

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you. Philippians 1:3-4*

It is an absolute joy to be writing to you for the first time.

I have looked forward to September 2024 for some time, as both a continuance of discerning God's calling and the new beginnings of starting my ministry in serving the people of the Cam, Dursley and Stonehouse Methodist Churches and Wotton United Church. I am excited about what God has got in store for us to do together with the Holy Spirit. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you, hearing your stories and learning more about your journeys of faith as we embark on the next part of this journey together.

Over the Summer, my family and I have explored the Cotswolds beautiful countryside. We have found routes that have now become familiar dog walks. We have discovered cafes that have become favourite places. And throughout September we have been blessed in meeting so many of you at Sunday morning worship and the wonderful welcome service, held at Dursley Methodist Church. A memory that we will treasure, for the singing, and your welcome and encouragement.

And now, as October is upon us, the newness hasn't stopped. The first-time events will continue for some time of church councils, Holy Communions, pastoral visiting and outreach opportunities.

It reminds me of our relationship with Jesus and how our faith continues to deepen. That one encounter is never enough, that this is a lifetime journey. That as we get to know Jesus more and more in our lives, there is always a new venture to step out into, there is always something new to learn and something new to yield.

My hope is that as we get to know each other and continue to get to know Jesus better, our sense of belonging is strengthened and reaches out into the communities we serve.

With love and prayers

Jimmy