



savernaketeam

Rev Michael McHugh
Savernake Team Rector

Burbage, Buttermere, Chute, Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston, East Grafton,
Great Bedwyn, Ham, Little Bedwyn, Saint Katharine's, Shalbourne, Tidcombe

A Parting Shot?

"I read your letters every month, though I don't agree with all of them." (a recent comment)

I have only one response to such a comment: 'GOOD!!!!' I have been very careful in these letters to try to promote thought whilst being respectful of the views of others. I don't always agree with people, life would be oh so dull if we all agreed.

In an attempt to understand the journey of these letters I looked at my first missive. It apologised for my errant hound and thanked people for the welcome we had received. Last week, that same errant hound twelve years later got out. Thank you for not running her over!

In my first missive I pointed to the example of Jesus, who we would still benefit from emulating. I am constantly in awe of our silent saints who look after so many vulnerable people in the villages. Value them!!!

I do hope that you will welcome my successor well and bear with them as they attempt to get to know you. The number of contacts is challenging for a bear with a small brain!

"When you are a Bear of Very Little Brain, and you Think of Things, you find sometimes that a Thing which seemed very Thingish inside you is quite different when it gets out into the open and has other people looking at it."

So, if in the past twelve years I have said or done 'Thingish things' that have caused you upset, please forgive. Sometimes things come out different when they are looked at by other people. Please also take the upset as a challenge and not my apology as a justification. We might both be wrong!

Being a Rector is a Nanny McPhee type of existence. *'When you need me but don't want me, I will be here, but when you want me but don't need me, I must go.'*

I believe that I have left behind a strong if small worshipping community that has good relationships with the wider community. I believe the wider community is happier to engage with Christianity. The values we give witness to are based on Jesus' two great commands and not on an institution. We are not perfect, but God chose cracked vessels so that his light can shine out from them.

Thank You,

Michael