

## Information from the churchwardens

March 2024

March 5th is the 5th anniversary of the arrival of Helen and David in Bern. Helen's initial five-year licence as Chaplain at St Ursula's is ending this month. Helen has very much enjoyed her time with us, and views it as a privilege to have the role as our Chaplain.

The Bishop is renewing her licence and the council are fully in support of the renewal of the licence.

At the beginning of this next phase of ministry at St Ursula's there are some changes that we would like to tell you about.

We, as churchwardens put forward a proposal which has been fully supported by both the Bishop and the church council. This new arrangement enables Helen to work slightly less, as well as recognizing what David has been doing in an unpaid capacity for St Ursula's over the last five years. Under this new arrangement, Helen will continue as Chaplain but will now have two days off a week (initially, Wednesday and Friday) rather than the one day a week that she has been having for the past 5 years.

In addition, from this month, David is employed by the church as part-time Assistant Chaplain and his official licensing as such will follow as soon as practical.

Helen's recent extended period of exhaustion following COVID was part of the reason for this change, which we hope will help her stay in good health. We also felt that it was time that the church officially recognized all that David does for us. David's ministry has been much appreciated and we look forward to his continuing contribution in the future.

Helen and David are both in favour of the new arrangements and very grateful to the council and the Bishop for their support and for all the work that has gone into making this possible. As wardens we are very happy that this has worked out, and we hope and pray this new arrangement will work well for us all and contribute to the flourishing of the life of St Ursula's.

If anyone has any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact either of us, or a council member.

Best wishes

Sue and Martin