

## **News About Our Rector**

It has been announced that the Rector of Wigston Benefice, the Revd Trevor Thurston-Smith, has been appointed Vicar of St Matthews, Perry Beeches, Birmingham. His ministry in Wigston will end on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022.

Archdeacon of Leicester, the Venerable Richard Worsfold has said that Fr Trevor will be much-missed but fortunately there will be continuity of pastoral oversight during the vacancy with the Revd Chris Johnson who, as Associate Priest in the benefice, is well-known to both parishes as he has been a valued member of the church leadership team for several years. Two curates, the Revd Nick Baker and the Revd Paul Betts will also continue to serve both parishes in the benefice.

Archdeacon Richard said: "Trevor's pastoral and leadership gifts have been highly valued over recent years within the parishes of Wigston Magna and South Wigston. He will be much missed but will leave behind a strong ministry team that he has helped grow and develop. We wish Trevor well as he moves to his new parish in Birmingham diocese."

Fr Trevor said: "It will be with very mixed feelings that I leave Wigston. My time here has been both challenging and rewarding, and there will be many people whom I will miss greatly, including my colleagues on the ministry team. It's good to know, however, that I will be leaving the benefice in very capable hands. I have every confidence that Fr Chris and the team will continue to help the community steer through the challenge of the St Wistan's church building which remains a precious part of Wigston's heritage."

Fr Chris said: "It has been a wonderful opportunity to work with Fr Trevor over the last few years and I will be bidding farewell to a friend as much as a colleague. I wish him every blessing for the next stage of his ministry. His ministry in Wigston has been varied and he has helped to move the benefice forward whilst allowing both parishes to value and develop their respective traditions. I'm particularly conscious of the hard work that he has done in Wigston Magna, especially recognising the value of St Wistan's church to the wider community and working with them towards a sustainable future for the church building. I look forward to continuing Trevor's excellent work with the Parochial Church Council of All Saints' & St Wistan's and the local community as we work together with the national body, the Church Commissioners, who will decide what will happen in due course."

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints & St Wistan's was recently informed that a proposal ending the building's legal status as a place of worship has been sent to the Church Commissioners who will now draw up a legal document called a Draft Scheme. That document will be published in coming months so that anyone can submit in support or objecting to the proposal. You can read more about that process [here](#)