

From Bishop Roger and Archdeacon Ruth

We are delighted to announce the good news that (subject to appropriate DBS clearance) The Revd Paul Dever has been appointed Vicar of St John's Colchester. Paul is currently Senior Associate Vicar at St. Paul's Howell Hill with St Barnabas Epsom, in the diocese of Guildford.

Paul says: "I am absolutely delighted that I will be your new vicar at St. John's and I am so looking forward to joining your church family. When I first read your parish profile, I was struck by your desire to grow as missional disciples of Jesus Christ in Colchester. Everything that I was hoping for was highlighted; a passion for mission, the priority given to children and youth, an excellent staff team, a welcoming community, a New Wine church that is located in a growing vibrant city, a church that has prayer at its heart but also a church not satisfied with the status quo, that demonstrated a real desire and humility to go on a new adventure. What was so wonderful though for me was being able to meet some of you on my interview day, I could have stayed and chatted with you all day! I loved your heart for the Lord and for Colchester, I loved your sense of humour, your warmth and your welcome. I was so impressed by your community centre what it represents and the opportunities for mission that it gives. Jackie and I are so looking forward to getting to know you and partnering with you as we seek together the Lord's will for this new season.

Jackie and I have three boys Abraham 21, Reuben 19, and Joel 16. Abraham and Reuben are currently at university and Joel is in the middle of his A level education. Jackie is head of drama at a secondary School in Epsom."

Bishop Roger says: "Those who heard Paul preach and met him on interview day saw his heart for Jesus and his desire to work out what Scripture means for us. We were delighted to witness his passion, creativity and pioneering heart. He knows just how big a task it is that God has now called him to, and he has demonstrated good perception and wisdom as well as significant gifts in strategic leadership and vision. Paul has a pastoral, people-centred approach to leadership and models an enabling and collaborative style of ministry. I want to especially thank those who have met together to pray for this appointment. I am confident that Paul is God's answer to these prayers." Paul will be licensed at a service in September. We look forward to welcoming Paul and ask for your prayers for him and for his family as they prepare to move and as he prepares to take up her new ministry. We also pray for Paul's current parish in Epsom, as they prepare to say goodbye to him and his family.

Thank you.