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Dear Parishioner,

On Sunday 25 April Bishop Richard visits us for the thanksgiving of work completed at St Andrew's and to Re-dedicate the building for service of God and parish community. This marks a tremendous achievement in the vision set out some years ago – that the parish of St Andrew and St Mark would 'come together as one body to worship, learn together and grow in faith as a serving community'.

When I came here as Priest in Charge in March 2007 I knew I was a humble inheritor of so much work already expended by all here who took this vision forward. I believed that my part would be in 'keeping the soul' of the parish and I have tried as hard as I can to do this. This remains my prayer and desire.

We are now in the midst of change, excitement and no doubt apprehension. This coming year will see the next phases of work achieved and begun – on the vicarage and St Mark's itself,

This is why I believe it so important that we remain a united congregation for the coming year or so – gathered Sunday by Sunday and on weekdays at St Andrew's. From 25 April the timings of worship will remain the much the same (some variation will be made to weekdays). We will also use the same forms of service and the pattern of ceremonial that has been the custom while we have been worshipping together at St Mark's. Yet I expect it will be some weeks, if not months before we have all been able to appreciate the new spaces for prayer, liturgy and other uses that the new St Andrew's will offer. There are many things we all will want to learn and also we will be keen to know how we can best offer our facilities to the community around us.

In this season of Easter, may God open our eyes to behold new life in this gifted and fruitful parish.

Yours truly

