



# ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

An Anglican / Episcopal  
Christian community in Lugano

## Announcement from Fr Richard about the Chaplaincy in Lugano after Sunday Mass on April 30<sup>th</sup>

Last week, Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>, here in church, we had our AGM and the Archdeacon Canon Peter Hooper was there too. Thank you to all who came to that meeting. I announced that I would be leaving St Edward's Lugano in August of this year. This is now public knowledge.

This means that I will only have been at St Edward's for one year – arriving at the end of August 2022 and leaving in August 2023.

Obviously, this was not my original intention, although under the grace of God (and the support of the Churchwardens and many others) I feel I have had an effective and helpful ministry here even in this short time. A combination of factors has led to this difficult decision, not least the experience of being ill (with a serious impact on my ability to sleep during that time) for some 4 months on my own in a strange place, but also a realisation that my calling is to ministry as a School Chaplain. I have been offered and have accepted a post as Chaplain at Summer Fields School at the beginning of September in Oxford.

I apologise that this will come as a shock to some people and a disappointment for some too and I do want to reassure people that I have valued my time here and much appreciated the signs of friendship and support that I received, as I have enjoyed giving those signs of friendship and support myself to others. You are a good Christian community and will always be in my prayers.

The Archdeacon was here in Lugano for our AGM and so was able to have a very useful and hopeful meeting with our Churchwardens to plan the way ahead in finding a new Chaplain. When I was appointed to the position here it was on the usual clergy condition of a three-month notice period and I have in fact given 5 months' notice, which will help in this process.

I ended what I said at the AGM with some famous words of what is often called 'the Serenity Prayer'

*“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. ...  
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy  
with Him Forever in the next. Amen.”*

Pace e bene,  
Father Richard