

Words at departure

Church Representative:

Today we mark a turning point in our journey with God together, as the ministry of Peter as Superintendent Minister of the Haverhill Circuit comes to an end.

We are the Body of Christ:

each of us is a member of it.

There is one ministry of Christ:

in this ministry we all share.

There are different ways of serving God:

it is the same Lord whom we serve.

Peter responded to God's call to serve in this appointment.

In love and praise, we give thanks for his offering of himself within the life of this church.

Words of thanksgiving by church representative/s and response by Peter

Church Representative:

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God,
that you called Peter to share in the ministry of your Son Jesus Christ,
as minister among us,
and moved him to accept your call.

We thank you for sending upon him
the grace of your Holy Spirit
for this work and ministry,
and for sustaining, guiding
and enabling him in this service
by your life-giving power.

We thank you for the ways in which Peter has enriched the life and witness of
this church,
and for the ways in which, through his ministry,
your name has been glorified.

Sometimes this has been easy,
at other times, challenging:

we thank you for your grace, your patience
and your redeeming love;

in the name of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
in whose life, death and resurrection we all share.

Amen.

Words of confession & affirmation:

Church Representative:

Peter, as you journey onward,
we ask forgiveness where we have failed you;
we give thanks for all you have given us;
we assure you of our love and prayers.

Peter:

As I move on, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you;
I give thanks for all that you have given to me;
I assure you of my love and prayers.

Church Representative:

As you experience the challenges of change,
and the insecurity of moving on,
we pray that you may also experience
the blessing of inner growth.

Peter:

I know that God is with me.

Church Representative:

Peter, whatever life brings you next,
as you walk through good times and bad,
we pray that you shall always know
the shelter of God's loving arms.

Peter:

I know that God is with me.

Church Representative:

As you ponder this change in your life,
and wonder over the fruits of your labour,
we pray that the peace of Christ
may reign in your heart.

Peter:

I know that God is with me.

Church Representative:

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for Peter, Jo, James and Sally as they journey on.
As we release Peter from his service
as Minister in this church we entrust him to your loving care,
knowing that you are always with us
as our faithful companion on the Way.
Shelter and protect Peter and family from all harm and anxiety.
Grant them the courage to meet the future,
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**