

A new ministry begins....

On Sunday, 1st July, 23 people will be ordained deacon by the Bishop of Manchester at Manchester Cathedral to serve in parishes across our diocese. One of these, Liz Rowles will be joining our United Benefice as a Stipendiary Assistant Curate. This means that she will be paid and working full-time as our curate for the next 3-4 years. After her training as a curate comes to an end, Liz will then move onto another post.



I have known Liz for some time as her home church is in our deanery and am excited as having her join me as a clergy colleague. I think she will be a blessing to both St Martin's and St Andrew's churches and her ministry will be appreciated by all.

Please do pray for Liz in the next few weeks as she prepares for this momentous occasion, for a rich outpouring of God's grace for her and all the candidates, and for the whole church. Please pray also for the families, friends, and all who have supported and encouraged these soon to become deacons on their journey, and for those with whom they will serve.

Liz will start work in the parish on Monday, 2nd July and I am sure that you will enjoy getting to know her and welcome her warmly after then. I have asked Liz, however, to write a short introduction to herself so that you can learn a little about her in advance of her arrival.

Jo

Hello. .. Jo has asked me to introduce myself. I am Liz and as I write this I am still a nurse, a profession I joined as a school leaver 30 years ago. I trained at Wythenshawe and Withington and then moved on to Christies, MRI and most recently St. Marys Hospital.

I am married to Ged and between us we have five boys David, Tom, Robert, Sam and Alex, a grandson called Ethan and Poppy a curly coated retriever. I have always lived in Tameside being born and brought up in Ashton and Stalybridge and after a brief spell at the nurses' home in Withington I moved to Denton in 1991. I will carry on living in Denton after July but I am looking forward to spending time getting to know more about Droylsden.

I have known Jo for a while firstly because I have a passion for ministry with young people so I met Jo when she was the young person's minister and again at Deanery meetings and I am really looking forward to working more closely with her and getting involved in the United Benefice, the Mission Action plan, in the Parish family and local community.



Liz Rowles

We have several passions, with Scouting taking up most of our leisure time- I am District Commissioner for Tameside South and Ged is a Group Scout leader in Denton. When we are not Scouting we are watching Manchester City. Ged has been a season ticket holder for 40 years, I was a little late to the party but as a family we are all Blues. We like to get away from it all when we can and we have a little touring caravan that can often be seen on the shores of Bala Lake, in the Lake District or further afield in Cornwall.

The next few weeks will see a lot of doors closing and new ones opening for me and I am both excited and terrified about what my new career in Ordained Ministry will bring.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all and sharing the next chapter of my life with you.

See you in July.

Liz Rowles

A prayer for those to be ordained: As well as praying for Liz to be ordained deacon, you might also like to pray for Revd Ben Brady (Curate, Parish of the Good Shepherd) and Revd Sue Ball (Curate, St Mary's) who will be ordained priests on 23rd June.

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts,
by your Holy Spirit you have appointed
various orders of ministry in the Church:
look with mercy on your servants
now called to be deacons and priests;
maintain them in truth and renew them in holiness,
that by word and good example they may faithfully serve you
to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church;
through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.