

To the wonderful people of St Mary's Longnewton;

My name is Matt, and I am delighted to be joining you as your new Priest in Charge, shared with All Saints Church.



In reading your Parish Profile, visiting the village back in April, and in meeting the representatives from St Mary's who helped on the interview day; I was struck time and again by your desire that the Church should be alive with the love of God, with people going deeper in their relationship with Him, and seeking to be a blessing to the communities in which you find yourselves. It was great to hear a little of your story, how God has grown and strengthened the church over the years, and how He has led you to engage with the village, and the school in particular. Your aspirations for what God will do in the future will make an exciting journey and I look forward to joining you on it!

I thought you might like to know a little more about us: I have been ordained in my current church St Francis for four years, following training at Trinity Bristol. In my former life I was a secondary school teacher in London and Bournemouth. My wife Rachel, and I have three children; Abi (13), Zac (10) and Anna(8). Rachel having had a background in nursing, has been volunteering at the hospital here as a chaplain, as well as heading up prayer ministry at church. We are a very outdoors family and are looking forward to finding new places to explore, so any recommendations gratefully received!



The pandemic we are still living through has been hard for us in the church where I am, and no doubt it has had challenges for you too. It will be exciting to see how God leads us out of it and takes us further in our journeys with Him as we do so.

Bless you all and thank-you for inviting me to be your new vicar. I am humbled and delighted to be joining you.

Rvd Matt Levinsohn, Rachel, Abi, Zac, and Anna.