

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

EMBARGOED UNTIL SUNDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER

Dear Friends,

Back in 2015 Bishop Richard preached a great commission to the church community of St Mary's Newick, as Rev James Hollingsworth and I were licensed, James as our Priest-in-Charge, and me as your Curate shared with Barcombe.

In his address, Bishop Richard reminded the church that neither James nor I, on our own, could meet Bishop Martin's vision to grow the church Spiritually, Numerically and Financially; but together, as a praying and serving community, with God at the centre, we could achieve anything for His glory.

Over the last five years, I have been with Newick as their Associate Vicar and we have grown together, following their Mission Action Plan to take the Good News out into the community, and following the vision to:

1. Preach the Gospel
2. Understand the Gospel
3. Connect with Community
4. Build up the People of God
5. Share the Good News with others

As a church community they have successfully fulfilled Bishop Martin's vision, and continued to develop that calling in terms of growing disciples, meeting their Parish Share and serving the Common Good.

With this in mind, Bishop Martin has asked if Newick would extend that same spirit of collaboration and commitment by inviting me to become Priest-in-Charge of St Peter's Chailey. This is an exciting opportunity for our two worshipping communities to work in collaboration as neighbouring parishes, where we already have much in common and several shared aspirations, especially in terms of Children's, Youth, Schools, Families work, and Pastoral Care.

I also believe this offers both Chailey and Newick a greater opportunity for sustainable stipendiary ministry; with the possibility of an Associate Vicar or Curacy position becoming available in Chailey at some point in the future.

I have prayed unceasingly about this over the past few weeks, and feel that this is very much part of God's plan for both our communities; after discussion with Chris, Anthony & Teresa, and with the blessing of the PCC, I have therefore accepted Bishop Martin's invitation.

As Bishop Richard said to the community in Newick some five years ago, this is not something I will be able to do alone, and we will all have our own part to play in this collaborative ministry between two wonderful worshipping communities who already share so much together.

I ask for your continued prayers for our communities in both Chailey and Newick, and hope that you will join me in thanksgiving for the faith-filled opportunity we have been given.

With much love and every blessing,

Paul

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