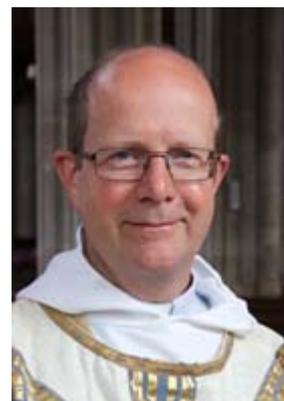


Rector's Letter - Rev'd Jeremy Trew - August-September 2023

Dear All

On the day I am writing this I have announced the calling of Rev'd Alex Jeewan and Rev'd John Saxon to pastures new. We trust that, as God called them here, so God also calls them to these new posts to further develop their ministries and to serve new communities. In the weeks after you read this, we will be saying fond farewells to Alex and Caroline, John and Dawn. They will each be missed.



This leaves the Saffron Walden and Villages Team somewhat short staffed; Caroline Curren having left some time ago. We are authorised for two full time and two House for Duty clergy licensed to us. This has not changed, and we are allowed to get on with the recruitment process. Between writing this and you reading it is more than four weeks, and a considerable amount will have been done in that time to move things forward, both regarding working out what form future ministry might take and in preparing for recruitment. A certain amount of this is required to be done in confidence, but I will update you as and when I can.

This month we will also be celebrating the beginnings of new ministries. Ella and Hilary already do a great deal in serving our local church and community. Rev'd Ella Harris will shortly be ordained Priest, and Hilary Walker will be ordained Deacon. Please pray for them as they pass through these doors and enter a new form of service. Both are highly capable, but nevertheless still clergy in training and remain so during the vacancies. I ask that you remember this as we seek to fill service rotas, etc.

Please also hold in your prayers the other clergy who, in retirement, continue to contribute through priestly ministry. As with their licensed colleagues they cannot realistically do more. We may, however, be able to do things somewhat differently.

As Team Rector I am the incumbent for all our parishes during a vacancy. I will be attending PCC's wherever possible and helping in the taking of regular services and occasional offices. I am not, though, omnipresent. As to omniscient or omnipotent, you sussed me out on that a long time ago. Please keep your criticisms gentle and your encouragement high. Please do come to me for guidance and support, either as individuals or congregations. And please remember this: through your baptism you have received the gift of the Holy Spirit as a minister in God's Church. This Church is not mine or the Bishop's, but ours together under God. It is through being faithful together and working together that we will enrich the Church in this Team and make it an attractive place for clergy to come and join us in this work.

You are, as always, in my prayers.

Jeremy

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