

(Letter to the church from Rev Sue Timmins – September 2016)

An Introduction

Greetings. My name is Sue Timmins and I am delighted to be joining you as your new Vicar at Appley Bridge and Parbold, I am looking forward to getting to know you all.

I've been asked to write a few words to help introduce myself so that you know a bit about me before I arrive, so here goes ...

I am a Lancashire lass, born and bred in Prestwich, North Manchester where my parents still live. I'm 52 years old, single with 2 sisters one in Coventry and one in Paris.

I studied Engineering at University, specialising in Civil Engineering and began my working life as a Civil Engineer with ICI involved in the design and construction of various projects at their sites in the North West and Cheshire.

I heard the call to be ordained when I was 30, left ICI and trained at St John's Nottingham before beginning my curacy at a beautiful village called Iver in Buckinghamshire. I then returned to the North West serving for 15 happy years as Vicar at St John's Pendlebury in the Manchester Diocese.

I left St John's at the end of July last year with a mixture of goodbye tears and excitement as I followed God's call to live and work with a Christian organisation in Nigeria. That was an inspiring and formative time and I returned at the end of the year to continue voluntary work with the same organisation in Europe alongside helping to cover churches which were in vacancy in the Manchester Diocese.

From that point I began to pray about where God next wanted me live and serve and He led me to yourselves.

So that's a very potted version of my history but do feel free to ask me anything else you want to!

Why am I coming to you? Well, as I've been praying and seeking God's direction for where He would like me to serve I felt strongly drawn to yourselves. That started as a gentle sense in prayer, grew stronger as I found out more about you and met some of you and reached a clarity as we discerned God's will together in the interview process.

What sort of person am I? I came to faith as a young person and as a teenager was once described as 'someone who took their faith very seriously and who laughed a lot' – I don't think I've really changed very much! I love God very much and get excited about sharing His heart and being involved in His work. In my spare time I also enjoy hill walking so I am looking forward to exploring your beautiful countryside.

What sort of Vicar am I? I love to pray and learn more about God with others, I am committed to helping people to grow in their own relationship with God in their own way. I take God seriously and love His Church very much but recognise that we're 'a work in progress' carried in His wonderful grace and learning to live as the people He has called us be. I love to pray and I love to play!

We have a strong focus in our Diocesan Vision 2026 to Make Disciples, to Witness and to Grow Leaders for Jesus Christ and I am looking forward to seeing how God will lead us on together in our own part of that journey.

We don't know yet when I'll be formally starting but if you see me around over the next few weeks as I'm moving into the vicarage please do stop and say hello so that I can begin to get to know you. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all and I'd greatly value your prayers as I prepare and move across.

With my love and prayers

Sue