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New vicar in charge

by ADRIAN JENKINS

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A FORMER jeweller and RE and history teacher has become the new Anglican vicar of four East Staffordshire parishes.

The Rev Alexandrina Mann took charge of the united benefice of Tutbury, Hanbury and Draycott-in-the-Clay, Newborough and Rangemore on Monday.



The 36-year-old was instituted and inducted at a ceremony overseen by Rt Rev Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield, at the Priory Church of St Mary in Tutbury.

A total of 250 parishioners from her new and previous parishes attended the event, which bestowed her first independent role as a vicar.

Mrs Mann said of her appointment: "I'm very excited about it. It's a big responsibility. There's lots to do and lots of new things ahead to bring the churches together.

"So far it's been wonderful and has been a busy couple of weeks since I moved here. I've had no end of callers and visitors. I've had a very warm welcome."

The cleric, now living in Tutbury's vicarage in Redhill Lane, has replaced Rev Timothy Ganz, who served the parishes for 27 years before retiring just over two years ago.

She will receive part-time support from Rev Timothy Fox, who was re-licensed to serve the whole benefice. He previously managed the Church's affairs in all of the parishes except Tutbury.

Mrs Mann, expected to work with schools, young people and the wider community, said: "It's early days to say what my aims are. It's only been a couple of days and one has got to get to know people and situations."

She said he felt "very positive" about becoming the area's first female priest and had not received any negative comments.

Mrs Mann, who is married to a Rolls-Royce mechanical engineer, served her curacy in the Diocese of Birmingham for more than three years before moving to Tutbury.

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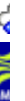
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