

Many of you will already know that Revd Chris Hancock and his wife, Suzie, will be leaving our benefice at the end of May. Chris's message is reproduced below:

“This is just to let you know that Suzie and I have indicated to the Bishop and churchwardens that we will be leaving the benefice at the very end of May. The demands of my other work and wider responsibilities (including for my elderly mother in Dorset) show no sign of reducing any time soon, as originally hoped. We will be sad to leave.”

We are also very sad that Chris and Suzie are leaving, particularly at a time when we are in an interregnum period, awaiting the appointment of a new incumbent. On behalf of everyone in the benefice we churchwardens thank them both for the great contribution they have made to our lives over the past year.

In the meantime we want to assure everyone of our commitment to ensuring that the work of our five churches will continue, including doing all we can to maintain our pattern of worship.

The advertisement to recruit a successor to Canon Christine went live in the Church Times and on the Diocesan website last month. Meanwhile we are truly fortunate to have the services of our Licensed Lay Minister Suki Coe. We are also in contact with the Bishop of Basingstoke who has confirmed his and the other members of the Diocesan Team's support over the coming months.

Please contact any of us if you have any questions or would like further information.

Alan Rowe (St James', Ashmansworth)
David Wolfenden (St Michael and All Angels', Crux Easton)
Andrew Colville, Richard Twallin (St Martin's, East Woodhay)
Carole Grover, Jo Walsh (St Michael and All Angels', Highclere)
Chris Vane (St Thomas', Woolton Hill)