

Kerrier Deanery News - December 2022 Update

‘We will work together as a deanery to enable ourselves and others to worship God.’

Kerrier Rural Dean

As you will be aware, as a result of the recruitment process, visit and interviews on 16th November, the Revd Heidi Huntley, at present Vicar of Royston and Rural Dean of Buntingford Deanery, Diocese of St Albans, and whom many of you met during her visit in November, is to be the new Rural Dean for the Kerrier deanery. (This is conditional on legal formalities being completed.) She will be licensed at St Michael’s Helston on 16th March 2023 at 5.00pm, please put that time and date in your diary.

Heidi says:

“I am thrilled that Phil and I will soon be moving down to Helston to be with you all, and I feel blessed that God has called me to minister in the Kerrier Deanery - the most beautiful place in the world! I look forward to forming deep and lasting relationships with folk across the Deanery, as we seek to share Jesus’ love and hope as his body.”



For as far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a nurse, so at the age of 18 I left Dorset and moved to London to train at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital. Following my training, I worked in Accident and Emergency, but I soon moved into children’s nursing. After a few years I completed my specialist children’s

nurse training and eventually worked at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London. It was while I was there that my call to vocational ministry began. I was initially confused as to why God would want me to leave one vocational job for another, but over the years I realised that he needed me to serve him in another way.

I left nursing in 2007 and went to train at theological college, Cuddesdon, near Oxford. I was ordained Deacon in 2009 in Southwark Cathedral in London and served my curacy in a busy South London Parish. In 2012, we moved north to Royston (about 12 miles south of Cambridge) to be somewhere greener!

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Four years ago, the church suffered a devastating fire and overnight we started worshipping in a school. The church has only just reopened so our lives have been very much shaped by the absence of a permanent church building and, like everyone else, COVID 19. This has enabled us to look at being church in a completely new way and helped us not to be so reliant on the church building.

Back in 2016, we started a Sunday afternoon family service called Teatime Praise and this has proved popular as we realise that families are often involved in sport on a Sunday morning. Following training at the beginning of this year, I also started a small youth group where young people can talk about difficult issues.

As soon as we reopened the church, we restarted our Wednesday and Saturday morning Eucharists and coffee mornings. These are particularly popular with our more mature congregation members, and the Ladies' Group goes from strength with monthly tea parties and trips to places of interest.

For now, I'm busily dashing around welcoming all the local schools into church for their nativity plays and carol services, and preparing for our many festive events. I pray that you will all enjoy a very happy and holy Christmas and that God brings you peace in the New Year.

Every blessing,

Heidi

And from our Interim House for Duty Geoff Davis:

My first three months have flown by and yes, it's been demanding, tiring, at times concerning, BUT enormously rewarding, a privilege and yes there is much positivity, vision and hope for the future.

WHY?

Well firstly because as I've officiated now at many of the 23 Churches in the Deanery I witness a lot of transparency, openness, honesty about how things really are in the churches and in their discipleship. There is a hunger for renewal, evangelism and I believe a ready acceptance of the need for radical change.

As a 75 year old now and 40 years a priest I tell myself most days 'Just Be Yourself Geoff.'

Be yourself in this Interim Ministry and seek to finish strong in the service of the Lord Jesus in His Church. What I'm finding is that

that's what so many are endeavouring to do as well in their roles and gifting within their Church fellowships. I so thank God for each and every one of you.

I have read St Paul's words of transparency and honesty to the Corinthian Christians in most of the Churches I've now visited and reread them every day in my devotions. This I shall continue to do for as long as the Lord would have me serve here in the Deanery.

(1 Corinthians 2 vs 1-5) 'When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.'

This is my daily prayer as we prepare again for the most wonderful time of the year, the reason for the season!

'Christ the Saviour is born'

Geoff