



## Changing Times

Since the beginning of Churches Together in Alresford, one of the main changes has been the increased workload for the clergy of all the represented denominations. Larger geographical areas and greater responsibilities have had an impact on their ability to participate in Committee meetings and events. However, this has certainly not meant a lower level of engagement with our ecumenical mission and Churches Together in Alresford's Committee remains indebted to our clergy for their guidance, assistance, encouragement and leadership.

Three members of our clergy who have contributed in so many ways to the well-being and spiritual growth of our community have just or are about to step down from their current roles.

**Monsignor Tom McGrath** celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination last year. Following his move to Alresford a few years ago from the parish of Maidenhead, he has assisted first Canon Paul Townsend and then Fr Mark Hogan in the running of the Catholic Parish of St Peter's and the Winchester Martyrs of which St Gregory's is part. Fr Tom has always extended a very warm welcome to our Christian brothers and one of the highlights must be the ecumenical celebration, inspired by the Iona services, which he led to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We are delighted that he remains in Alresford.

**Reverend Ruth Fry**, a keen supporter of CTiA, has been an inspirational speaker at our Away Weekends in recent years, taking an active role in our joint worships whenever her demanding schedule has allowed her to do so. Reverend Ruth is continuing her mission in another part of Hampshire, overseeing and supporting youth and children's work, and first-half of life worship in Chandler's Ford and Eastleigh Methodist Church.

A little further south, the Isle of Wight, is where **Reverend Julia Myles** has moved to become Spiritual Care Lead at Mountbatten Hospice early next year. Reverend Julia has embraced the ecumenical activity of Churches Together in Alresford with enthusiasm. Memories of her creative workshops in Bournemouth – from drawing sheep to building boats – and a lively Songs of Praise in Old Alresford last year spring to mind.

We are thankful for the gifts of wisdom, spirituality and for the sense of humour and fellowship Fr Tom, Reverend Ruth and Reverend Julia have shared with us. We wish them every blessing in their new phase of life.

*Laura Brill*

## Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

These last few C-19 months have been a major shock to many of us. As it looks as if "in-person" events will be affected by the virus for the foreseeable future, we've been thinking about how we manage the CAP Debt Money course under current restrictions. Clare Pinniger is happy to run bespoke one-to-one sessions for people by video call, phone and/or email. The need certainly hasn't gone away - we're also hearing that many people who never expected to be in any financial difficulty at all, ever, are in a difficult place. Whether you're in trouble, feel that you may be getting into difficulties or just want to have a fresh think about finances, you'll be welcome.

CAP remains free and confidential. Friends may want to share sessions, which is possible on request but there is no pressure to do this in a group setting. Please email [ctia.cap.alresford@gmail.com](mailto:ctia.cap.alresford@gmail.com)