Curate's Report

This is my final report as I prepare to leave the benefice.

The four years my family and I have been in South Milford has been a fantastic experience and you have all provided us with a loving family that has supported us through times good and bad.

Much has happened in the time that I have been here but that is due to hard work and inspiration of you all. We have seen the establishment of an evening service, midweek fellowship, Beer and Banter, Tea and Tots, Open the Book, and a monthly communion service at Grove House; not to mention all the one-off events and missional activities, as well as a new online presence.

I have met many wonderful people both in and outside of the church, this is surely a blessed community.

The benefice has provided an excellent opportunity for my curacy and has given me a great insight into parish ministry. The fact that I am moving out of parish ministry is purely incidental!

I have conducted many services and occasional offices and enjoyed the space to be creative in providing space to explore our faith.

Creativity is something that, as a church, we need to embrace. We are seeing less and less contact with younger people and families. There is less contact with unchurched through baptisms and weddings, even funerals are decreasing as people opt for a secular option.

We need to do things differently if we want to attract younger worshippers, hence the post I am moving to, and the success of the Mission, Outreach and Social Team who are doing just that. We can't expect younger generations to come to traditional Sunday morning services so need to adapt and diversify. That is a sweeping statement as many younger people do enjoy the traditional Sunday option, but declining numbers show a need for something new, which we are starting to provide but much more could be done - over to you.

As we part company on a ministerial level, we will still remain connected through friendship and through the family of God to which we are privileged to belong. But as we all move to a new season, I am confident that the growth in spiritual confidence and love of God will continue and I urge to maintain the momentum and increase the prayer.

A big thanks to all whom I have worked alongside, and to all those who have and will volunteer to take things forward.

Liz and I pray for you as you go forward and as you welcome your new incumbent. Equally we would welcome your prayers as we move into the next exciting instalment of ministry.

My Licensing is provisionally booked for 2pm on the 12th of May at All Saints Parish Church in Northallerton, you are all most welcome to join us.

God bless, David