



Sunday 4th April 2021 Easter Day

Linda and I, as your Churchwardens, are very pleased to announce that after following the diocesan recruitment process we can now announce that an appointment has been made.

There were 19 applications which were narrowed down to six first class applicants who were shortlisted.

The interview process took place with Bishop Andrew, Archdeacon Paul Davies, Rev'd Nick Williams, Area Dean, Linda and me as the Parish Representatives. At the end of the process, we were unanimous in our decision. So as Parish Representatives and on behalf of the Bishop of Guildford as Patron, we can announce that we have appointed Fr Neil Roberts as the next Rector of St. Nicolas' Guildford.

Fr Neil went to Kings College London as a Choral Scholar and took degrees in Theology; following postgraduate study at Cambridge where he was also a Lay Clerk at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Fr Neil taught for sixteen years, first in Leicestershire, teaching RE and Music and then here in Surrey where for ten years he was Head of Religion and Philosophy at Reigate Grammar School. It was here that he met his wife, Helen, a Surrey girl, and they started their family.

After discerning a call to the priesthood, Fr Neil trained at St Augustine's College and took his ministry degree from Kent and a research degree from Canterbury on the Spirituality of Music. He has served in Parishes in Southwark and Chichester dioceses and is currently a School Chaplain in Derbyshire and it is from there that together with Helen, Louis, Benedict and Ted, their boys, that they come to us. As well as being Chaplain he has been Head of Department, a member of the diocesan Board of Education, a Curate tutor on Leadership and Canon Law and he has also served as Assistant Cathedral Chaplain. He is a Priest Associate of the Holy House of Walsingham and an Oblate of the Order of St Benedict - his mother house being Alton Abbey.

Fr Neil and his family plan to move into the parish over the summer and we look forward to welcoming him at his Induction and Collation on Tuesday September 7th.

Linda and I are very excited about this appointment as we believe that Fr Neil will bring a fresh approach and enthusiasm to the parish whilst retaining the Catholic tradition we so cherish.

We warmly welcome them all and look forward to September when they join us.

