

Update March 2007

***Keeping in touch with God
and each other.***

A letter from the Revd. Canon Justin Welby Priest-in-Charge from 1st April 2007

Dear friends,

This is by way of a short note to explain who I am and what I will be doing over the next few months. It is wonderful to be associated with Holy Trinity, and I hope very much that I can lend a little support to the process of reviewing the future before settling on your next vicar.

The main thing I have been asked by Bishop Colin to do, which he has communicated with the PCC, is to lead a process of review of the ministry to the City centre by Holy Trinity and the Cathedral, to see how God's calling to us all can best be carried out, while respecting the traditions and individual identities of both worshipping communities. We are in the business of seeking to obey God, to live in relationship with him individually and collectively, and to demonstrate the life of His kingdom in the world around us. Holy Trinity has had the blessing of a series of wonderful vicars, and is also geographically well placed for the city centre. Thousands of people pass within its shadow every day, and it is necessary for all of us to be coming back in prayer to ask the Lord, "what do we do now?"

I have been around in Coventry Diocese for a while having been ordained in the Cathedral in 1992, and served a curacy in Nuneaton, then being Rector of Southam, until moving to the Cathedral in 2002, to run the international ministry. I have held my present job (as Sub Dean and Canon for Reconciliation Ministry) since late 2005, working on the day to day running of the Cathedral, and reconciliation projects in Coventry, the Middle East and Nigeria. Caroline and I have 5 children, the eldest 23 and getting married in August, and the youngest 11.

In terms of process, I am due to be licensed formally by Bishop Colin at 3 pm on 1st April. Until then I will be around, but it is taking a bit of time to clear previous commitments, and especially in March I will be overseas a good deal. My aim is to meet as many people as possible in groups where ideas and issues can be aired and listened to carefully. That should lead to a clearer discerning of God's call, and to hearing His challenges, enabling a well defined idea of the kind of person who is being sought as the next full time vicar. At the same time I will take as large a part as I can at services, chair the PCC and the annual meetings, and do what else can be managed. I will try to be available (assuming I am in the area) for all

emergencies, but in other circumstances please forgive me if I am not on call the whole time, as life is quite busy.

One thing I really want to stress is that I have no agenda other than to support Holy Trinity in any way possible, and I know that is true for the whole Cathedral, and all its staff. Takeover does not feature in my or any thoughts. What we do want is flourishing Christian communities in the City centre, living out their discipleship in radical new ways, but linked to the lessons and experience and traditions of their histories, and above all focussed on serving and loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

I am so grateful to have even a brief chance to be linked to Holy Trinity; it is a great privilege to which I hope very much I can do justice.

In the peace of Christ,

Justin Welby

A NEW YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER FOR HOLY TRINITY

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO DRE (full name Andrea Szkolnyj pronounced Dray Skolny – ‘she says you just say it without the z and j!’). Dre will spend the first couple of weeks of March settling into her accommodation and meeting the ‘young church’ leaders and groups at HTC. She will also be meeting other youth and children’s leaders in the Diocese and wider city.

Dre will do her own ‘*Hello*’ to us in next month’s *Update*, but just so we know something about her, here is a potted version of what she has been doing in youth work in recent years. Dre came to the UK from the US just over three years ago where she was the youth worker at Holy Trinity and Goodleigh Churches in Barnstaple, Devon, at the same time as undertaking studies with South West Youth Ministries, an organisation set up originally in the Exeter Diocese to train people in youth work. Prior to that she worked for a Christian Youthwork organisation in the US called ‘Pure for God’ where she was their Ministry Programs Manager co-ordinating and organising youth events and fundraising programs, in the US and Europe.