

There is no lighter burden, nor more agreeable, than a pen. Other pleasures fail us, or wound us while they charm; but the pen we take up rejoicing and lay down with satisfaction, for it has the power to advantage not only its lord and master, but many others as well, even though they be far away – sometimes, indeed, though they be not born for thousands of years to come.
(Petrarch 1304-74)

Having been surrounded by so many friends last Sunday afternoon, and then finding myself similarly surrounded by wrapping paper strewn all over the floor last Sunday evening, I want to say a heartfelt “thank you” for such generosity shown by all of you in the parish communities of St Theresa of Lisieux and St George both in the organisation of the celebration and in the choice of gifts.

My love of words, poetry, art and drama all so wonderfully represented in the Mont Blanc fountain pen and propelling pencil set, complete with leather carrying case – each engraved or stamped with my initials – together with ink, replacement pencil leads and an unblemished journal in which to record my thoughts. Just perfect. And then the theatre tokens for use up in town or closer to home; such a thoughtful gift which will, when used, be a source of new experiences and additional memories to treasure.

The “word art” picture is something truly special and unique, given the opportunity for personal involvement by each of you in suggesting words to be included in the design ... and none derogatory or insulting! Looking at the picture is a little bit like gazing into a strange mirror and seeing an unfamiliar reflection looking back at me. Is this how people see me? Is this who I am? The perceptions of oneself by others can be humbling and instructive. I think perhaps I need to let my new parishioners see it so as to reassure them that despite the awkwardness of first encounters this is really what I am like!

Rather than waiting for the new 2022 Diocesan Directory, as several people asked me for my new address, I’ll include it below:

The Presbytery
2 St Nicolas Avenue
CRANLEIGH
Surrey
GU6 7AQ

My renewed thanks for sharing a part of our journey of faith and our journey through life together, and the assurance of a place in my prayers in the future.

Fr Alistair