This will be my final article as Rector of Corfe Mullen Parish, as I retire at the end of the month. It has been an enormous privilege to serve here for the past 8 1/2 years. During that time we have come to love the town and the wider area.

What a wonderful place this has been to call home! We have enjoyed the beauty of the local countryside; walks across Upton Moor and the wonderfully named Happy Bottom. The many excellent local facilities: doctors, the post office, shops, hairdressers, outstanding schools, clubs and community groups and the recreation ground with its glorious views. I shall particularly miss the swimming pool next door which I have been able to stroll to first thing in the morning. We have been truly blessed to spend these years in such a setting.

But of course, more than the surroundings, it is people who matter most. It's been such a privilege to walk alongside so many and to share both their joys and sorrows at significant moments in their lives. There have been many happy occasions: preparing couples for their wedding day, baptising children, enjoying the fun of holiday clubs and seeing people discover and grow in faith. There has also been the more difficult times: the covid pandemic, accompanying individuals and families through seasons of grief or hardship…but then also the joy of seeing them find hope renewed.

Charles and I leave with hearts full of gratitude and a treasure chest of memories. The people of Corfe Mullen will always hold a special place in our lives. We leave the church in good heart, still committed to it's vision of "Growing closer to God, to Each Other and to our Community". Although a new Rector will not be appointed until next year, the church's life and worship will continue as normal; everyone will find a warm welcome.

Our final service will be at St Nicholas at 10 am on Sunday 19 October. And we would be delighted to see anyone who wishes to join us. Thank you, each and everyone, for the kindness and welcome you have shown to us over these past years. We pray God's continued blessing on the whole community of Corfe Mullen.

Jane Burgess (Rector) and Charles Burgess (Associate Priest)

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www.facebook.com/StNicsCorfeMullen
Services: St Nicholas Sundays 10am service also live on utube 'parish of Corfe Mullen'
St Hubert Holy Communion 8.45am 5th October (Harvest)
For young Families at St Nicholas 'Rise' 9-9.30 am 12th, 19th, and 26th October and Wild church Saturday 18th