



Dear (Future parishioners / people of Glyncoerrwg and the upper Afan Valley with Caerau St Cynfelyn's / Brothers and Sisters in Christ) FRIENDS!!

It feels quite strange to be writing this to you in advance of the Licensing service on Monday 10th June 2013, but I've been asked if I would give some information about myself, so here goes!

I was born in Nottinghamshire in 1958 and brought up in Clipstone, an (ex-)mining village in the middle of Sherwood Forest. My father was chief Stock Controller for NCB Midlands Region, my Mother did a variety of jobs including working on the sweet counter in Woolworths and designing patterns in a lace factory – I am very interested in mining history, like eating sweets, but can't thread a needle to save my life!



I have a sister Chris and brother-in-law Eric who are both 16 years older than me, a nephew who is a professional pianist-singer living in Norway, a niece who is a University librarian, and a great-nephew who is also a professional musician. The musical gene totally passed me by, unfortunately.

After school I went to Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln to do a degree in history and rural studies, specialising in Church history and also learning to milk cows and deliver newborn lambs (but not at the same time). After College I worked in London for a year as the Deputy Manager of a hospital Theatre Sterile Supplies Unit. Having the responsibility of a budget of £5m to spend wisely when you're only 22 was quite something, but when the opportunity came up to spend a year with USPG (the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) I volunteered. But I didn't end up in Africa, or India, or anywhere very exotic, but in Porth & Cymmer in the Rhondda Valley, working

as part of a "Root Group" of 3, doing parish work, but I loved it and have stayed in Wales ever since. One of the other 2 people was a Christopher Reaney from Yorkshire.



Chris and I got married in 1986 when he was curate of Maindee in Newport. Since then we have lived in Griffithstown, Treherbert, Nelson and now in Maesteg where Chris is Vicar of St Mary's, Garth. I was ordained deacon in 2003 and priest in 2004 and have served in the parishes of Llanharry, Porth and for the last 2^{1/2} years as curate of Llangynwyd with Maesteg. Before coming to Maesteg I was non-

stipendiary and worked full-time for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as an IT Training Officer. We will continue to live in Garth Vicarage at 12, Cwrt y Fedwen, Cwmfelin, Maesteg, with our two dogs Daisy (16 year old beagle) and Eliot (6 year old Dog's Trust mutt)

The Licensing on June 10th will see the beginning of a new era for Glyncoerwg, the Upper Afan Valley and Caerau with the grouping together of the two parishes, and the appointment of the first woman priest to serve the people of God in this area. So we will begin a new journey together. Some people are afraid of change whilst others welcome it and the challenges it brings, as the Greek historian Herodotus (484BC – 425BC) wrote:

"There is nothing permanent except change"

or as Albert Einstein said, we all have to:

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."

The Licensing Service will stress the ministry of the whole of Christ's people and will end with a blessing which will pray:

"Almighty God, who for the salvation of the world
gives to his people many gifts and ministries
for the advancement of his glory,
stir up amongst **you** the gifts of his grace,
and sustain each one of you in your own ministry" Amen.