

September 2026 Moving on

This month our three churches of Hope, Castleton and Bradwell say goodbye to our curate, Rev'd Lisa Price, who has been with us for the last two years. Rev'd Lisa has completed her curacy with us, a training post, and is moving on to a new post in Andover. Whilst we share Rev'd Lisa's excitement at this next step in her ministry, we are aware of how much she has blessed us in her time with us, and how much we will miss her.

As I reflected on Rev'd Lisa moving on, I found myself reflecting too that the Christian Church has always been a 'church on the move.' Jesus himself was a wandering rabbi travelling, as rabbis in his time did, from place to place talking to people about God, and God's love for all. Much of the New Testament describes how the early Christian faith was spread after Jesus' death and resurrection, by believers who travelled all around the then known world, taking with them the accounts of Jesus' life and death. And throughout Christian history, there have always been missionaries of various kinds; people who take the good news of God's love, as taught by Jesus, to new people and new places.

Many of us, of course, will be 'rooted' in one geographical location, if not for a lifetime then certainly for a while. Christianity teaches that even for those who do not travel geographically, the Christian Church is still called to be a 'church on the move.' The work of a missionary – the work to make Jesus known to new people - is the calling of every Christian, and it is something that can always happen, wherever we are, however long we are there for.

As Rev'd Lisa moves to her new position, she will take with her something of her ministry in this place, and she will leave behind something of how she has blessed us. Rev'd Lisa's ministry has grown and changed in her time with us, and we have also grown and been changed by her time with us, as we have shared our experiences of faith together. My prayer for us all is that, even as Rev'd Lisa leaves us, we will continue to be a 'church on the move;' a set of churches committed to sharing the wonderful news of God's great love for all, with all of our communities around us. And I pray that we will be continually aware of God at work in us, helping us to discover new ways of making God's love visible to all, and especially to those who have not yet discovered for themselves God's love for them.

Yours in Christ,
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