

## A transcript of the announcement made by the Churchwardens at the end of the 10.30am Parish Eucharist on 20 November 2016

It's been a year since we started planning the recruitment process for our new Vicar, and we are grateful to everyone who has contributed along the way.

The result of our consultation exercise was a Parish Profile in which we defined Hampstead Parish Church, our strengths and the areas we need to develop, and the qualities we are looking for in our next Vicar.

We set out to find someone who will:

- Bring vision and leadership to our church
- Be supportive of our style of worship, including our choral traditions
- Be compassionate and inclusive
- Be a priest of prayer and spirituality
- Help us explore new ways to develop and deliver our mission

We are very pleased to report that the process has reached a successful outcome.

It gives us great pleasure to share with you a message from the Bishop of Edmonton:

*I am delighted to announce that The Rev'd Jeremy Fletcher, currently Rural Dean of Beverley, Vicar of Beverley Minster and priest in charge of Routh in the Diocese of York, is to be the next Vicar of Hampstead.*

*Jeremy has served the church in many different ways. Prior to Beverley, he served in York Minster as a Residentiary Canon and Precentor, served a number of parishes in Nottingham and was ordained into the Diocese of Durham. Jeremy has also served the wider Church on General Synod, along with several Church Commissions.*

*Jeremy is a keen blogger, published author, and he uses social media on a very regular basis. He is married to Julia, who is a solicitor, and they have two grown up sons.*

*Jeremy said: "We have had seven exciting and fulfilling years in Beverley, and Julia and I are very much looking forward to serving at Hampstead Parish Church. Life in London will be very different from the East Riding of Yorkshire.*

*Our call to Hampstead has been very clear, and we hope to bring the fruits of our experience in different settings in parish and cathedral."*

*Jeremy will be Installed and Inducted as Vicar on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm.*

*Please keep him and his family in your prayers and also keep Beverley Minster in your prayers, as their Vacancy begins, and ours comes to an end.*

*I'm grateful to the Diocesan Patronage Board for their work in the appointment process, and grateful to Angela and Jon for their hard work and dedication through this whole process.*

*With my prayers for you all,*

*+Rob*

**The Rt Revd Rob Wickham | The Bishop of Edmonton**

This is the culmination of a long and full process and we would like to thank all of you for your unwavering support and encouragement throughout which has made our task that much more manageable. It has been a good team effort.

While it is the end of a process, it is only the start of a new and exciting journey for this great church. There is now a real opportunity to build on existing strong foundations and we firmly believe that Jeremy has the right experience and qualities, as set out in the Parish profile, to lead us in this task. In our view, and the view of Bishop Rob and the Board of Patronage, he was the standout candidate.

Jeremy ticks the boxes and more. From his early beginnings as a chorister in a classic Anglican parish church to his current ministry in Beverley, he has shown:

- A depth of liturgical understanding, for example serving for eight years as a member of the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England
- A strong affinity with choral worship
- A commitment to openness, inclusion and welcome
- An aptitude for working with children and young people as a former teacher and as an experienced school governor
- A willingness to share his experience with others having been a training incumbent for twenty years
- A commitment to outreach and wider engagement with the community
- An involvement with significant church buildings, for example as the current Chairman of the Greater Churches Network.

One could go on! In his application, Jeremy spoke of leaving each place that he has been in better shape. We are very confident that Hampstead will be no exception. We will be in good hands.

We know that you will join us in warmly welcoming Jeremy and Julia to Hampstead next March and in giving them our full support as we work together to make Hampstead Parish Church, and the community we serve, prosper and thrive in the years to come.

Thank you.

Angela and Jon  
**Churchwardens**