



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS

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Advent Sunday 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you at the beginning of Advent, the start of a new church year - a year that will have significant changes for all of us. It seems a very long time (mid July in fact) since I accepted the call to be your next Parish Priest - which I was absolutely delighted to do.

As Paula and I begin to pack up our home for the last 15+ years here in Billericay, and say our good-byes to our children Ben (and Beth) and Annabel, as well as family and friends, I wanted to write to you and say how much we are looking forward to a new ministry amongst you.

When I begin in January, I will prioritise building relationships with those in positions of leadership, such as clergy, church wardens, those licensed and authorised to minister and those elected to the Parochial Church Council. I also plan, in due course, to visit every member of the electoral roll.

I am particularly looking forward to spending time getting to know you and learning about both the challenges and opportunities within the parish. I'm also looking forward to hearing where, and in what ways, you have observed the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your own lives, in the life of the three churches and in the life of the parish, and to discern how we may show and tell the good news of Jesus to those who don't yet know him.

I am sincerely grateful to Ken Waters for all he is doing to make the transition as easy as possible for me. I pray for a blessed ending to Ken and Wendy's time serving you in Paphos - though I feel we won't have seen the last of them just yet! I am also grateful to Graham Hare and Peter Latham for their continued practical assistance.

I look forward to meeting you all on 21 January 2024. In the meantime, Paula and I would be really grateful for your prayers.

May you know the joy and peace of Jesus this Advent and in the Christmas season to come.

Revd Paul A. Carr