

Dear Friends,

This is the last time I will write in the circuit magazine as the Superintendent Minister of the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit and I am suddenly unsure of what to write.

Through the 'Mission plans' that each church produced I am aware of all the wonderful work that goes on across all of our churches – of weekly worship and daily witness; of community building and care giving; of hospitality offered and generosity shared. Such service to God and community might be obvious and noticeable but so much of what takes place in the name of the church is performed behind the scenes and with minimal fuss, but through it worship is enabled, hope is offered, community created and God's presence realised. So, one thing I do want to say before I leave is 'thank you'. Thank you for your commitment, dedication and care. You are amazing. I would also like to offer a personal note of thanks for the kindness you have shown me & my family over the last five years as well as the grace you have afforded me and your patience when I have not lived up to your expectations. I would urge you to continue to minister to those who minister in the church, both lay & ordained. We are all only human and sometimes taking a lead in the life of the church can feel like a very lonely place to be. So, in the words of the one we follow 'love one another'; build each other up, encourage and enable because whoever we are, we all need such support.

Finally, I would ask for your prayers. As Andrew & I move up to Crewe we are not quite sure what is in store: I am being asked to do a job I have never done before; Andrew will be looking for new work and we leave our children in the south as young men making their own way in the world. We would value your prayers and we in turn will remember you in ours as you start a new journey with Rev Richard Atkinson. And remember – if you are ever up in Cheshire do call in for a cuppa!

Every Blessing. Helen.