

***Embargoed to Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022***

## **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ST MARY'S, HAYES**

"The Bishop of Tonbridge, in consultation with the Dean and Chapter Patron, is pleased to announce that The Revd Amanda Jane Spence is to be appointed as the next Priest-in-Charge (Rector-designate) of St Mary the Virgin, Hayes.

Amanda has just completed her curacy in St Paulinus, Crayford within Erith Deanery. St Paulinus is a large, town-centre parish which has given Amanda a broad and varied range of training opportunities and experiences, all of which will hold her in very good stead as she begins her ministry in this part of the Diocese.

Amanda trained at St Augustine's College of Theology, but before ordination was a secondary school English Teacher and Special Educational Needs Coordinator in Bromley Borough - and for five years was just up the road from us at the Hayes Campus where she was Assistant Head.

The congregation of her current parish incorporates many different backgrounds and ages, and she is very much looking forward to getting to know the church family and local residents and building on the work already started to make St Mary's an integral part of the local community.

Away from her priestly ministry Amanda enjoys going to the theatre and cinema. She also values spending time with family and friends and entertaining. She is an avid reader too, enjoying modern fiction as well as the classics.

Amanda is married to Stuart, who is an accountant, and they have two grown-up sons. They hope to move into the parish during August and will occupy the temporary parsonage which has been purchased by the Diocese while discussions concerning redevelopment of The Rectory site continue. We expect Amanda to be licensed during September and you will be informed of the date as soon as this is confirmed by the Bishop's Office.

Please hold Amanda and Stuart in your prayers as they prepare for their move and Amanda's new ministry amongst us."