

From: Reverend Mandy MacVean <rev.mandymacvean@gmail.com>
Sent: 06 March 2023 22:00
To: Parish
Subject: There is a season for everything.....

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The Parish of
St Lawrence Effingham with
All Saints, Little Bookham

An important message for the parish following this evening's PCC meeting

***There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the
heavens: Ecclesiastes 3***

***By the seventh day God had finished the
work he had been doing; so on the seventh
day he rested from all his work. Then God
blessed the seventh day and made it holy,
because on it he rested from all the work of
creating that he had done. Genesis 2***

**These two quotations have been playing in
my mind for a few months now. On Thursday**

17th March 2016, seven years ago, I was privileged to take up my post as Rector of the United Benefice of Effingham and Little Bookham.

Two years later that became the Parish of Effingham with Little Bookham. These have been some of the best seven years of my life.

Of course, I am not suggesting that the work I have done in the parish is on a par with the work of the Almighty's creation! But it does seem that the number seven is a complete number in Biblical terms and therefore poignant as I decide to leave the parish.

Paddy and I have made this place our home and all of you are SO precious as members of our church family.

We could not have wanted for a more friendly, welcoming community. We would love to continue serving you, but our family circumstances have decided otherwise.

Many of you know that our grandson Atticus – who was born last Autumn – has significant health issues. It is a miracle that he is even alive and his smile melts all our hearts, but the amount of care that he needs is often proving overwhelming for our son and daughter-in-law.

In addition, our daughter-in-law needs to consider returning to work as a teacher, in September. At present, it is uncertain as to whether the nursery that Atticus' big brother, Nathaniel, attends, will be willing to take on the extra care that Atticus needs. As a family we have therefore decided that I need to retire earlier than I originally planned in order to help care for Atticus and Nathaniel.

I will continue to be in the parish until the end of August to fulfill my commitments to weddings booked for this year, but my final service will be at the end of July.

We will leave with a heavy heart, but also with the knowledge that God already knows

**whom he has in mind to be your next Rector.
The process takes time, but it is also an
opportunity to grow together as a community
and look forward to the next chapter of this
Parish's walk with God.**

**God bless you all and thank you for
everything,
Reverend Mandy MacVean
x**



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