

Good-bye, Farewell, God Bless

I suppose I have written some 50 of these “editorial” pieces over the last 8½ years. This is the toughest! Because, as you must know by now, Diana and I are leaving Wrockwardine Deanery Team Ministry as I begin my new life as a retired person. I know that life will be very different when I retire and the future – as always – is an uncertain place. I intend to spend at least the first year of my retirement learning how to be retired, but all Christians – lay or ordained, retired or in paid employment – have gifts and talents which God intends us to use for his Kingdom. I shall be trying to discern how God wants me to use my own gifts and talents in his service.

We don't much want to leave. We have so many good friends here and we are going to miss you all. But we know that God is calling us to new things, and that he has wonderful plans for you here in this area. Diana and I will have new challenges, new things to do. You will eventually have a new Team Rector and Rural Dean (a better one, I'm sure) and new ventures to share in. Our sadness is that we won't be able to share in them with you – and our vision for you is that God knows your needs and will cater for them all in his wonderful providence.

The Deanery Staff Team, the Deanery Team Council and I have tried to make sure everything is arranged between the time I go and someone new is appointed. All the services to the end of the year are arranged. All the weddings and funerals will be held as usual. If you need pastoral care – for someone who is ill, for instance, – you can contact your churchwardens or a member of the Ministry Team. We hope that nobody will be left out! And you will meet a lovely retired priest – my good friend Rev Bob Wiltshire – who will be acting as Interim Minister over this period.

We won't be that far away (probably in Bridgnorth), and in one sense we shall be very close to you all – because you will be in our prayers and in our thoughts, and we know that God will richly bless you as you

move forward in his marvellous love for you. Please pray for us. Goodbye, God bless, and thanks for everything.

David Chantrey (Team Rector and Rural Dean)