



BECCLES PARISH

ST MICHAEL'S & ST LUKE'S

Staff Team News

25th February 2018

I am delighted to share the news today that from June 2018 we will be a **training hub** for new ministers. This will see the arrival of two more Curates as part of our team. **Ben Edwards** will serve with us as a Stipendary Curate and **Claire Kiddy** will serve as a Self-Supporting Minister. Ben, Claire and our own **Phil Cudmore** (who will also serve as a Self-Supporting Minister) will be ordained Deacon at the Cathedral on 30th June. There will be more details about the ordination service nearer the time. I will be the training supervisor for each Curate and they will have a great opportunity to experience a wide variety of ministry in Beccles and across the wider Cluster of Hundred River & Wainford and, Worlingham, Barnby & North Cove.

Ben and Claire have written a little about themselves and their families.

Do pray for Ben, Claire and Phil and their families as they prepare for ordination and serving their curacies with us here.

Revd Rich Henderson

Rector

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3.20-21

**Growing in God**

BEN EDWARDS

Ben is husband to Caroline and Father to Isadora (8), Bertie (5) and Trinity (6 months). Originally a Roman Catholic, Ben spent most of his formative teenage years away from Church attendance, only for his faith to reignite upon meeting Caroline and marrying in 2008. It was shortly after this that Ben felt called to priesthood, but was drawn towards the Anglican church in which he and Caroline had got married, St Mary's, Combs.



From here, Ben attended St Peter and St Mary's in Stowmarket to further re-engage with Christ and explore his call to vocation to the priesthood and was recommended for ordination training in 2016.

Studying at Westcott House in Cambridge, Ben rediscovered his Christian roots, and considers his tradition to be Anglo-Catholic, but also draws upon his time in evangelical and charismatic settings.

His main spiritual influences are the Franciscans, Julian of Norwich, Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit thought, and enjoys reading such authors as Richard Rohr, Gerard Hughes, Rob Bell and Rowan Williams.

He enjoys art, an eclectic selection of music, film and cooking, as well as spending time with his family.

Caroline has spent the last 8 years raising their three children, but was previously working in the healthcare management and recruitment management sectors. Isadora is a budding author, Bertie dreams of farming and engineering and Trinity seems to have her heart set on being a world renowned opera singer!

The whole family are very much looking forward to returning to their home county, and are delighted to be doing so in beautiful Beccles. They cannot wait to meet the congregations of St Michael's and St Luke's, the family are keen to return to Suffolk and Ben is looking forward to his ministry to the people of Beccles."

CLAIRE KIDDY

I am very excited to be coming to the parish of St Michael's & St Luke's Beccles following my ordination in June. Some of you will remember I came last March for a placement and I had a real sense that God had placed me where he wanted me to be. So I am delighted that Rich accepted Bishop Martin's proposal that I serve my curacy in Beccles.

About ten years ago I began to suspect God was calling me to ordained ministry but I tried to ignore the call until it became overwhelming. In 2012 I finally sought help and began the discernment process to test my vocation to priesthood. I was sent to the Bishop's Advisory Panel in 2014, who recommended me for training. I have nearly completed three years as an ordinand, studying with ERMIC, (Eastern Region Ministry Course). This has been both challenging and wonderful and has had a profound impact on all areas of my life.

I am from the Blyth Valley Team which is a rural benefice of ten churches. I live in the village of Wissett with my husband Geoffrey, a farmer, and our three grown up children. Edward (23) manages our family farm, Emily (21) is studying for an MA at York University and Henry (19) is a qualified teaching assistant at the Edgar Sewter Primary School. Our farm is mainly arable, (we grow wheat, barley and oil seed rape) and we have a flock of sheep. We have also converted some stables into self-catering holiday accommodation. You can tell I have been immersed in country life for a long time!

I grew up in Beccles and was confirmed at St Michael's, when Canon Sutton was the incumbent. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would return to the parish as a curate! God certainly works in mysterious ways. I look forward to ministry in Beccles, to serving you and walking with you on our journey of faith and discipleship. Please pray for me as I pray for you.





Do put **SUNDAY 1st JULY** in your diaries, there will be **one service** that day which will be a ***Parish Celebration*** 10.30am at St Michael's to welcome Ben, Claire and Phil to their new ministry. The Diocesan Director of Mission & Ministry The Revd Canon Dave Gardner will be our guest preacher and the service will be followed with a parish lunch.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants preparing to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Keep up to date with what is going on by liking our **Facebook** page
(*search for Beccles Parish*) or follow us on **Twitter** @BecclesParish

www.becclesparish.org.uk

