



# Newsletter



Sunday 29 October 2017 Special Edition

Our aim is to *KNOW* God through Jesus,  
*GROW* in faith. and *SHOW* God's love in our community



**THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION OF LISA AND JOHN'S LEAVING 'DO' FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT ATTEND.**

A NUMBER OF SPEECHES WERE GIVEN BUT THE MAIN SPEECH ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS WAS GIVEN BY DAVID MARTIN – THIS IS WHAT HE SAID.

**Everything has its time.**

**For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven:**

**a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.**

[Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, verses 1 and 4]

Our Church family at St Paul's and St Andrew's is constantly changing: People come and go. Babies are born; children grow up.

Loved ones and friends die. Individuals move into our church life; others leave it for new places and new opportunities.

It's important that we mark these times of passage, and today we share this time of farewell with Lisa and John as they move to Didsbury. It's understandable that we are subdued and reflective. Sad, rather than joyful. The last fifteen years have been "full" years, and we say **thank you**. **Lisa** has been Rector of our parish since September 2002.

She has done many things that we take for granted: she has presided at Holy Communion, she has preached, she has baptised; she has performed marriages and she has led funerals.

She has taken Confirmation classes; she has chaired many meetings.

She has counselled individuals; she has identified gifts and vocations. She has shared with us in times of joy, and been with us in times of loss. She has provided leadership, challenged us and encouraged us.

**We thank you for these things – and much more:**

- for your enthusiasm and hard work;
- for the support you have given to individuals and groups and organisations;
- for the stories you have listened to and held in confidence;
- and for work unnoticed and hard to measure.

As for **John**, he has much too much energy for a man of his age! Apart from his day-job, he is a prison visitor and he is a "Gold" blood donor. He has also jogged many miles in all weathers - around the parish and further afield!

John is the most practical man I know, and has been much in demand for his advice and for his many skills. We are fortunate that he has been very generous in giving his time to do jobs in church. He has solved many problems: He has patched things up, replaced missing parts, and

performed many emergency repairs - and lots more! It doesn't seem long ago that John took over from **Stan** the climbing of ladders. Not many volunteers for that job[!], though I'm pleased to say that Jacob Kehoe will be taking over that role.

### **We will miss you too, John!**

One day during the Summer of 2002 when **Vera** was away I was asked to show Lisa around the Rectory; and it is to me Lisa will surrender the Rectory keys soon - very soon!

### **For everything there is a season:**

Things have moved full circle.

### **Lisa and John you will both be greatly missed.**

We are sad that you're leaving, but we rejoice with you in anticipation of the new phase of your lives.

**We will miss your love and support, but we know that you will add much to those who will be your new church family - as you have added much to our lives\_here. Thank you!**

### **THIS IS THE PARISH**

This is the parish  
With the church on the moor,  
And the church by the Clough,  
Where two cities meet  
and the river flows by.

Dear Sister in Christ,  
You arrived as our Rector  
And embraced us and called us  
To be part of the vision  
God gave to you

For the people of the parish  
With the church on the moor,  
And the church by the Clough,  
Where two cities meet  
and the river flows by.

You made a leap of faith  
And challenged us to grow  
you walked the streets  
And challenged us to show  
God's love in our community

The people of the parish  
With the church on the moor,  
And the church by the Clough,  
Where two cities meet  
and the river flows by.

Dear Sister and Brother,  
You have ministered to us,  
Repaired and cared for us,  
Renewed us and taught us,  
Growing God's Church

In the people of the parish  
With the church on the moor,  
And the church by the Clough,  
Where two cities meet  
and the river flows by.

Thank you, God, for the years,  
We have celebrated and been joyful,  
We have mourned and wept together,  
We have supported each other,  
Pilgrims on the road.

The people of the parish  
With the church on the moor,  
And the church by the Cough,  
Where two cities meet  
and the river flows by.

Dear Sister and Brother,  
We are now at the crossroads  
And go our separate ways,  
But we are all better people,  
because God brought us together

As the people of the parish  
With the church on the moor,  
And the church by the Clough,  
Where two cities meet  
and the river flows by.

**HILARY SHEDLOCK**



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