

New Archdeacon's ministry begins

From 'See Round'

The Revd Janet Mackenzie became 'The Venerable' on 6th September on her collation by Bishop Alan as the Archdeacon of Hertford in a packed St Andrews & St George's Stevenage, making her the most senior woman in ministry in the diocese.



The Mayors of Stevenage and Hertford, the Vice-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Mr Richard Beazley and his wife Violet, and the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet, Mr Martin H C Russell were present as well as clergy and lay people from all over Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, Luton and Barnet.

Archdeacon Janet began her teaching career in Stevenage teaching Mathematics and Music at Heathcote School, Stevenage and at The Valley School, Stevenage, a school for students with moderate learning difficulties. Subsequently she held other posts, including as Deputy and Acting Head, before working in Luton Borough Council's Education Department until she went to train for Ordination at Westcott House.

Since being ordained, she served her curacy in Sandy and has been a Vicar in Luton since 2010, becoming Area Dean of Luton in 2012.

Janet is a member of Girlguiding UK and has been an adult leader, being currently the

Anglia Region Faith Adviser and Chaplain to Girlguiding Hertfordshire. She was the musical director of the Hertfordshire Police Choir for 10 years and ran the Gordon Craig Singers for 6 years.

Mr Martin Russell DL provided one of many lighter moments in the service when he recounted how he had heard Janet describe herself as responsible for parishes east of the A1 and related this to his wife, a Scot, who replied "that includes Edinburgh, where the writ of the Church of England clearly does not run".

Mr Russell continued: "I reflected that the A1 also used to go through at least six cities with cathedrals: Peterborough, Lincoln, York, Ripon, Durham and Newcastle. Whether this broad claim represents aspiration on your part or anticipation, I do not know, but good luck any way!" He hoped that Janet would not by pass Barnet and that they would find her an "A1 Archdeacon." Amen to that.

