

A LETTER FROM NICKI EDWARDS SEPTEMBER 2026

It was very difficult to say ‘goodbye’ to our Rev Rona last month. In her relatively short time with us she achieved so much and has had a lasting influence on our community. Thanks to Rona we have our ‘Little Jays’ toddler group, that meets each Friday morning in Church House, and our Julian Group that meets for a quiet time of fellowship and prayer on a Tuesday afternoon in the church. Rona’s ministry also reinforced for us all that at the heart of the Christian message is love and care for our neighbours. We will miss her hugely.



‘What’s next?’ I hear you ask. In terms of seeking our next parish priest we now go into a time that used to be called ‘interregnum’ (which literally means ‘between kings’) and is now called ‘vacancy’. The eight parishes that are in our benefice will come together, with support from the diocese, to put together a document called the parish profile which is used when we advertise for our new priest. This process will begin in late September and will take several months – as you can imagine it’s important that we get it right. Being the priest for eight parishes is a big challenge and huge responsibility so we really want those people who might consider applying to have the clearest picture possible of our group of churches. In reality most ‘vacancies’ last for over a year.

Whilst that’s all happening our wonderful team of retired clergy and committed congregations are determined that we will continue Rona’s good work. We want to be sure that we are there for the whole community, in good times and in tough times. The easiest way to contact the team is via the Benefice Office on 01963 250248 or via email milborneportchurch@gmail.com. St John’s Church is there for you today and tomorrow – just as it has been for nearly 1000 years!

Nicki Edwards, Benefice Liaison officer.