

22.12.21

Dear Holy Trinity Church Family,

Well, how exciting that after announcing back in August that myself, Emma and a small group from the Belfrey would be coming to Holy Trinity, we now know that on 2nd February at 7:30pm Bishop John will be coming to Holy Trinity to license me as Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity Heworth!

This has been a long process - since early in 2021 when the Diocese asked the Belfrey to consider planting into and grafting with you all at Holy Trinity. Over the past term myself, Emma and some members of the team coming with us from the Belfrey (currently 10 adults and a bunch of associated children and young people!) have been meeting to pray, worship and look at the Bible together. We have been calling this group a 'grafting' team because that is exactly what we hope to do.

I was so encouraged when chatting to Ann and Jeremy to find out that there is in fact a grafted tree just outside the church; and when looking a little more into what grafting means in a gardening sense (you'll soon find out that Emma and I are not naturals when it comes to gardening!) it became clear, very quickly, that grafting isn't about either the receiving plant being overwhelmed or the grafted plant saving the receiving plant; but it is in fact a relationship which benefits both parties; and this felt really quite prophetic of what we hope to do.

Ultimately, we hope to prayerfully seek out what God is already doing in Heworth and join in with that by serving Jesus and serving Heworth as a combined community of both the existing church family of Holy Trinity and the grafting team.

I can't begin to say how excited we are to be joining you all in February, but before that, myself and Emma would love to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

God bless,

Mike