

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*I am so excited to have been called to serve you all in your three wonderful communities. Now that the official announcement has been made, I thought it would be good to introduce myself...*

*I was born and brought up in the Village of Westham and attended schools in Westham and Eastbourne. I began a nursing career in Hastings in 1985, qualifying as a Registered General Nurse in the May of 1988, working initially in paediatrics, then moving on to Adult Cardiac Care. I responded to a call to Ordained ministry towards the end of the 1990's, attended theological college at St. Stephen's House Oxford, and was ordained in the summer of 2000.*

*Having served my Curacy at Eastbourne Parish Church, I have been Vicar of Saint Luke's Stone Cross with North Langney since 2003 and Priest in Charge of Pevensey Parish since September 2021. I am married to Clare and we have two grown up children; Chloe who is a Piano Teacher and lives with her husband in Rye, and Sebastian who lives with his Fiancé in Bournemouth and manages a large Wetherspoons in the town centre. We have two dogs: Zorro, a Border Collie and Wicket, an English Cocker Spaniel. We also have a lone cockatiel called Eccles!*

*I am eager to begin this next chapter of my ministry with you all, particularly working with the schools in the Parishes as well as continuing the excellent work achieved by Chris and Phill. I hope to strengthen the links between the churches and the communities that they serve and can't wait to get to know you all over the coming months.*

*I'm also very pleased to announce that Bishop Martin has agreed for me to continue my role as training to my current Curate, the Reverend Janice Bartholomew. Janice is a part time, self-supporting minister, currently in Deacon's orders. Janice will be ordained as a Priest in June and is looking forward to continuing her training with you all in Framfield, Chiddingly and east Hoathly.*

*Please be assured of my prayers for you, and I look forward to meeting you all in person following our move to East Hoathly.*

*With love and every blessing.*

*James (and Clare)*

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