**Sam and Charlotte Gibson**

The time has arrived for Sam’s curacy at Solihull Parish to come to an end and his final day here with us will be Sunday 19 July. It’s our great loss, but for his new Parish, wherever that may be, a great gain. Very sadly due to the pandemic, we won’t be able to give Sam and Charlotte, Rodaidh and Seona a proper send off. Once it is safe to meet in large groups, we will invite them all back for a proper farewell.

I would like to invite you to make a financial contribution towards a generous farewell gift for them so we can give them something before they leave us. You can send your contributions via BACS (please see below) or by cheque, made payable to ‘PCC Solihull’ and post to the Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall, B91 3RQ, clearly marking ‘Gibson collection’ on the back.

Bank: Lloyds

Account branch: 30-97-78

Account number: 00206323

Account name: PCC Solihull

Reference: Gibson

Sam, Charlotte and their children have been real gifts to this parish. As I said in the reference I wrote for Sam, he has been the best curate I have ever had (and I have trained several curates). He has been a trusted and trustworthy, loyal and collaborative colleague, someone open to learning, intellectually bright yet sitting on that learning lightly and being a great teacher and communicator. He has brought wisdom and diligence and a passion for those on the edge (like his work chairing the SCAH Committee). He got the 20s and 30s group off the ground and the Saturday Bible studies have been much appreciated. Sam has also been very patient with me over my inferior IT skills and it’s thanks to him and Isabel Baumber that we have our new website. I could go on and on, but all we can do is to thank God for sending Sam and Charlotte to us: we have been privileged to have shared our journey with theirs.

We thank God for all that Charlotte has been and done in the parish as well. During her time here, Charlotte became an Ordinand and has been juggling furiously the epic task of training in London and being here on placement (with all that involves), and sharing parenting with Sam. Charlotte initiated Women’s Theology which has gone from strength to strength and grown so many of our women’s faith. Among the many other things Charlotte has done is to head up the production of communications literature which has been fabulous. I am also very grateful for all the work Charlotte has done with the Children’s work and the school gate ministry (along with Sam). I have no doubt accidentally omitted many other things for which we’re thankful, but this will do for the time being!

Leaving a place, moving to a new house and starting a new job is always daunting. In these coming weeks, please pray for them – and thank God that they came to be among us.

Jane Kenchington