

I have been asked to write a few words about myself as way of introduction as the new Rector.

I am pleased to say that I am Northamptonshire born and bred, having grown up on the family farm (sheep, some cattle) in Hollowell and Guilsborough (home of the Hollowell Steam Rally), just the other side of Northampton. It was the usual village childhood, exploring the countryside with friends, riding, and a lot of animals. The family are still on the farm, and I (like anyone with farming relatives it seems) still help when needed with baling and the other big events of the year. I am pleased to say, however, that the days of taking the night shift at lambing, followed by school in the morning, are now long past.

In 2013 I went to the University of Aberdeen to study Divinity. I had thought I was going to become a farmer, but in Sixth Form I received an unexpected call to Ministry. A call to become a priest, to teach, administer the rites of the Church, and to help people and communities bring their whole lives, in joy, sorrow, and day to day, before God. Quite naturally this was different to my own plans, and I did my very best to ignore it as long as I could, but I found out that it is hard to say no to God.

I enjoyed University - I think everyone enjoys their undergraduacy. After Graduating in 2017 I became an Intern to the Diocese of Sodor and Man (on the Isle of Man, home of the TT) as part of the Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme. I must admit, I loved it. It wasn't always particularly easy, but having done it I wouldn't want to do anything else; and still don't. I remain grateful to the people of that Island who took me in and allowed me to Minister there and am glad of the time I spent with them.

Following the stringent Discernment Process of the Church of England I went to Train at Cranmer Hall in Durham, where I gained a Masters in Theology and Ministry. Training allowed me to work in new places, such as the prison service, and Estate Ministry in Stockton-on-Tees. Training was interrupted a little by the Covid Lockdown. I was fortunate in that I was able to spend Lockdown in rural Northamptonshire. Some friends of mine were trapped in flats in cities, and I don't know how they managed. I was glad to be able to go out, cycle round, and use the pub and post office.

I was Ordained in 2021 in Peterborough Cathedral and have been serving my Curacy in the Whittlewood Benefice, made up of the villages of Silverstone, Slapton, Abthorpe, Whittlebury, and Paulerspury (home to the Silverstone Grand Prix). It has been good to be back in the Northamptonshire countryside again after Aberdeen and Durham. I have enjoyed being a part of life in the parishes and starting up the Open the Book team to help tell bible stories with the pupils in our schools.

I am looking forward to being Installed as Rector of the Astwick Vale Benefice in Aynho at 7pm on the 22nd July, and to finally experiencing parish ministry in a Benefice that does not have an annual transport themed international event held in it. I am anticipating getting to know the churches, villages, and people of the Astwick Vale Benefice. I will hope to meet with you all in the future. My e-mail address is: rev@gfrost.name, and I am always interested to hear from you. Please pray for me, as I will pray for you all, in the coming weeks.