



July 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Where have the last five years gone?

As I write, we are in the midst of sorting through all our stuff, as together, Susan and I prepare for the journey south – to retirement in the Scottish Borders.

As we look back, we are indeed grateful for our time in the Forth Valley Circuit, as for a while we have been companions on the journey. Together we have helped each other in our Christian walk, particularly as we experienced the restrictions of the Covid pandemic.

We thus celebrate all that has happened that has been good, positive, and hopeful. We remember with thanks those whose journey continued beyond the horizon called death. We thank you for your grace when we have fallen short. We have worshipped and sought to discover God's calling on our lives together – something that is particularly challenging in this age. We go forward seeking to understand and respond in all the ways this may entail.

That is the nature of life – always on the move, never static, discovering new people, new perspectives, new places, yet always in the presence of God.

Just as footsteps leave impressions in the sand, so we all have impressions in our own lives from those we have encountered. The most important impression, though, is the love and grace of God which we share.

We will continue to keep you in our prayers during this time of transition, as you welcome Adam Stevenson and Natalie Clark to succeed Mary Patterson and myself.

Susan joins me in praying that you travel well, and that you may always seek to follow Jesus as your guide – adventurously, faithfully, and graciously.

God bless,

Grace and peace,

*Eddie*

Rev. Eddie Sykes