

Appointment of Revd Debbie Loughran to the Benefice of St George and St Hilda, Newcastle.

First a reminder of the appointment process. After the Bishop's Section 12 meeting on 28 November, the vacancy was advertised twice. On the second occasion, three applicants were invited for interview on 4th June 2024. The panel was chaired by the Bishop of Berwick. The members were the four wardens of St Hilda's and St George's, plus Archdeacon Rachel. On the day of interview, candidates met four representatives from St Hilda's and seven from St George's. Enid and I were grateful for the feedback received at the end of the morning as this allowed a range of opinions to inform the afternoon's assessment.

Everyone who met Deborah – or Debbie she prefers to be called – agreed she was very open, pleasant, easy to meet, intelligent, sensible, and extremely well informed about our Parish.



So – who is Revd Debbie? – She is someone who had wide and varied workplace experience during her theological course at Cranmer Hall in Durham. Her extended placements were at churches in Ryton, Byker and Durham prior to Ordination as Deacon in Durham Cathedral in June 2014, and Priest in July 2015. She served much of her Curacy in the Parish of Great Aycliffe in Co Durham.

Despite this very busy curacy, Debbie undertook to learn British Sign Language and was appointed Hon. Chaplain for the Deaf Community in Durham by Bishop Mark, Jarrow.

In 2017 Debbie moved to the Diocese of Lichfield as incumbent in the Benefice of Oakengates, Priorslee and Wrockwardine Wood (East Telford). The Benefice has increased to now also include 3 associate churches. Her current parishes she describes as being very different: one Anglo catholic; one modern Catholic; one

open evangelical and three middle of the road. She loves and is comfortable in all of them and serves them all in their own tradition. She has had significant impact on both the size of the ministry team and the involvement of schools and young people.

Within the first year of her incumbency, Debbie was invited to be the assistant Rural Dean of Telford. Two years later, in mid-2020 she was elected as the Rural Dean of Telford, and recognised as a Training Incumbent.

Debbie completed her Masters in Theology and Transformative practice in Birmingham last year. She was an elected member of Durham Diocesan Synod from 2014 to 2017 and for the past 7 years has been an elected member of Lichfield Diocesan Synod.

As your Churchwardens, and as an appointment panel, we all felt very fortunate that we were able to appoint someone with such a breadth of experience, much of it extremely relevant to the situation in our own Benefice.

We give thanks that Revd. Debbie has been called to this place,



We know that everyone will welcome her, her husband Alan and children Amy and Matty, and support her return to the North East in any way that we can.

In anticipation of a wonderful new chapter in the life of St George's
Janet and Enid

Churchwardens 29 06 24