

I was ordained in November 2015 and am thrilled to find myself placed in the parish of Woodend and Trentham as my first appointment.

Since moving here in December 2015 it has been great getting to know the two towns in which I work, and I am very grateful that I have been welcomed into both places so warmly.

I love coming into both St George's and St Mary's. St George's with the occasional ducks and bunnies in the grounds when I arrive early on Sunday mornings, and St Mary's where I am met by the scent of the beautiful roses in the garden and our glorious stained glass windows.

There are such signs of life in this parish that I am so encouraged by. There is the family service on the first Sunday of the month in Woodend, with its accessible liturgy, the ecumenical activities that happen in both towns, the positive vibe of both centres where people are willing to look forward with fresh ideas. In addition to that there is also such strength in the history and longevity of some of our parishioners who have been attending for decades.

I am strongly committed to interfaith work and am a member of a Jewish Christian dialogue group. I am also passionate about welcoming asylum seekers and refugees into our community, and ensuring that everyone feels welcome at St George's and St Mary's regardless of background, gender, sexual orientation or personal faith history.

I have a not-so-small obsession with books, and particularly with Jane Austen, and even more particularly with *Pride and Prejudice*. My idea of a relaxing hour or two looks something like me curled up with my favourite book, a cup of tea in my hand and a cat in my lap. In saying that though I am also pretty committed to hunting out good coffee, so I'm thrilled to have moved to an area where, I have already discovered, excellent coffee is to be found everywhere!

My husband Ray and I, and our two children Jasmine and Ryan, are really excited about the new life that we're building here. We bring with us our three cats and our beautiful Labrador and a sense that we are truly following God's call on this journey.