

Sunday, April 11, 2021

My dearest friends,

June 1st will mark my 32 year since I walked into the doors of this parish as a freshly ordained deacon and began my ministry with you all. Other than the four years when I was at Lakefield College School, I have been devoted to caring for you and working with you to be the Body of Christ in this little part of the world.

As many of you know, the past two years have been difficult for me as I have journeyed with depression. Having removed myself from work from September to February and then working part time since then I have been able to relieve many of the symptoms of the depression and work with a therapist to discover triggers and causes of it. It has been and continues to be a difficult process, but vital to my health. While it would be tempting to say I just need to work a few less hours, or do things a little differently, the truth is I am not in a place where I am able to serve in parish ministry of any sort. In reaching this understanding, I submitted a letter to the bishop the week asking to be removed as Incumbent of St. Peter's. I will continue on Long Term Disability for a while until such a time as I am able to return to some form of ministry. Since I don't know how long that will be, and this parish needs strong and faithful leadership in order to continue to thrive, I believe it is the best decision for both my health and the future of the parish to step away now.

It is not how I wanted to leave the parish, let alone when, but I trust God has led me to the right decision. I will return to the parish for a farewell event on Sunday May 30th. Bishop Robertson will meet with the churchwardens and clergy of the parish to arrange leadership and make decisions about the next steps for you all. I have complete confidence in our parish leadership and our Bishop to do the best for all of you.

My friends, serving as your priest has been a gift of God to me and I will treasure these years always. You have taught me about God, shared your lives and joys and sorrow, you have been generous, spirit filled and hopeful always. The next incumbent will be extraordinarily blessed to be with you.