

## *The Curate writes. . . .*

The end of this glorious month of June is known as Petertide. On the 29th June the church commemorates apostles Peter and Paul. Peter and Paul had huge rollercoaster rides of ministries. Peter, who responded to Jesus call to come and fish for people but often got ticked off by Jesus, who denied him three times before his crucifixion, who was reconciled and forgiven three times at Jesus' resurrection, who became the first pope and was martyred. Paul, a fierce persecutor of the church is converted, becomes its most impressive missionary and was also martyred. It is very appropriate that in most dioceses Petertide is linked with a time of ordinations to the diaconate and the priesthood. It is by being given the examples of Peter and Paul that those who feel called to this ministry are ordained by the Holy Spirit at the intercession of the bishop. It was in Petertide 2014 that I was ordained to the diaconate and made my way to my new home in Atholl Walk to serve the parish of Goldington as Curate.

My word what a curacy it has been for me. When I think of the funerals, the weddings, the baptisms, the communions, the alternative worship, the even-songs, the home communions, the schools work, the university, the pub ministry, the pastoral visits, the sermons, it is amazing the experiences that I've clocked up amongst you. The thing I will remember St Mary's Goldington for most though is the people and for the hand of friendship that you extended to me in my 3 years here in so many ways. It has not always been easy, as one would expect and as Peter and Paul remind us. It has however been a wonderful opportunity. When I visited as a secret shopper in early 2014 I felt called to come here and preach the love and joy of Jesus and I am glad I responded to that call. My last Sunday service will be the 9.30am Parish Eucharist on the 25th June. I do hope you can join me and then for an informal lunch a little later. I will be installed at St Mark's Wellingborough as their new Vicar on Wednesday, July 26th at 7.30 pm and you would be most welcome to join me for that.

It has been a huge privilege to serve you. Thank you for the opportunity to minister to you that you have given me and thank you for ministering to me too. I will pray for you, please pray for me too.

With love, gratitude and blessings.

*Ben*