

Annabelle Deans

Hello! Here's a quick introduction to myself and my family in advance of our arrival in Sheffield. I'm married to Ged who is a self-employed driving instructor and a self-confessed car-fixer-upper! I'm a mum of three grown up children: Tom, 31, who lives and works in Edinburgh; Lydia, 28, living with us currently but engaged to Joe who lives in Florida, both just waiting for restrictions to go away so they can get on with getting married! And Rhiannon, 26, who lives in Darlington with her boyfriend, Jev, and is about to qualify as a secondary school chemistry teacher. and then there's Josh, my step-son, who is 16 and hoping to start a course at Sheffield college when we arrive. And I can't forget to mention Humbug (or Bug, for short) our 8yr old Great Dane. *(The other dog in the photo is Albert, my parent's wire-haired dachshund, who comes for his holidays sometimes.)* Ged and Josh enjoy Air-Softing, so if any of you are in the know about good sites within reach of Sheffield that would be great to know! I enjoy horse-riding, and have spent the last year riding with a friend and refreshing my teenage knowledge, so I will be hoping for riding opportunities in the area too.

As for ministry, I've been in the Castle Eden Circuit since I came out of college in Durham in 2012, and over those 9 years my role has changed and adapted to the changes in staffing and the needs in the churches and community. I have run a couple of toddlers groups, a Messy Church, a Forest Church, been involved in a community café project in Easington Colliery and an emerging community project in Hartlepool. We are something of a baptism hotspot in the North East and I have visited and prepared very many families and taken their baptism services – in some cases these came from the families work I was engaged in, and in some cases they came to our families groups through the baptism. I really do appreciate and enjoy the opportunities for conversation with families through the pastoral services of baptism, weddings and funerals. Until the lockdowns I was going into two schools talking to the children in RE lessons about stories and characters in the bible, and sharing Christmas Journey and Easter Journey, which has gone down so well with both the schools involved - children and staff, and also the volunteers who bravely came along to help and loved it!

Anyway, I am looking forward to meeting you all – I'm a bit rubbish at remembering names so please bear with me! – and seeing where God is leading my ministry – our ministry – over the next few years. I'm a fan of the saying, 'let's see where's God's at work, and joining in.!'