

Ginni Dear



I am delighted to be among you at long last as your new curate and am looking forward to meeting you all and starting to put names to faces. As you may already know I will be continuing to live in Cambridge until my curacy house is ready so it may take a little while before I get

round everybody. In the meantime I would like to introduce myself and my family to you in print:

I was born in Epping, Essex and spent my childhood in Waltham Abbey before gradually moving north up the A10, first to Wormley, then Ware and finally settled in Stevenage in 1987. I worked in various administrative roles for local companies before a quirk of fate led to me changing careers completely and becoming a bus driver!! Fed up with my bus to work being late every morning I marched into the depot to complain and was told that the delays were due to staff shortages and did I want a job! It seemed a drastic solution to my travel problems but I accepted the challenge and spent the next 24 years driving buses and coaches in Hertfordshire and London.....on time of course!! I met my husband Colin while we both worked as bus drivers in Stevenage and I continued to work part-time when we had our three children whilst Colin went on to become the Depot Manager. In recent years Colin has changed career and now works as a civilian for the Hertfordshire Police Service.

As our family grew we found ourselves more and more involved with our local church, St. Mary's, and very much enjoyed being part of the church family there. We took on the care of the churchyard amongst other things and I found the many hours of trawling up and down with a lawnmower gave me plenty of time to think about what it was that God was calling me

to do! In 2008, after much soul searching and many chats with my Vicar, I began to explore a sense of vocation to the priesthood. It took two years of form filling, interviews and meetings before I was accepted for training and in 2011, we chose to move to Cambridge where I studied for my degree at Westcott House.

Our three children are now pretty much grown up and beginning independent lives. Lauren who is nearly 21 has just completed her training as a nurse, she has worked incredibly hard and has secured a job at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage which she will begin later in the year. In what little spare time Lauren has she loves to play sports, particularly badminton and is also particularly good at baking cakes – a fact to which my waistline will testify!!

Luke is about to turn 19, he is interested in a career in the armed forces and works hard at his job in Stevenage while he explores what opportunities are open to him. He spends his free time working on and riding his motorbike and going to the gym.

Erin is 16 and has just completed her GCSE's at school in Cambridge. Her overwhelming passion is for anything related to animals and she will be starting a college course at Oaklands College in September which she hopes will lead to a career in animal welfare. She is also eagerly anticipating the arrival of the puppy we have promised to get her once we are settled in Hertford.

So there we are – the Dear family in a nutshell.

Thank you for welcoming us into your midst, I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to be part of All Saints and we are all looking forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks.

Ed: We hope that Ginni will be able to move into the Curate's house on 25th July. As soon as we know the phone number and can confirm the date these will appear on our website.