



**GEOFF SOWDEN,
VICAR OF HIGHWORTH, BLUNSDON, SEVENHAMPTON, HANNINGTON and
INGLESHAM FOR 19 YEARS TO RETIRE.**

Geoff Sowden will take well-earned retirement from his ministry as Vicar of Highworth and surrounding villages at the end of January. He has become over his 19 years of service a humble, leading figure in our community where he has experienced both the joys and tragedies of family life. Geoff has always shown what Christian service to his local community really means. Through times of great joy and great sadness, in periods of peace and in times of turbulence, he has cared for, visited, and been a friend to so many people. He has shown his love, commitment, and service by doing what Jesus said – preaching the gospel and caring for our fellow citizens who need a hand, are voiceless or in difficulty.

Geoff will leave thriving Churches in the parishes he has served. Under his leadership St Michael and All Angels Highworth, has been refurbished and transformed inside to be a beautiful setting for events from Weddings to Craft Fairs and concerts, as well as a wonderful place for regular Church Services and private prayer. He will also leave behind a legacy of encouragement and teamwork, always valuing the gifts that others may bring. He has played a key role in the development of Churches Together in Highworth, worked closely with our civic leaders, and supported the communities in the villages.

We send every blessing to Geoff and his wife Muriel in their retirement together and future new home.

Geoff's last services as Vicar are open to all – restrictions permitting -
At St. Leonards Blunsdon on 23rd January at 10 am
At St. Michael and All Angels Highworth on 30th January at 10.15 am