



9 June 2023

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share with you the news that Helen Azer, Associate Minister, will be moving to a new role in July.

Helen joined the Parish to complete her curacy, nearly 16 years ago. In that time, as she has combined her Non-Stipendiary Ministry to us with her main role at Heartcry for Change, Helen has been an invaluable member of our church family, providing guidance, support, and spiritual nourishment. Her compassion and warm-hearted preaching have touched many of our lives and left an indelible impact on our hearts.

While we will all miss her hugely, I am excited for her in this next chapter of her ministry. Alongside her fruitful work with Heartcry, she has been asked by Bishop Gavin to share her experience and ministry more widely. She will now have Permission to Officiate across the Diocese, and will be able to offer her gifts and experience to churches in a range of contexts. I wholeheartedly support Helen in this new role, and am confident that she will now go on to bring the same love for the Lord and his people to other churches as she has to ours. I am pleased too that we will still see her from time to time as she remains living in the area and has promised to keep in touch.

To mark this new chapter, we will be organising a farewell service at St Andrew's on Sunday 16th July at 10:30am, where we can collectively express our gratitude for Helen's ministry among us and bid her a fond farewell. Please put this date in your diaries.

Please keep Helen in your prayers as she prepares for her new adventure. Let us also pray for our church community, that we may embrace change with open hearts, and trust that, as we release Helen to this new role, God will provide for our needs too.

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to meet up to chat and do feel free to connect with Helen if you'd like to hear more about how the Lord is leading her into this new season.

Blessings and warm regards,

The Reverend Jonathan Widdess  
Vicar of Cumnor

The Vicarage, Abingdon Road, Cumnor. OX2 9QN  
01865 863702 [vicar@cumnor.org](mailto:vicar@cumnor.org)