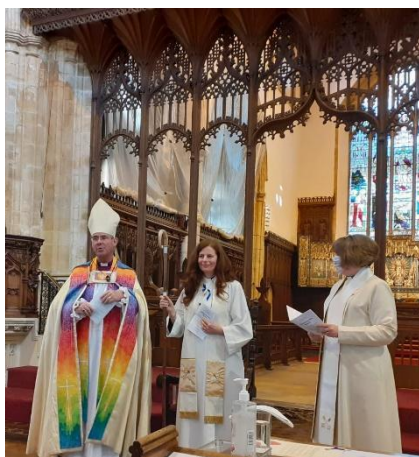




*Joining you
on the Journey!*

Each year, as we go through Lent we know that we are invited to enter deeply into this special time of journeying with God,

and even if there is familiarity because we have done this so many times down the years, still each Lent, we are often also aware of a sense of new beginnings and new possibilities. We know that this is one of the most exciting, and yet also, unnerving aspects of our Christian journey – we are called always to look forward, as well as back – we are called to step out bravely into God’s future, just as we stand on the foundation of our faith and tradition that gives us the confidence to face new challenges.



It feels for me a great privilege to be joining you all at just this time, and from your point of view, it will perhaps feel that I have stepped onto the road upon which you have already been travelling this Lent, coming alongside in these next few weeks to share the way as we come to know one another and begin to hear what God is saying to us as we do.

This year we will have had effectively two Refreshment Sundays – with the Collation celebration followed by Mothering Sunday – but perhaps this is especially helpful for us all, after the last two difficult years when



everything has been so hard, and this year with all that is happening in the world. A small time to rejoice in the good things that God gives us and to be thankful for all our blessings, so that we can turn our faces to Jerusalem along with our Lord and begin to enter into the deepest mystery that is Easter.



In entering into the experience of abandonment, violence and death, God knows all that we suffer and all that the people of Ukraine are suffering. God’s love reaches into these dark places and brings light and life – even the darkness of death is transformed and hope is born anew every time we celebrate this – every Eucharist and every Easter we know this especially.



As winter turns to spring and new life is born all around, how good that we will be for one another, companions on the road, beginning together this Lent and Easter and looking forward to all that lies ahead.

May God bless us as we travel together, rejoicing in one another and in the One who leads us, always, into life.

With my love and prayers for you all,

Michelle

