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EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Downtown Palo Alto

April 3, 2011

Dear members of the All Saints' Community,

It is our great pleasure to introduce to you All Saints' next rector, The Rev. Terence Gleeson. Terry will begin his ministry with us the first week of June. Let us tell you about him!

First, the Holy Spirit helped the people of All Saints' bring to light our strengths as a congregation, our hopes for the future, and our practical needs, and write an articulate Parish Profile. Then the Spirit moved Terry, who was not then actively engaged in searching for a new position, to read our Profile. Realizing how closely his own gifts and passions matched our passions as well as our needs, he applied to become our next Rector. The Spirit's work continued through the search committee and the vestry; great joy, great love, profound spirituality and rigorous intellectual exchanges were all part of the process that brought Terry to us as our new Rector. Already, the vestry feels that we know him.



Terry is currently serving as rector of St. Stephen's on the Green in Middlebury, Vermont -- home to Middlebury College -- one of America's top liberal arts colleges. Both Terry and every one of his references identify preaching as his greatest gift, along with his skill in incorporating creative and broad-ranging liturgy into worship. Steeped in the Scriptures and liturgy, Terry takes great care and joy in crafting and delivering sermons and liturgy.

Terry is also, by all accounts, an excellent administrator, a fine teacher, and a caring pastor who manages by example and models love in everything he does. He identifies and enables strong lay leaders. Inclusion is the hallmark of his current congregation.

Our Parish Profile was present in front of the vestry as we discerned our call. "Our next rector will be... A Spiritual Guide, A Teacher, A Practical Leader, ... and must have a sense of humor!" We believe we have a match! We found our interactions with Terry called forth a sense of adventure into our future. We believe now, after our interim period led by Sherridan, that we know who we are and are ready to stretch ourselves and see who we will become!

The vestry had an opportunity to bond with Terry and his family on a number of different levels in the few short days they were here in Palo Alto. Members of our parish staff have met Terry and are very enthusiastic about working with him. We are looking forward to many years of fruitful ministry together, guided by the Holy Spirit who has brought Terry to us and us to Terry. Thanks be to God!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Sack Jr." with a stylized, cursive script.

John Sack, Senior Warden, and
The Vestry of All Saints'

To All the Saints in Palo Alto,

Just three weeks ago I was saying that everything about All Saints looked great, but I wasn't "feeling anything" – I had never been to your church, never visited Palo Alto, I only had information that I had read and heard. The following week I experienced just about every emotion known to humankind as I met with the Search Committee and Vestry in different settings, and on the way back to Vermont I kept thinking of Dolly Parton's great line in 'Steel Magnolias:' "Laughter through tears – it's my favorite emotion."

From the very beginning, my family has been deeply touched by your generosity and attentiveness, by so many gestures of kindness and consideration, and I am now honored and humbled by your trust. I want to pay tribute to the Search Committee who spent so many hours in meetings and interviews, in planes and hotel rooms, to Phillip for his gracious efficiency, and to the team who braved a brisk minus seven degree Sunday morning in rural Vermont. I want to thank those who made our visit to Palo Alto such a pleasure, from minding our little girl, to setting up the chapel, to preparing welcome bags and so many other thoughtful touches. Finally, I can scarcely find words to express to the Vestry my respect for the way you have supported and challenged and encouraged both me and one another, and for entrusting me with this ministry.

I ask your prayers for us in the weeks ahead as we say goodbye to so many dear friends, to our house and town, and deal with packing, real estate agents, movers and then there's the small matter of Holy Week and Easter! This year these holy days of silence and waiting, of suffering and loss, and of exultation and release, will have special meaning for us all. And I ask your prayers for the other candidates who were also discerning a call to All Saints: this process demands of each of us an enormous investment of time and study and imagination, and leaves us all very vulnerable. Please join with me in praying that these fine priests will soon find themselves "in the place just right."

I see that the Presiding Bishop will be visiting Palo Alto on June 1st and 2nd: I am seriously impressed that you have arranged for her to welcome us! We are surrounded and sustained by a God who saves us from every trial and leads us into joy; all praise to Jesus Christ, "through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand." (Romans 5:1)

Terry+

Bio: When asked where he comes from, Terry is never too sure what answer to offer: Vermont, New York, the United States, Australia and Sydney are all possibilities. He was born, raised and went to seminary in Sydney, where he was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1980. After ten years in parochial and then diocesan ministry, and with a graduate degree in education, he came to New York City to join a religious order and worked in the field of developmental disabilities and mental illness. In New York, Terry began worshipping at St John's in the Village, where he was received into the Episcopal Church in 1998. It was there that he met his partner Dennis. After completing a Masters in Sacred Theology at the General Theological Seminary, concentrating in Sacred Scripture, he was received as an Episcopal priest in 2003 and served at Christ and St Stephen's on West 69th Street. From there he was called as Rector of St Stephen's on the Green, Middlebury, VT, in 2005. The topics of classes Terry has taught in recent years are probably the best indicators of his deepest interests: Scripture; Liturgy; Monastic art, architecture and spirituality; and anything Italian.



Dennis Manalo, Chiara, and The Rev. Terry Gleeson

Family: Terry and Dennis celebrated their Holy Union in 2007 and their marriage in 2011; they have a two year old daughter, Chiara Rosa, whom they brought home when she was one week old, weighing just 5.5 pounds. They fondly remember a time when they used to watch movies, dine at fine restaurants regularly and vacation in the south of France, and hope one day to do so again.*

* See *All Saints 2010 Parish Profile*, page 7, *Our Next Rector...*, "... must have a sense of humor"