

A new priest is coming ... no, TWO new priests!
A note from the Churchwardens 19th September 2018



Dear Friends,

Some of you will already have met the Revd. Stephen Goodwin, when he paid us a visit earlier this month, and we are pleased to be able to share with you some more details of Fr Stephen and his wife, the Revd. Sue Goodwin, from which you can see that they come to us with a wealth of experience.

Fr Stephen also speaks French very well, and has worked at the Mission to Seamen at Dunkirk. Their first service at All Saints will be 7 October, and they will be celebrating in each of our three congregations in October in order to get to know the different 'flavours' of each.

Fr Stephen says:

I was born and brought up in Fleetwood on the Lancashire coast in a seafaring family. I attended the local Grammar School and from there I defected across the Pennines and went to Sheffield University to study for a BA Dual Honours degree in French and Music. My third year there was spent as an Assistant d'anglais at the Lycée Technique Gustave Eiffel in Cachan, in the southern suburbs of Paris.

After graduating in 1980 I went to the Missions to Seamen (as it was called then) in Dunkirk and spent two years as a student assistant.

Following this I went to Cranmer Hall, part of St John's College Durham, to train for the ordained ministry, where I met Sue. I was made deacon in Blackburn Cathedral in 1985 and ordained priest there in 1986.

I served curacies in Lytham and West Burnley in the Blackburn diocese. Sue and I were married during my time in West Burnley, then we headed south where I was appointed as Team Vicar at St Mark's Bordon, in the Guildford diocese. From there we headed back north to the Lichfield diocese where I served as NSM priest in the Leek and Meerbrook team ministry.

Whilst there I was asked to serve as chaplain in the Leek Moorlands Hospital, just for one afternoon a week. This led eventually to a full time chaplaincy post at what is now the Royal Stoke University Hospital, a large general hospital covering a wide area of North Staffordshire and a wide range of specialities.

From there I went to be the chaplain at the Douglas Macmillan Hospice in the outskirts of the city, where I spent the last eight and a half years of my active ministry. I 'retired' from there at the end of February 2017.

Having lived in France for 3 years in my twenties I have always wanted to return in some capacity. Sue and I spent some time giving locum cover in the Midi-Pyrénées chaplaincy last summer and again over last Christmas and New Year. Both Sue and I and our chocolate labrador Ella are very much looking forward to being with you all for the next 7 months.

In the long term our hope is to resettle in France permanently and our house in the UK is currently on the market. So if anyone wants to buy a delightful barn conversion in Staffordshire, we have the very place for you.....

Sue says:

I was born in London and raised in Eastbourne. On leaving school I did a short course in Business Studies before going on to Leeds Poly to study Information Science, followed by an M.Sc in Computational Science.

After working for 6 years in Information Services (in industry, social services and the health service) I knew God was calling me into ministry. So at the age of 30 I found myself in Durham at theological college where I met Steve! I became Deaconess and then Deacon at St. Chad's Church, Norton Woodseats in Sheffield, and three years later joined the chaplaincy team at Scargill House near Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales. In 1989, Steve and I were married in the chapel at Scargill, and I joined him in the final year of his second curacy in West Burnley. On moving to Bordon I joined the Headley team as an NSM curate and also did some pastoral work with the Acorn Christian Healing Trust.

While in Bordon, in April 1994, I was among the first batch of women to become priests in the Church of England. In 1998 we moved to Leek in Staffordshire to run a small retreat house St Chad's House, under the auspices of the Community and Hilda. I was then appointed part-time priest in charge of St. John's Church, Wetley Rocks. In 2008 I also took on responsibility for St Philip's Church Werrington, becoming Vicar of the joint benefice. In 2014 I was made Rural Dean of Cheadle, and retired in 2016.

Since then I have enjoyed more leisurely country rambles with our dog Ella and have been trying to improve my very rusty 'O' level French!
Throughout my life I have known the grace and love of Jesus and I look forward to sharing the next stage of the journey of faith with you all.