



Thomas Woodhouse

I have been the Team Rector of Dorchester and The Winterbournes in the Sherborne Archdeaconry since February 2014. From ordination in 1995 until 2005 I worked in the Diocese of Gloucester, serving in suburban and rural parishes close to Stroud and Gloucester. I have been part of our diocesan community since 2005 when I came to be Vicar of Wootton Bassett, now Royal Wootton Bassett, and Rural Dean of Calne.

The focus of my ministry is to work with others to renew and resource our worshipping communities: growing people's confidence and empowering them to reach out into the community and make a difference. I am using my experience and enthusiasm to help grow the relationship between the worshipping communities of the Team and their neighbours in the town and villages.

There is no doubt that my imagination works best in the company of others! I delight in working with lay and ordained colleagues, whether in the local context in Dorchester and The Winterbournes, or as a member of Bishop's Council and the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Council. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit works through the synods, councils and committees of the Church and that is why I give time to being a member of them. I would like the opportunity to serve as Chair of the House of Clergy; to work with others to ensure the issues of our time are properly discussed.

I find joy in being a Training Incumbent and IME Tutor; working with newly ordained colleagues is energizing and renews my enthusiasm for the Gospel and for the Church! I have been a Non-Residential Canon of Salisbury since 2009 and joined the Cathedral Chapter in the spring of 2014: the relationship between the diocese and the cathedral is essential for both and I am delighted to be one of the 'bridge-builders'.

Before ordination I trained to be a chef, moving into hotel management and becoming the Senior Assistant Manager of the King's Head Hotel in Cirencester, Gloucestershire. During those years I expressed my Christian faith in a quiet but determined way, developing a disciplined prayer life that continues to sustain me.

I seek to balance the rhythm of my life. To that end I have enjoyed starting to transform the Rectory garden in Dorchester. I swim regularly and I enjoy being with Kate and our children.

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