

The Reverend Sue Armitage RIP



I first got to know Sue when she became my colleague, as the Minister in Charge of St Martin's, Chandlers Ford, in the Diocese of Winchester, in 2000. She had trained as a curate in the benefice of Fawley, near Southampton. The four years that we worked together were good, instructive and creative. Sue's strength as a priest were spiritual insightfulness, love of good liturgy, pastoral care and mentoring.

Sue loved the spiritual life - retreats, quiet days, spiritual direction (giving and receiving), her links with the Benedictine Order of the Holy Paraclete, and insights into personality (especially the Enneagram).

Sue loved creating and taking part in imaginative worship. She helped to introduce into Chandlers Ford distinctive and different daily worship during Holy Week; services for special occasions (healing, loss of a child etc); and the round of Common Worship services.

She left Chandlers Ford for rural ministry in the Diocese of Salisbury, where she became Team Vicar of Wylde and Till Valley, living in Shrewton. On retirement she moved to Marlborough to live with one of her sons and his family, and was still active in parish ministry up until her last illness, towards the end of 2019.

My wife and I personally valued Sue for her friendship over the years, her wisdom and her impish sense of humour - she was fun to be with. In addition to her priestly life, Sue loved her dogs, food and wine and good coffee, and her holidays (often in northern Cyprus. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Venerable Michael Harley (Archdeacon Emeritus of Winchester)

Sue's funeral is on Friday 6th March, 11.00am at St Mary's Marlborough.