

A Message from our new Rector, the Revd Alex Williams

To the people of St Bridget's West Kirby and the Church of the Resurrection and All Saints Caldy, greetings!

Firstly, thank you for your prayers and all your work preparing for the interview process, especially, as on the day you were having to adapt to the rapidly changing circumstances due to Covid 19. I greatly appreciated your friendliness, care and hospitality.

Thank you also for your cards and words of welcome.

When I was offered the post I was delighted, if a little taken aback, - I had never really envisaged returning to my roots!

I applied to be your next Rector because I sensed in your profile that we were well matched and there was a strong overlap with my approach to faith, worship and ministry. 'I wonder if I'm being called to be their vicar?' I thought. This was very much confirmed during my visit. The priest I feel called to be aligns strongly to the priest you describe seeking. I try my hardest to be a kind pastor, to be a person of prayer and vision and to be open to the Holy Spirit. I appreciate liturgy and worship which is centred on the sacrament and recognise the opportunity for helping people encounter God through the spaces and moments we create during worship. I enjoy working alongside others and finding ways of using all our gifts well. I was especially attracted by your openness and inclusive approach and your emphasis on friendship and welcome, which I benefitted from during my visit. In more ways than one it felt like coming home!

When I am in post and restrictions lifted, I look forward to meeting you all and having the chance of getting to know each other well.

Until then, here is a little about me:

Following my residential training for ordination at Cuddesdon Theological College, I have been Curate in the multi-parish (6) benefice of Edgehill in Warwickshire. <http://edgehillchurches.org/>

I am married to Richard, an Anglican priest, who is currently Vicar of the parish of Alveston, near Stratford Upon Avon.

<https://www.stjamesalveston.co.uk/> We have four grown-up children, three sons, Anthony, Nicholas and Edward and one daughter Lucy. We also have a Border Collie called Pippa and a cat called Cecil.

Many of you will know that I could be described as a 'local girl' as I was born in Newton and baptised at St Michael and All Angels. My only memories of church as a young child were being taken along at Easter and loving the



singing and the biscuits, but little else. That probably tells you quite a lot about me!

I moved to West Kirby at the age of 4, attended Black Horse Hill Primary School and then on to West Kirby Grammar school for Girls. It was here that I really stumbled upon God, through joining the choir of St Andrew's. My love of singing was given wings and I encountered God through liturgy, music, beautiful spaces and wonderfully nurturing people. I had a sense of vocation at the age of thirteen but was ahead of my time I suppose.

I went off to University in Manchester, qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist and married my husband Richard, also from the Wirral and at the time a curate in Stockport. I have had many years as a vicar's wife - though working hard to not fit any stereotype.

I have had an amazing career as a Speech and Language Therapist, specialising in working with babies and young children and their families, in particular children with additional needs. I also worked within the SureStart programme. My last secular job was as strategic lead for the Children's Centres across Warwickshire where I established the 'time to talk' programme.

<https://timetotalkwarwickshire.com/about/>

My love of singing has seen me establish and run a junior choir in Alveston and subsequently the senior choir. My main aim was always that we enhanced worship and had fun too, reflected in our motto "never knowingly over-rehearsed". I am very excited about the opportunities for music making in the school and parish. You can see me with some of the juniors here

<https://www.stjamesalveston.co.uk/youth#Youth%20Choir>

During my curacy I have become increasingly involved in our local church primary school and am passionate about the contribution of the church to our young people's lives. I have a growing interest in children's spirituality.

I'm also quite creative and enjoy having a go at most crafty stuff.

I love people and chatting and laughing and drinking and lazing in a hammock.

I enjoy working as part of a team and enabling people to use their gifts.

I am looking forward to building on the wonderful work you are doing and exploring what opportunities lie ahead for us in our journey together with God.

I will be praying for you all over the next few months. Please hold Richard, me and our family in your prayers, and the people of our parishes, as we prepare to leave them and come and join you.

Yours in Christ, Alex

Alex's appointment to the Parish is still officially "subject to completion of all legal formalities".