

Since leaving Theological College, being ordained a deacon and joining you all at St Martin's, some five months ago, I have had a wonderful but busy time. Not least, learning many things about ministry, putting into practice what was taught at Theological college, and having my own ideas. At the start of my time with you all, I was unable to do much as there had been several issues getting the correct DBS, caused by the Bishop's office and a great amount of confusion around what I was and wasn't allowed to do whilst that was being sorted, which finally came through in September. When I started, I was mostly following Fr Robert and shadowing him with everything he was doing, so I could see Fr Robert gradually it became Fr Robert watching me, till he was happy I could go on by myself.

Throughout the year, I have had many training sessions to continue my ministerial training and completed reflections as part of that. On several occasions, you, as parish members, have helped me by providing feedback. This feedback not only helped me as part of my training but also opened conversations between Fr Robert and me.

During the year, I have had several projects to work on in the parish. The first was to write the Lay Pastoral Visiting Document with the help of Judith Kaplin, our safeguarding officer, and to develop a small team to support pastoral visiting in our parish. I have also worked on setting up a Social Media Team to help us keep up with all the good works we do in the parish and share them further afield.

Throughout the year, Fr Robert and I have been working together to finish updating all the Mass booklets used in the parish. Whilst there are still several to update, we made a great start on this, and we hope to have all the booklets updated by the end of 2026.

I have had the pleasure of being involved in a very wide range of services which have helped us engage not only with others from our parish who are not regular churchgoers, but also those from other denominations within our parish and those of our neighbouring parishes. Such as the involvement of services within our own parish, and alongside the annual services such as VJ day, blessing of the field of remembrance and Remembrance Sunday with the Royal British Legion, we also had some more usual one-off services, such as a memorial service for Jessie Matthew's, who is buried in our churchyard.

This Christmas, and the run-up to it, was a very busy time full of a wide range of events and services, such as playing the piano for the carolling at the Barn and the Hop and Vine, which appears to have really helped the promotion of our Christmas Services. I was also invited to lead one of the carol services at RAF Northolt.

Throughout the year, I have tried to make myself present at both the Thursday lunches and at the Toddlers' group, with neither group is expressly for evangelism I do feel it is important to be a presence there to help foster relations between the groups and the church, especially for people who have questions or who want a conversation. As well as going into Bishop Winnington Ingram School most Wednesdays to lead their collective worship.