

The Reverend Simon Winn writes:

Warm Greetings to the community of St Alfege,
on 'Stir Up' Sunday 2020

I am delighted to have been appointed as your new Vicar. My wife Lizzi and I are so looking forward to moving to Greenwich next year.

You seem confident about who you are, what you do well and ready to discern with hope and trust what God is leading you to in this new season, and I shall enjoy joining you all on that journey.

For the past year we have been living at the end of the Metropolitan line in Chesham, where I have been serving as an interim team vicar, supporting two churches in a large parish going through a period of change.

Prior to relocating to the UK we lived in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, for nine years. I was incumbent of a parish and then moved to be Precentor at the Cathedral, which involved oversight of worship and pastoral care and a period as Acting Dean in 2018. The variety of this city centre ministry was very stimulating, ranging from support of the street homeless and vulnerable to organising national commemorations and celebrations, all undergirded by the daily rhythm of prayer and praise and shaken by the odd earthquake. I also served as Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Wellington for six years, working closely with women and men exploring and discerning a call to ordained ministry.

From 2002-2010 our home was Northolt, west London, where I was vicar of St Joseph the Worker, a friendly diverse church on outer housing estates. A community and young people's project grew as we worked with partners to serve our neighbourhood.

Lizzi is a psychotherapist in private practice, with a specialism of work with adolescents.

Our daughter Harriet moved to the UK earlier this year and is working for a large charity supporting homeless people in London. Her brother Charlie is completing his degree studies at the University of Auckland.

I was born and grew up in north Nottinghamshire, but we have family roots in South East London on my mother's side - my grandmother and her sister and cousin attended the John Roan School and our forebears ran a pub outside the gates of Deptford dockyard.

The covid-19 pandemic has presented us all with some unprecedented challenges but it's heartening to hear how you are supporting and resourcing one another in your life together.

*Tui, tui, tuituia matou
Tuia ki te mamae
Tuia ki te tumanako
Tui, tui tuia ki te ora*

God weave us together
weave together our pain
weave together our hope
weave us together in life. Amen. *(a Maori chant)*

