HELLO, my name is Sam Healey and I am very much looking forward to starting as the new curate in the Wedmore benefice in June.

As a country lad, growing up on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, I am once again returning to my rural roots after two years studying at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. I first fell in love with this part of Somerset last year when I was on placement in Bath & Wells Diocese.

My fiancée, Jo, who is the Curate at Berrow & Brean, and I enjoyed walking on the Levels, in the Mendips, over the Quantocks Hills and on Exmoor. Although we live in uncertain times, where planning next week’s shopping is an equation beset with many variables; we are planning to get married in early September.

I spent much of my early life as part of independent churches in the Northern England, so finding myself as a member of the Church of England, almost a decade ago, was a shock! Perhaps, even more shocking was when I felt the call to Ordained ministry, ‘What me? Surely not!’

Prior to training for ministry, I had spent almost 15 years in the working world doing a variety of different jobs. This included producing radio programmes for the BBC, working for a UK Charity and being the manager for a steam railway.

So far I have only really spoken of work, but what about my spare time? Clergy still have that, right? (Ed: Occasionally!) Well, for someone who heralds from Yorkshire, God’s own county (although I am up for a discussion about this), it will come as no surprise to you that I like to recharge my batteries by walking the fells with friends.

There is something about the air and scenery amongst the Dales, the changing seasons, the criss-cross pattern that the dry stones walls make on the landscape, and the strange language spoken by the folks who live there, that is a great restorative for the soul.

Reading is something I am always doing! I am very keen to read about people who, like me, have been touched by the Yorkshire landscape and its many characters. In particular, I love the works of W.R Mitchell, James Herriot, Roy Clarke, and Gervase Phinn.

Not having enjoyed a classical education I have often felt somewhat deficient. So, over the last few years I have also taken a keen interest in art, the theatre and classical music too. To which end, I am always looking for a way to indulge this passion.

Although I don’t claim to be any good at it, I love being in the kitchen. Cooking is very therapeutic, and I love to organise a good dinner party.

So, all that remains for me to say is stay safe and I look forward to meeting you soon.

ENDS