

***(The sharper eyed among you may have noticed that, owing to a mix up in forwarding attachments, the article in the October magazine by Rosie was actually about her previous ordination as Deacon in 2020. Here are her reflections on her recent ordination as Priest.)***

### **Ordination Reflections from Rosie**

This weekend was absolutely joyful! Being surrounded by family and friends, those who are local and those who travelled, as we celebrated my and Hazel's ordination to the priesthood and our first communion services. It's been a long time coming for me – ten years of wondering, talking to God and other people about it, exploring the possibility, running away, feeling unequipped and overwhelmed by the enormity of the role. In the run-up to the weekend, there was enough busyness going on that there wasn't time to think too much about it, and I landed on retreat at Sheldon with the other curates without really having engaged fully with what was going to happen.

After having gone back to bed after breakfast and managing to sleep through the first talk on the Thursday (oops...), I hugely valued the gift of space to spend time with God and the other curates as I reflected on the first year of a covid-impacted curacy that has looked quite different to what we'd all envisioned. The retreat left me peaceful and hopeful as the ordination approached.

Arriving to a packed vestry and church on Saturday was a delight, and as we processed in, it was wonderful to see everyone, and to be able to sing – very different from the Diaconal ordinations in the cathedral. I loved hearing everyone affirm that it was their will that we should be ordained, and that we could both rely on your prayers, encouragement and support.

After an evening of celebration with friends and family who had travelled to be with me, I loved returning to Tavistock on Sunday and presiding at communion for the first time, and was touched to see so many of you there, from the whole of the benefice. It was such a joyful occasion for me, and I hope it was for you all as well.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the joy of the weekend – those who came to the services and supported, those who had a role in the service, those who arranged the flowers, those who provided food and came to enjoy it, those who gave me cards and presents, and for all those who contributed to the generous cheque which is earmarked for a bike upgrade! I hugely value your support, encouragement, and love, and am looking forward to finding out what the next few years have in store.