Change is not something to fear

It’s just over a year since the Derby A2C project and I started our community ministry together, and so much has changed in that time. The community analysis has led us to setting priorities, new groups are running, ‘strangers’ are becoming part of our church, church members are engaging with community projects and the shape of our mission is changing to one outside of our church walls.

The biggest change has been the recent calling and induction of Judith, our new Minister of Word and Sacraments. It is good to have a colleague who shares our vision to engage with the community, to bring about God’s kingdom, here in Derby.

I remember the frustration I felt in the first few months when the churches were struggling with the challenge of change, but here we are, a year on, and our project has enabled that change to happen. But it hasn't been easy, for any of us.

So why are we, as churches, so fearful of change?

- Change often involves loss, and grieving has to be part of that journey
- ‘New’ can be scary, no one likes walking into the unknown
- We have a natural in-built fear of failure
- Change involves commitment

But our faith should reassure us that change is not something to fear.

From Isaiah to Mary, the bible tells us numerous times “Do not be afraid”

**Joshua 1:9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

To be faithful to God is to be strong and courageous. We have nothing to fear!

The challenge of change is not over here. We must be always changing to answer God’s call and to further the Kingdom. With a regeneration project expected around one of our churches, we may have an exciting time ahead of us. A change of community around us, a change of local businesses to make links with, and hopefully a new community church building where we can work and build partnerships with other local organisations.

That’s a lot of change for us to deal with: but we rest in the knowledge that God will be there with us, wherever we go.