

## From the Rector

Dear Friends,

In the July/August edition of the Messenger, Kevin signed off with some verses from Paul's Epistle to the Philippians (3:13b-14). The phrase, 'straining forward to what lies ahead' - these are apt words for me as your new Rector, while writing this in the middle of August.

The Institution on Saturday 4 August got us off to a flying start. As you may well imagine, leaving Bridge of Allan after 11½ years was not easy and what might be described as emotionally draining. It was lovely for us not to be looking back but looking to the future and straining forward to what lies ahead.

Bishop David was in fine form and delivered an excellent sermon with more than a little humour. As was manifestly obvious that we know each other very well and he painted a picture which gave everyone a suitable backdrop to the start of my ministry here.

As I reflect on the little I know of the congregation here, in these early days, I have every confidence that we will have a fruitful and enjoyable ministry, as priest and people journeying together. Many have worked extremely hard and much time; money and energy has been invested to bring us to this point. What that says to me is that we are serious in stepping out together - we mean business when it comes to living and proclaiming the Kingdom here in Helensburgh and the surrounding area.

Anna and I are delighted to be back in our 'home' diocese and in a part of the world which is very familiar to us and we already have roots. We look forward to getting to know you all and sharing the love of God in this stunning part of Scotland.

Love  
Dom