

## AN OPEN LETTER FROM FR KEITH

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Friends,

It seems that we might just be coming to see 'light at the end of the tunnel' regarding the pandemic and many of us have had the first inoculation and some have had the second. St Mary's Church will again re-open for public Worship this Sunday and, with a hint of Spring in the air, were all beginning to feel a little brighter.

I've said, on a number of occasions, that the three 'lockdowns' and the necessity to stay at home has afforded all of us time to think and re-evaluate what is important in our lives. We have been acutely aware of the things we're missing like the friendliness and fellowship of family and friends and the social 'niceties' of life like restaurants and pubs, which, in one way or another, have impoverished us all.

Like you, I too have done much thinking and a whole lot of praying and have come to the decision that it's now time to retire. You know I'm the wrong side of 70 and only the good Lord knows what time I have left, but however long or short that is, I'd like to enjoy it without the constraints of employment. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy my job and I'm so fond of all of you but wisdom dictates when it's time to close a chapter and embrace the next!

I have tendered my resignation to the Bishop and I expect to move from the Rectory at the end of April or early May. As yet, I don't have a house to move into but I hope that will soon be sorted as I've identified one which is now with the 'legal bods'.

Can I ask you all to pray for me but also, pray for the Parish, Churchwardens and PCC as they prepare to embrace an interregnum? With everyone pulling together, new life and growth will emerge. I will see many of you in Church before now and the beginning of May and I know that our congregation is strong and resilient and will relish whatever the future will bring.

This comes with my prayers and my love.

*Fr Keith*