

## Thank you

A huge thank you to all my friends and family in Boxmoor - St John's St Stephens and St Francis - for the most generous gift of money (which I will take time to decide how best to use as a reminder of you all), cards, and kind words on my last Sunday in licensed ministry with you. For those who wanted to know what was in the wrapped gift - it is a beautiful pen and ink drawing of St John's.



I had enjoyed a service at St Stephens the previous Sunday, and said goodbye there, leaving with a beautiful Camelia plant that will soon find a place in my garden. My final service at St John's for All Saints was made even more special with so many people there, but I was mindful also of the many others who had sent their greetings but were unable to be present, and the Wednesday congregation I had said goodbye to earlier in the week. But as was said several times, we hope it is not good-bye but 'au revoir'.

People might sometimes warn you not to 'go back' to places, but coming back to Boxmoor after almost 6 years was a real joy and felt truly like coming home. It was good to reconnect with people I had known before and a joy to meet new people who had become part of the church family since. Earlier in the year I was expecting to be staying for at least another 2 years, but as time went on I heard God's prompting to take a different path and afterwards discovered he has work for me to do here in my local parish. But that will not stop me coming back to Boxmoor again from time to time - and I will hold you to the promise of fizz and cake when the time comes that we can enjoy such things again in church. Maybe there will be opportunity to complete that Lent course too.

Whenever those times come, and whatever brings us back together, I shall look forward to being with you again. In the meantime, I can assure you of my continued love and prayers, and a promise always to want to have news of you all.

Thank you again for your generosity, love, support, and encouragement and for the gifts you gave.

Ruth