# **Parish Magazine Article**

**A Note from the Curate**

It’s been a few weeks since I began my time with the Bredon on the Hill group, and I already feel a sense of belonging. As a curate — essentially a vicar with “L plates” — I’m still very much in training, learning the ropes of ministry as I go.

Coming from a town background, I wondered whether rural life would suit me. But in my very first week, I found myself visiting the Open Gardens event in Eckington, enjoying a summer fête, and joining in with other church activities. I soon realised: a sunny day, a beautiful garden, cream tea, and friendly company — what’s not to love?

One of my favourite books is the classic The Secret Garden. It speaks of transformation, growth, friendship, and healing — themes that feel very present here in the countryside. Of course, growth often comes with challenges. As I write this, we find ourselves praying for rain after a long dry spell!

My husband Colin works as a psychiatric nurse in CAMHS. We have two children: Maeve, who is 13, and Charlie, who is 11. And we can’t forget Belle, our cat — an essential member of the family.

Perhaps the reason The Secret Garden resonates so much with me is that it reflects the journey of faith — something that, like a garden, needs time, care, and the right conditions to flourish. I look forward to walking this journey with you all.

With blessings,

Rev Sooz Magee.