

# BETWEEN MINISTERS?

WRITTEN BY LYDDY GRAY

It's the standard that each Church has a Minister, and when a Minister leaves, Churches try to get another Minister as quickly as possible. With the shortage of Ministers, some Churches reluctantly accept sharing a Minister with another Church; it's better than no Minister, after all. Here at Grange Park URC, we'd been without a Minister for three and a half years before we Revd. Rosemary Tusting, and have been without a Minister for just over a year after she retired.



As much as it would be lovely to have a full-time Minister, the ongoing strength of our congregation and the continued quality of our services show that it's not a necessity. In fact, as long as we have people happy to lead our worship, not having a Minister at Grange Park is great!

We get to experience all kinds of service styles; energetic and calm, preaching and advising, modern and traditional. We also know that if we don't find one particular service as enjoyable or fulfilling, the next week will be something different. The services we don't find as fun or satisfying are often the ones somebody else finds the most enjoyable and fulfilling, so the varied style is beneficial in that way, too.



If we had a full time Minister we would not be able to enjoy the services taken by members of our congregation. It does us good to see the talent amongst ourselves, and to develop ministerial skills.

We also enjoy the services taken by guest Ministers, and we wouldn't be able to invite so many if we had a full time Minister. These Ministers bring us fresh new styles and outlooks, sometimes from other denominations.

Whatever the future holds for Grange Park, we know it's the congregation that makes the Church, not the Minister.