

## On the way

Ginni Dear

It is funny how God works, isn't it? Anyone would think that God knows exactly what we need and continually guides our path in such a way that we almost don't notice Him at work.

One of the things I knew I would find most challenging about moving on to a new parish is that it was the first time I would be doing so without my beloved Colin. My new parishioners would not see me as part of a family unit with a husband and three children.....as you did when I arrived, but as a single woman with teenage children who appeared every now and again.

I found it hard that I would be in a place where no-one knew Colin.....except that God had already thought of that! I have discovered that there are one or two people in each of my three parishes who either knew Colin from his work in the Police or from his time on the buses!! It really feels like God is easing my path out into the 'big wide world' step by step, never giving me a greater challenge than I am ready for and I feel very blessed.

Arrangements are coming together now for my move and I am trying to get rid of any unnecessary clutter to make packing easier. It's amazing the things you find in your cupboards that you have no idea what possessed you to think you could ever need them for.

I seem to be in a place of conflicting emotions at the moment, on the one hand, very excited about moving to a new place with new challenges and people to meet and on the other, the realisation and sadness of all I am leaving behind and the people I will miss.....that's you lot!

It's also very strange to see things already moving on without me.....Kath has stepped up to the plate and taken on the running of the Fellowship Group so that it continues after I go. She's doing a fabulous job and new people are joining but it's odd

that I no longer have to think about what to do when we meet, I just turn up and take part.

I am starting to say my goodbyes at Bentley House and Bircherley Court as I won't have many more monthly services to take there and Jo and I aren't making many plans for future events together because I won't be around. It's hard to think practically about the future when in reality I'm still here and still want to be involved in all of the All Saints plans.

I am very happy though that I'm not going to be very far away and that I'm sure to be seeing many of you again.....you'll know where I'll be and visits will always be appreciated – but.....not all at once please or Jo will wonder what has happened to her congregation on a Sunday.

My last Sunday at All Saints will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> June although I will be around until the 27<sup>th</sup> and my licensing date has been set for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm at St. Ippolyts Church and I hope that you will all come along to see where my new post will be.

I'll say my final goodbyes next month so you haven't heard the last of me yet!!

With love,

Ginni

