sense of God's call to serve the diocese in a broad way; by taking the lessons learned and the skills I have gained to offer considered, strategic wisdom to a wide range of different situations.

Fran and I have wrestled very hard with this decision and we feel the heartache at the thought of stepping down. We have loved this journey of becoming family together and we are grateful for the way The Lord consistently guides and resources the Mission through this parish. What an honour it has been to be your vicar!

**Dates and details:**

- I plan to finish after Easter in mid-April, and then start the new role in early May.
- +Steve has arranged for Rev Ian Smith to be the Priest-in-charge for the duration of the interregnum.
- Rev Gordon Taylor has agreed to un-retire and serve as deacon in the parish as needed.
- Rev David Hollingsworth will be meeting the wardens to discuss the pathway through interregnum.
- This will no doubt include parish-wide discussions including the AGM on April 22<sup>nd</sup> where the new vestry will be voted in.
- Shortly after that meeting, vestry will need to elect four parishioners to the nominations panel as part of the mechanism of seeking a new vicar.
- The parish will need to produce a Parish Profile and a Person Description for advertising of the position.

I remain confident in the abilities and character of the parish to get through this period with grace. I am also certain of the strength and tenacity within the parish and its leadership; that you will walk together in a supportive expression of unity, expectant of the new good things that God will bring.

Romans 15: 13 has been a blessing I have seen manifest at this place and I will pray it over you always:

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Your very grateful current vicar

Simon Martin

