

Letter from the Minister

Sandpipers, Southampton Road, Hythe SO45 5AA
Tel: Office 023 8084 5008
& Home 023 8020 7868



Dear friends

By the time you read this letter I will have undergone a knee operation that will lead me to have time off from ministry for my convalescence and rehabilitation for about six weeks. Thank you for all the good wishes and thoughts that I have received, they mean a lot to me. I have tried my best to do some extra work in advance to help with some things in my absence but at the end of the day there is a lot I can't do and I have every confidence in the other leaders of the church to continue to guide and lead the congregation. Some things might need to change nearer the time but that doesn't matter. I appreciate that there will be some major things for you to decide as a church fellowship during that time and I pray for your discernment and faithfulness to God in all things. I thank God for you all.

I am wondering what the sign over my hospital bed will be (what name they will use!) and how it will feel to be defined by a physical weakness for the first time in my life. We all live with various expectations upon us and definitions of us and some of these can be helpful, others less so. When we think about our lives, our hopes our fears, the things that trouble us and the challenges we all face, it can be easy to forget we are first and foremost to be defined by the fact that God loves us, accepts us and in his wonderful mercy chooses to use us. On recent Sundays this has been reinforced as we have looked at the opening chapters of Paul's letters to Timothy, and to the church at Corinth. I am going to use my time of leave to reflect on this - pray for me as I will be praying for you.

In Christ.

Eddie