Dear Friends.

It is quite hard to believe that as I write, it has been nearly four weeks since my installation and collation as your Vicar. The first thing to say is a massive ‘Thank You!’ for making me, Lizzie and Libby feel so welcome at St Michael’s and All Saints. Like I said at that service, having lived just down the road in West Moors for a year, joining you has felt very much like coming home.

The last few weeks I have visited many people, eaten many biscuits and a delicious roast dinner, drank lots of coffee and have partaken in a lot of exercise through the many classes on offer! Its been great meeting you all and getting to know you and to hear your stories, your thoughts and your hopes and prayers about what we can achieve together in building God’s kingdom in this place. In these conversations I have come to discover that the Holy Spirit is indeed moving here and this is reflected in the generosity of welcome and love given through the various social and outreach activities we do as a church, strengthening and building community, touching people whether of faith or none.

The Church has been celebrating ‘creationtide’ this last month and my first Sunday coincided with the first celebration of the new feast of ‘Creation in Christ.’ The day before that, myself and many others walked from my Curacy church of Christchurch Priory to Verwood to mark this new journey. On this walk, the beauty of God’s creation was very much there for us to witness, I couldn’t help but feel it stood in contrast to the darkness, fear and anxiety we often see in the world around us today. I know people are longing for more and are seeking to discover that there is more to life than the material and consumerist culture we live in. Our calling is to continue witnessing to that light wherever, whenever and to whoever we meet.

So as I finish this first month, I am positive, optimistic and hopeful in all that I have seen, that we have a bright and wonderful future as a Church ahead as we bear that light in our community.

I would ask that you continue to pray for me as I continue setting into being your new vicar and for the Holy Spirit to continue guiding us as a church with regards to our future vision, hopes and aspirations for being God’s people in this place.

If you have any suggestions or thoughts, or perhaps you have a skill and talent that you feel can contribute to our ministry, I would love to hear from you.

Yours in Christ

Rev Sam