

Prayers for 11th April 2021 Jan Teale

It was good to be back in church on Easter Sunday, wasn't it? Our churchwardens worked very hard to make it possible and I think we all felt very safe with the Covid restrictions, so many thanks to them and to all who helped to make this happen. It was also good to welcome Toby to Whiston for the first time and Karen, as our new Oversight Ministers.

If you were at the service you would have heard Toby announce my retirement from being a Reader. This coming Sunday is my last one as a Licensed Reader in robes, so it is a time of mixed emotions for me. I have completed 25 years of Reader ministry at Whiston, so I think I'm ready to have a rest! In addition I recently reached my 70th birthday, so I am required by church law to hand in my Reader licence. I had fully intended to take up the PTO, which means taking on a new licence to give me Permission To Officiate. However, when I was given the huge amount of paperwork to achieve this, I felt I just could not cope with that.

There are still many things I can do in church (and out of it) which do not need a licence, so I shall not be leaving church, just stepping back a bit. As Toby said on Sunday – "God has not finished with her yet". So I await with excitement whatever God has in store for me for the future and all of us at Whiston.

My prayer for this issue of the Bulletin is actually a hymn which I love and fits very well with the life of anyone who is making a change in what they are doing, so let's say this to ourselves as a prayer:

Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.

O magnify the Lord with me, with me exalt his name;
when in distress, to him I called, he to my rescue came.

Fear him, ye saints, and you will then have nothing else to fear;
make you his service your delight, your wants shall be his care.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen

We pray for Peter Blyton, whose funeral will take place next Thursday (15th) and our love and prayers go to his whole family. And we pray for all who are ill, whether at home or in hospital, or who may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are commemorated in our memorial book this week: Clifford Ryalls, William Bartholomew, Walter James Etheridge, Ernest Jackson, Lilian Josephine Morris, Dorothy Winifred Lister and Eileen Pamella Hammond. Amen