

Rector's Ramblings – June 2026 (God's Call to Serve)

As the hedgerows burst into full bloom and the long, golden evenings of June settle over our beautiful Suffolk countryside, there is a palpable sense of life in all its fullness.

In the Church's calendar, June is traditionally a month of profound significance - a season known as Petertide, named for St Peter the Apostle whose feast day is the 29th June, it is a time when many dioceses across the country and around the world gather to ordain new deacons and priests.

Petertide is a time of "yesses". It is a time when individuals, having wrestled with that quiet, persistent "still small voice", finally step forward to offer their lives entirely to God's service. This year, our celebrations carry a particular weight of joy and anticipation for our own community.

Responding to God's call is rarely a straightforward path. In the modern world, we are often told that our value is defined by our career ladder, our salary, or our personal brand. Yet, God frequently calls us to a different kind of accounting. I was one of those who turned away from a successful career to follow God's call, and I am always moved by those who have the courage to change course mid-life too - those who leave behind established professions because they have found a deeper hope that they simply must share.

Offering one's life to God isn't about escaping the world; it is about diving deeper into it with a new perspective. It is about finding hope in the future, even when the news headlines suggest reasons for despair. When someone chooses to be ordained, or become a licensed lay minister, they are making a public statement that God is active, that grace is real, and that the future belongs to the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are thrilled to announce that Sarah Smith, from our own benefice, will be ordained Deacon at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds on the 27th June. Following her ordination, Sarah will join us as our new Curate. We look forward to welcoming her into our church family as she begins this sacred chapter of her ministry.

Sarah's journey to the Cathedral steps is a testament to the fact that God never stops calling people. Whether it is a call to ordained ministry, like Sarah's, or a call to be a more prayerful neighbour, a more honest worker, or a more compassionate friend, we are all invited to participate in God's work of renewal.

As we mark the anniversary of many priests and deacons ordained in Petertide's past, let us use this month to look for God in the unexpected places. If you feel a nudge to change direction, or if you find yourself searching for a hope that the world cannot give, do not be afraid. The same God who sustains the stars in the sky is interested in the smallest details of your life.

Please keep Sarah in your prayers this month as she prepares for her big day in Bury St Edmunds. Please also pray for Revd Karen as she comes to the end of her Curacy with us and prepares to respond to God's call and takes up her first incumbency. May their time amongst us be a reminder to us all that the future is bright when we walk it with the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

The Revd Mark Woodrow (Rector)