

Dear Friends

As I write, there are less than three weeks before my farewell service, and the reality of the change that lies ahead is becoming ever more evident. There is much that could be said, but I shall restrict my thoughts in this final letter to what's most important – words of gratitude and words of encouragement.



There is so much to be thankful for over these last 8 years and it would be wrong to single out any individuals for fear of omitting others – I hope that you will all know how thankful Stella and I feel for you – whether for the humblest of prayers or the sharing of kind words, for the lovingly-made cakes, or the dedication of hour upon hour of essential work with a Henry, paintbrush or laptop. I'd like to mention two periods that were particularly significant.

The first, the pandemic. This came at a particularly difficult time for us with the death of my mother as lockdown began. But the church was at its best – coming together to make sure that no-one among the wider church family or our neighbours was isolated and forgotten. Many people patiently and faithfully participated in the Conference Call and online services with all the technical glitches that challenged us. Coffee and Chat and online prayer were supported. Folk were understanding of one another as difficult and controversial choices were made over when and how we met again in person. The steadfastness and love shown was strongly indicative of our deep roots of faith and fellowship. Thank you.

The second period was my sabbatical. For most it was an opportunity you never had – yet you showed no sign of resentment – quite the opposite – and prayed for me and the family, resulting in a time which was truly blessed.

For these particular times, and especially for the ongoing hours of steady and cheerful work for the Church and for God, we sincerely thank you.

Jesus says that “No-one who sets their hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” It's time to move on – straining for the goal that lies ahead.

In spite of all the challenges of today, Ludlow Methodist Church has so much going for it! So, please keep loving one another, and your new Minister and her husband as you have loved us, accepting one another, listening to one another, laughing with one another. Don't forget to pray. Hold fast to your faith in the one who never changes, and remain hopeful. Our prayers remain with you.

And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, evermore.

Kim and Stella