

To the Saints of the Roseland

February 2025



Dear brothers and sisters

No change & All change

On 1st February our Pastoral Reorganisation Scheme comes into operation. What does this mean? In many ways it means very little change; the six parishes with their Parochial Church Councils remain as they have been, each with control of their own finances. Jesus' command to love God with our whole being and our neighbour as ourselves still applies, as does his commission to go and make disciples of all people – a challenge that is ever more pressing in today's world. There are no plans to change the pattern of services.

So, what does it mean? On the surface we are all now part of one benefice – one grouping of parishes with the expectation that we will find ways of cooperating for the sake of God's Kingdom. Quite how we work that out is up to us, and that brings us to relationships, which are always at the heart of Christianity. It's been quite a journey that has brought us to this point, one that I only joined towards the end. While some people have felt frustrated at how slow the process has been, others have felt wounded by it all. The Scheme gives us the opportunity to mark a new chapter in the life of our churches.

My title has also changed. I am now Team Rector for all of the parishes. This clears up some ambiguity about my role and means that every Anglican church on the Roseland has a lead minister – me. Of course, ministry has always been shared, and I will continue to work with the many gifted people in our communities.

There will be some changes to the things I do but at the heart of my work there are two priorities: to see our existing churches flourish and to see new growth. There will be challenges but, as we work together, I am sure we will be surprised at the new life that we discover from God.

Meanwhile, please can I ask you to make a note of the weekend of 3rd to 5th May. I'm working with a small team to plan a couple of days of events for us to mark this new chapter of the history of the Church on the Roseland. Bishop Hugh will be joining us for a special service at 4.30pm on the Sunday. I look forward to sharing that time, and all that God will be doing in the future, with you.

Yours in Christ

Revd Douglas Wren

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