

From Fr Tony

It is 25 years since I was last resident on the South Coast – just a bit further West. I came newly ordained fresh from Seminary to Worthing in 1993 and was there for three years, before being sent back to seminary (a different one) to teach. Since then I have been alternating between or mixing teaching and parish ministry. I have been in Dorking the past eight years and, like Fr Alistair, was quite happy where I was when the bishop came and asked me to come and serve the parishes of Brighton Deanery West. While leaving a community you know and love is always a bit of a wrench, I am very happy to come back to the South Coast and its people. I have always tried to be open to whatever I am being called to do and, as I often say, if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans!

I could say a lot more here, give you my biography, share something of my vision, but perhaps it is better at first to get to know each other a bit.

A couple of practical things. I arrived on Wednesday, and will be going on holiday (to the Lake District) for two weeks on 4th August. After that I am involved with the Diocesan Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage until August 29th (see www.thepilgrims.org.uk) So it seems sensible to keep Mass arrangements as they are for the time being. Public weekday Masses will return, all being well, after the Bank Holiday Monday.

I have moved into 92 Downland Avenue, but as many of you know the house has serious structural problems. Accordingly the diocese will be providing me with different accommodation in the near future while we consider what to do in the long term. Watch this space!

In the mean time I hope to get to know at least some of you over the coming weeks. Let us pray for each other. And of course let us pray for Fr Alistair as he begins his new ministry in Cranleigh.

God Bless

Fr. Tony