

The Vacancy

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Everybody will be extremely welcome to visit them. Nutley is a delightful village, mid-way between East Grinstead and Eastbourne on the edge of the Ashdown Forrest.

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It is likely that the vacancy will last several months. The diocese plan to let the Vicarage for six months. The responsibility for running the parish is shared between the two Church Wardens, Richard Toyn and Wendell Newbold, and the Rural Dean, the Revd Pauline Higham, Vicar of the Hertford Hundred Group – that is Essendon, Little Berkhamsted, Brickendon, Bayford and Ponsbourne. We are fortunate to have two such excellent churchwardens and a good Rural Dean to cover what will not be an easy period. Pauline is to be congratulated on having been appointed a Canon of St Albans Cathedral.

It is planned to keep all the current church services going, including the 8 o'clock Prayer Book Communion Service and the Thursday 11.00 a.m. service. It is important that these services are well supported. The occasional offices, Baptism, Weddings and Funerals, will be mostly looked after by the Revd Gerry Booker, but he will not be able to do everything and it is hoped that neighbouring clergy will kindly help.

The parish magazine will be edited by the Parish Administrator, Martin Penny. This is a big task and it is essential that he is given articles and information. If you have something you want to write about, why not give him an article? A description of an interesting place you have visited, thoughts that have come to you about Christian truth, or something you want to blow your top about – a controversial article is always more interesting to read than a bland one!

Many good things are being planned including an Activity Day in Half Term Week on Friday 27th October. The Parochial Church Council are determined that the Vacancy will not be a period of retreat, but a time when the parish stands on its own feet and grows.