

## **The Bridges Group Ministry Team – is complete!**

At the end of August, we were pleased to celebrate the arrival and licensing of Rev. Celia Parkes as the third member of our clergy team in the Bridges Group, along with her husband Mike and little dog Storm.

Although Celia is living in the vicarage in Priors Marston, she will join Rev. Carol Newborn and me as part of the team working across all the six parishes. As we get to know each other and identify our individual gifts and skills, we will work out shared responsibilities and come up with our vision for the future. At the moment, as well as getting to know the people and the area, Celia will be taking a lead on pastoral support in the three schools. While Carol will be spending more time with the older generation. (Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who is housebound, sick, lonely, etc. who would appreciate a visit.)

We are not currently planning to change the pattern of Sunday services, continuing with a traditional Book of Common Prayer Communion Service at 9.00am in either Priors Hardwick, Wormleighton or Lower Shuckburgh (and a 5.00pm BCP sung evensong at Priors Hardwick once a month) and 10.30am services in Priors Marston, Napton and Stockton, alternating between a more modern form of Holy Communion and morning worship (and monthly Messy Church at Stockton) – some services are led by our very able and gifted team of lay leaders, for which we give thanks. (See elsewhere in the magazine for details.)

This is a very exciting time for our communities as God begins a new thing here. I am reminded of a couple of verses in Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints [that is every Christian] for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

God bless,  
Gillian