



THE BISHOP OF BEDFORD  
The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson OBE

The Churchwardens of the Benefice of Dunton with Wrestlingworth and Eyeworth

**22 October 2020**

Dear Churchwardens,

I am delighted that we are now in a position to confirm that the Reverend Matt Phillips is to be your new Priest in Charge. Please could you announce this to the congregation at your churches this Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Matt is currently Assistant Curate, serving in the Ely Team Benefice in the Diocese of Ely. He was ordained in 2018 and trained for ministry at Ridley Hall theological college for three years. Prior to ordination, Matt worked as a lay Children and Families Minister at a large church in central Cambridge. Alongside his role within the Benefice, Matt will also be taking up a new role as a Tutor for the Local Ministry Programme in Guildford Diocese, training Lay Ministers and Ordinands for ministry. He is passionate about people of all ages and coming to know Christ, growing in their faith and seeking to share God's love with their local communities.

Matt describes himself as a natural extrovert and when he has some spare time, he enjoys exploring new places and catching up with family and friends. However, when he needs to recharge, he is also particularly fond of a novel and a good cup of coffee!

Matt is married to Caroline, who works as an anaesthetist at Addenbrookes Hospital. They will be moving with their son, James, who has just turned two, and their lively pet labrador, Margey. They are all delighted to be moving and Matt is both honoured and very excited to become the new Priest in Charge of the United Benefice of Dunton, Wrestlingworth and Eyeworth.

Matt will be licensed as your Priest in Charge at 7.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 by Bishop Alan. In the meantime, you will remain very much in my prayers.

Thank you for all the hard work that you and others have given to the parish and the mission of the Church during the vacancy.

With best wishes

+ Richard Bedford.

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