

Introducing our new curate, Revd Lesley, and husband Bob

Lesley Tomalin

I was born in Kent, but my family moved to Northamptonshire in the late 1960s. We lived in Irchester for many years and I attended Wollaston Secondary School and Wellingborough Technical College, before going to Chester to train to be a teacher. I taught in Leicestershire for 25 years, before returning to Northamptonshire in 2005 to be with Bob. I took early retirement from teaching in 2013 and trained to be a Lay Pastoral Minister. One thing led to another and I felt a call to ordination! For the past two years, I have been training at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham.

I enjoy reading, baking, gardening and doing a range of handicrafts. I love the countryside and nature. I am enthusiastic about history and I like to visit places of historical interest. When possible, I enjoy the theatre, cinema and visiting museums. When the weather is good and I'm feeling brave, I try to get out on my bicycle!

I feel really blessed to be coming to the Mears Ashby benefice as Assistant Curate in the summer. I am looking forward to working with and learning from Rev. Katrina and to getting to know and helping to serve you in ministry, from the summer.

Lesley

Robert Tomalin

Known as Bob, 'Robert' is reserved for Sundays and Aunties! Born in Northampton, after going to Trinity High School, I spent my working life in various roles in IT. Whilst working shifts I got bored and embarked on an Open University degree in History & Philosophy, at which point my IT career took off. Graduating in 1991 my IT career continued to develop and my family grew up. After a difficult few years I got divorced. Later things looked up when Lesley and I got together. Going back to the OU I gained a diploma in English & Creative Writing.

After being made redundant in 2010 and getting married to Lesley in 2011, although a confirmed atheist, I was inspired by our Vicar to actually read the Bible. That led to getting involved in our local Church and I was confirmed into the Church of England in 2013. Training as a Lay Minister and being licensed a Reader in 2019 followed. I love leading worship, preaching and teaching, and being involved in the nuts and bolts of worship, making tea, frying bacon, stacking chairs.

Time off involves as much leisure cycling as I can manage. If I am not on a bicycle I am invariably rebuilding an old one.

I am very looking forward to accompanying Lesley in her Curacy and meeting you all.

Bob

