

The Rev'd Alastair Cutting: to be Vicar of Henfield

Alastair Cutting, vicar of **Copthorne** since 1996, has been appointed incumbent of the united benefice of **Henfield** with **Shermanbury & Woodmancote** in the Diocese of Chichester.

Alastair's last service at Copthorne will be Pentecost, 23 May; and his collation & induction will take place at St. Peter's, Henfield on Friday 2 July 2010 by the **Rt. Rev'd. Mark Sowerby**, Bishop of **Horsham**, and the Ven. Roger Combes, **Archdeacon of Horsham**.

Married to Kay, a teacher of children with profound & multiple learning difficulties, at **Court Meadow School** in Cuckfield; they have two daughters - Hannah, studying Film & English at **Southampton University**; and Laura, finishing A levels at the **College of Richard Collyer** in Horsham, before hoping to take the Deaf Studies and British Sign Language degree at **Bristol University**.

Most of Alastair's childhood was in rural **South India** where his parents were doctors at a mission hospital. After secondary school in **Watford** and a teaching and youth work degree in **Birmingham**, Alastair trained as a priest in **Nottingham** before serving two curacies in the **Sheffield** diocese, and for 5 years running the church-based arts centre *The Nave* in Uxbridge.

Moving to **Sussex** in 1996, Alastair's ministry in Copthorne has been characterised by helping strengthen links between church & village, establishing *Naomi's Friends* bereavement group, and fostering vocations, with 4 candidates for ordained ministry in his 14 years as vicar. The planning & commissioning of the **Copthorne Labyrinth Memorial Garden** (based on **Chartres cathedral's labyrinth**) & its spectacular glass sculpture, will remain as a lasting reminder of Alastair's love for and involvement with Copthorne.

Building on the strong family links with New Zealand, Alastair gained an **MA in Christian Spirituality** with particular reference to **Maori and Celtic spirituality** during his time at Copthorne.



Alastair, Kay, Laura & Hannah Cutting - Queenstown, NZ; Aug 2009

Active in the work & structures of the Chichester Diocese, Alastair has long been a member of the **Bishop's Council** and was **elected** to the **General Synod** in 2005. Recently he was appointed Chair of the House of Clergy & Vice President of **Chichester Diocesan Synod**.

Surprised and delighted by the appointment, Alastair and Kay, with Hannah and Laura, and Tilly the black Labrador, look forward to sharing in all God's blessings in their new ministry in the churches of the Henfield benefice.

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