

**Announcement – embargoed until Sunday 8 January, then to be used at all Sunday services in the Parish**

Ten days before Christmas Christopher travelled to Exeter to be interviewed by the Bishop of Exeter and his Advisory Panel. We are able to announce today that he was offered and has accepted the appointment of Archdeacon of Exeter.

This means that after 11 years as Rector Christopher will be leaving Harpenden. His last Sunday in the Parish will be 11 March, in order for him to begin in Exeter at the beginning of April. At a later date after Easter he will be collated as Archdeacon and installed in Exeter Cathedral.

We shall be preparing for the vacancy in the next few weeks and getting started on the initial work in preparation for appointing a new Rector.

Please remember in your prayers Christopher and Anne as they prepare to leave, and the parish staff as they take on extra duties and responsibility, especially Linda, Becky, and the churchwardens, Meric and Fiona.