

12 Fairwater Grove West  
Llandaff  
Cardiff

Dear Parishioners,

Vicki has kindly given me this opportunity just to say a brief thank you as I leave – just to thank you for welcoming me into your company over this last year as an Assistant Priest.



It was such a blessing to be able to keep company with you over the pandemic and to feel that I belonged to a very caring and creative Christian community. It has been good, also, to be able to share with you some of the work we are doing at St. Teilo's with young people who are so open to hearing about the love of Christ. Many of you have been so incredibly generous with gifts of food, encouragement and money towards our Puffins charity; you have helped to restore dignity to families who have really struggled to make ends meet over the last few months. On behalf of them all, and the school, thank you.

I wish I were not leaving if I am honest, but that said, I am moving on because the Ministry Area in which St. Teilo's school is set sense a real call to create 'something new' in that part of Cardiff. I personally feel a call to be part of what that might be and to make myself more available to the families of the children we serve. If I'm honest, we're not entirely sure what shape this school venture will take, so from the end of August I shall just be serving the churches in that part of Cardiff; getting to know the local people more closely and praying for 'something new' to emerge organically from our life of prayer together. Please pray for us and especially for Revd. James Henley, the ministry area lead, who is quite literally 'the last priest standing' in that part of Cardiff.

Thank you to Vicki, Belinda and Colin for their encouragement, humour and companionship; it has been a joy to get to know each of you and I genuinely look forward to sharing in ministry with you over the coming years. You're all such a warm, welcoming and beautiful collection of creative, compassionate and kind people in all three churches. It has been a joy to serve alongside you all.

I love poetry, so here's a blessing for you all – one of my favourites. God bless you and thank you.

Gareth

## For Longing

Blessed be the longing that brought you here  
And quickens your soul with wonder.

May you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire  
That disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.

May you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease  
To discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.

May the forms of your belonging—in love, creativity, and friendship—  
Be equal to the grandeur and the call of your soul.

May the one you long for long for you.

May your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire.

May a secret Providence guide your thought and nurture your feeling.

May your mind inhabit life with the sureness with which your body inhabits the  
world.

May your heart never be haunted by ghost-structures of old damage.

May you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.

May you know the urgency with which God longs for you.

John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*