

A Message from the Churchwardens of St Mary's

You will be aware that Clive Ashley, Priest in Charge of St Mary's Little Baddow and St John's Danbury is retiring. His last service will be a joint Eucharist for St Mary's, the URC Chapel and St John's on Sunday 1st October at St John's followed by refreshments in their meeting room. We wish Clive and Lesley a long and happy retirement.

We will then enter an interregnum until a new Priest is appointed. During this time please contact one of the churchwardens if you have any queries or there is any matter which you would have wanted to speak to Clive about.

We are truly blessed in the amount of support we have been offered and are pleased to say that we will aim to continue all the usual services during this period and we have all services covered until the New Year. We are particularly grateful to Cannon Christine McCafferty, Revd. Chris Poulard, Revd. Christine Fowler, Revd. Liz Barnes and our Readers Brian Gilders and Charles Cope for all their help and support.

The churchwardens have met with the Archdeacon to discuss the way forward. It is likely that a new Priest will be appointed jointly to St Mary's and St John's. The steps towards appointing a new Priest include a joint meeting between the Archdeacon and Ministry and Mission Advisor and St Mary's and St John's PCCs on 21st September, the drawing up and agreement of a parish profile setting out the details of both parishes, our links with the URC and our hopes and needs from a new Priest followed by advertisement probably around Easter 2018 with a view to a joint appointment by Autumn 2018 all being well. It is therefore likely that we will be without a permanent Priest for around 12 months which is disappointing but at least gives a degree of certainty.

Please pray for a prompt and successful appointment and for all the people who are helping with services in the meantime.

Peter Martin and John Wheeldon Churchwardens