



**St. Barnabas Vicarage  
20 St. Barnabas Road  
Emmer Green  
Reading  
RG4 8RA**

**5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

To the Members of St. Barnabas Church

Dear friends

I hope you and those whom you hold dear are keeping well during these continuing unprecedented times.

I am writing this letter to inform you that from later this summer I will be taking up the position of Chaplain at the College of St. Barnabas in Lingfield, Surrey. The proposed installation date is yet to be confirmed but my final Sunday at St. Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, will be on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Due notice has been given to the Right Reverend Olivia Graham, the Bishop of Reading, and discussions have begun with David Howell and the assistant churchwardens with regards to arrangements during the vacancy. I have notified the Parish Church Council in writing and David informed the congregation verbally at each service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. I would ask you to please refer to the churchwarden team with any further questions you may have.

It has been my privilege to serve as the incumbent within the benefice of Emmer Green with Caversham Park for twenty-one years. As a new chapter unfolds for the benefice after the global events of the past year or so, a new chapter is also beginning to unfold for Hayley and myself. There are not enough words that can encapsulate everything I wish to say to you, or any of those we leave to continue God's work in this part of His Kingdom. Therefore I will leave the final words of this letter to a Hobbit, created by the Christian writer and lecturer, JRR Tolkien, from his work, 'The Lord of the Rings':

*The Road goes ever on and on  
down from the door where it began.  
Now far ahead the Road has gone,  
and I must follow, if I can,  
pursuing it with eager feet,  
until it joins some larger way  
where many paths and errands meet.  
And whither then? I cannot say.* (Bilbo Baggins)

With sincere gratitude for your fellowship.

*Derek*

Rev'd Derek Chandler