

Merry Christmas from Cuddesdon!



To all our friends in Biggin Hill, from Chris & Clare Routledge

Key events coming up in the next term:

- New lectures on *Matthew's Gospel and the Reformation, amongst others.*
- Themed Study Week on *"Faith at Work"*.
- 4 evenings and a Study Day for Clare's School of Ministry & Theology.
- After having a short break from children's work, Chris will be joining the team who plan and run the Wednesday Kids' Church.

So we've survived the first term!

It's hard to believe that we've been here for a whole term already - things have gone so quickly! For those who haven't been following the blog, here's a summary of the term:

Lectures

Several introductory courses, including on Pastoral Care & Mission (not much new for me in the latter!) There have also been lectures on Biblical studies, focusing on Genesis, Deuteronomy, Isaiah and First Corinthians. Absolutely fascinating, and expanded my knowledge no end!

Formation

Much of the time at College is formational - formal and informal aspects of college life which assist us to become who God intends us to be. Wearing robes in worship is part of this, as is leading various services.

Most profound experience for me was when, as 'Assistant 1' in the College Eucharist, I prepared the altar for communion, from *behind* the altar. It was a new perspective for me, but one which felt both natural and right.

Placements

My two placements this year are at St. Barnabas on Sundays - an Anglo-Catholic church in the centre of Oxford - and Steppin' Stones - a project working with homeless and vulnerably housed people. The former is giving me an opportunity to experience a different spirituality, whilst the latter is helping me keep all that I am learning grounded in reality, and also being an opportunity to serve others.

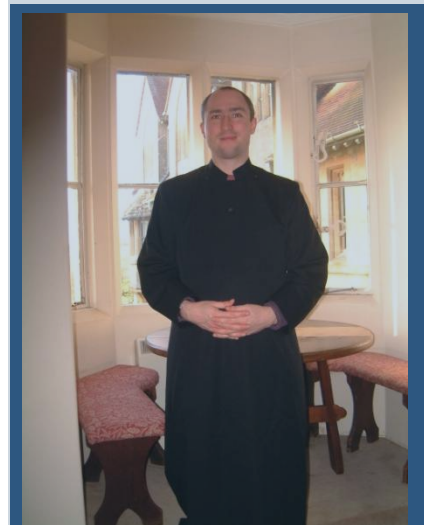


Clare's activities

Clare has settled very well, and is an active member of the Partner's Group, which meets 3 times a week. She is also doing her own studying, in the form of the School of Ministry and Theology (once a fortnight on Thursday evenings).

Christmas

Chris has an essay to write and a presentation to prepare over the holidays, but there will be some time to relax! We hope to visit St. Mark's on January 3rd, so will catch up with everyone then! In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas!



Chris in his cassock - does he look the part or not? You decide!