

Announcement New Vicar Brighton; St Nicholas Myra

Revd Fiona Harrison-Smith (Mother Fiona)

I am delighted to have been appointed as your new Vicar and look forward to meeting you all in person after the summer.

Just a little introduction... I grew up in East Yorkshire and trained originally to be a classical musician. I worked as a peripatetic Violin and Viola teacher and a Youth and Community worker for many years first in West Yorkshire and then the North Hull estates where I was part of the wonderful church of St Michael and All Angels Orchard Park. I finally couldn't escape God anymore (which was difficult in a church which did not support the ordination of women) and went to train as part of the first intake of women at the College of the Resurrection Mirfield, West Yorkshire alongside a Benedictine monastic community the Community of the Resurrection. I'm still part of the monastic family as part of the Society of the Resurrection.

I love God, prayer, silence, liturgy, music and the arts. I'm passionate about inclusion, urban ministry, working with communities and church of England schools. Some of my favourite things are stormy seas, earl-grey tea, vibrant colours and texture in art and nature, and Pudding and Sweetie our cats. I'm married to Martin who is a nurse and we have one adult son Peter who will hopefully be starting university in the autumn.

I served my curacy in the North East St Peter's Redcar where we had our son Peter – God's wonderful ordination gift! Then spent 5 glorious years as a Team Vicar in Seacroft Leeds the largest council estate in Europe (at the time). We were called to Birmingham and I was Vicar of the estate of Weoley Castle for 8 lively years being Vicar and running the St Gabriel's Centre which excelled in community and youth work. It was hard to know what God was calling me to next after so many years of poorer urban estate ministry – I was given the gift of three years to prayerfully discern this whilst being the Rector/Vicar of two busy parishes in North East Birmingham; St Mary & Margaret and St Clement of Alexandria Castle Bromwich. It will be hard to leave, but I know God has called me into a season of joy with you all in Brighton and I really look forward to all that is to come.



Mother Fiona