

## From the Diocesan Secretary

### David Pain writes:

In her Epiphany message Bishop Karen invites us, like the 3 Wise Men, to avoid returning 'by the way in which we have come'. As we start 2021 together across the diocese, I wonder what new paths and directions are emerging for you and your church and for us collectively as the diocese?

The Bishops' 'Beyond the Present' meetings in the autumn were an opportunity to reflect on the experience of the 2020 lockdown. Among the themes I heard coming through was of an outward-looking church, responding to God's calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, committed to living in ways which are transforming for both individuals and communities. Freed, at least for a while, from a focus on our buildings and some of the routines which make up 'the normal', people spoke of the importance of relationships and of being present in the lives of those isolated and seeking connection.

For us as the Diocesan Team, we are also starting the year with a conversation about the path forward in how we work. Our purpose is to serve and resource you in ways that you need and want. Like every church in the Diocese, we will need to learn to be present in new ways seeking to play our part in God's transforming work in our lives and the lives of our community.

We will be seeking to listen carefully to what you need in the areas of finance, property and buildings, mission and ministry, governance and administration. We know that there are big challenges ahead as we work together to establish a sustainable budget and adjust our pattern of ministry and mission in each local context across the diocese.

For me, a path that takes us ever closer to equipping the church in each place to live out the good news of transformed lives will be a step in the right direction.

There were a number of changes in staff roles in the 'Church House team' late last year. If you are not sure who to contact, please email [parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org) and we will link you up with the right named individual staff member to work with you.

**David Pain**  
Diocesan Secretary