

Reading Episcopal Area  
The Rt Revd Olivia Graham

To the Parish of St Sebastian's, Wokingham

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Friends,

*I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. Eph 1:15-16*

I am writing to thank you all for your wonderful hard work and dedication to the ongoing life of St. Sebastian's during Andrew's long period of ill-health. I know that it has been a difficult and complicated period of uncertainty, exacerbated by the extraordinary demands of COVID, and I want to commend you as you have navigated this with patience, good humour, care and ongoing determination to make things run as smoothly as possible and protect Andrew from worry.

I am writing with Andrew's knowledge to update you. You will know that he has been affected by 'long COVID' since last summer, and this has led to a number of worrying symptoms including ongoing difficulty with his voice. The tentative diagnosis is an atypical form of Parkinson's Disease. Andrew is having treatment for this, but it is a long-term process, and I wanted you all to be aware of it. I am delighted to say that Andrew's voice is starting to show signs of improvement.

In addition, Andrew was admitted to hospital just before Easter with a form of sepsis. He is now clear of the infection and is recovering from it.

Andrew will be signed off work until 17<sup>th</sup> May, and will then be on a phased return, the details of which will be shared with Mary, Nigel and others. The Area Dean will be working closely with them and Andrew on achieving clarity about the practical implications of this phasing (agreeing on who is responsible for what) for the running of the parish. I am very grateful to Richard for the support he has given you and Andrew during this time.

In the meantime, continued prayers for you all; huge thanks for all you are doing and for your care for Andrew and Ros.

Every blessing

+Olivia

**The Rt Revd Olivia Graham**

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