

A LETTER FROM REV RONA JULY 2026

One of the joys of living and working in our beautiful corner of the country is watching the seasons unfold around us. By July, the hedgerows are full, the fields have changed colour, and gardens are beginning to reward the patient labour of spring. But it's also worth remembering St Paul's words to the church in Corinth: "*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.*" (1 Corinthians 3:6)



There is something wonderfully reassuring about that verse. We are invited to play our part—to sow, to water, to tend—but the growth itself belongs to God. As I begin to think about the next chapter of my own journey, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the seeds of faith, kindness and friendship that I have seen across our benefice. In every parish there are people who quietly care for others, who keep worship and community life going, who offer hospitality, encouragement and practical help. Much of that work goes unnoticed, but it doesn't matter any less for that.

Since I've been here, I have been blessed by the welcome you have given me, by your generosity, your patience, your friendship and your willingness to share both joys and sorrows. Thank you.

And yet, we don't always see what God is growing. Sometimes all we feel we are doing is clearing the ground. Sometimes we sow seeds that seem to disappear. Sometimes we water ground that looks unpromising, but God is always at work, we just need to trust that his ways might be hidden from us.

So, my prayer for us this summer is that we may continue to trust the Gardener, delight in the beauty of his creation, and take heart from the knowledge that where love, faith and hope are planted, God will bring growth in his own good time.

With every blessing,

Rev Rona