

Hi there!

In a few weeks' time you might be wondering who this new lady is amongst you – so let me introduce myself!

My name is Caroline Wainman and I am a third-year curate (vicar in training) from the parish of St. Mary and St. Paul, Hemel Hempstead in the diocese of St. Albans. As part of my training, I am let loose for three weeks in October to experience ministry in a completely different context and Debbie has most kindly agreed to let me come and spend some time with you all in Lille.

Before ordination, I worked for over 25 years as a teacher of French in a large secondary school in Watford and as part of my degree studies in the late 80s, spent an academic year as a language assistant in a lycée in Amiens. So I have a great affinity with the North of France - it feels like coming full circle, to be returning, in my new role, to an area of France which holds many happy memories and which played a major role in my formation – before I was even a Christian.

I remember coming on a day trip to Lille back in the day and remember having my lunch at McDonalds (oh the sophistication of youth!) and remember being really amazed that McDonalds sold wine by the carafe! Do they still do that?

I am married to Chris and have two sons, Jonny who is 19 and at university and Bobby who is 15 and at secondary school. Chris will be with me at least one of the weekends, so you'll maybe meet him too (and possibly at least one of the boys).

I will hopefully spend some time shadowing Debbie and learning all about this Anglican chaplaincy in France. I hope to be able to have lots of conversations with many of you as to find out all about your experiences of church and life in France. I hope also to take the opportunity, whilst being away from the demands and responsibilities of my own parish and family for a while, for some reflection on my journey so far and my formation as a priest over the last two years and to listen to where God might be leading me next as I come to the end of my curacy. I also hope to soak in some French culture whilst I am here, to do some exploring and praying and no doubt, sipping some of that French wine, but maybe not chez McDo!

Looking forward to seeing you soon

Caroline