

Introduction Letter from Fr. Christopher Ketch:

Hello everyone! I'm incredibly excited to begin as your new priest at the Church of the Good Shepherd! This is a joyful return to my Saint John roots; I spent my childhood in the North End and spent my teenage years on the West Side.

I am also pleased to know that I share common roots with some of you; I was baptized at St. Jude's Church, where my paternal grandparents, Clive and Margaret, were active members. I cherish fond memories of attending a few services and many suppers with them. And it was during my year at Taylor College that I also had the privilege of serving in youth ministry, and as a lay reader, at St. George's Church. I was glad to hear that some of the former members of St. Jude's and St. George's have found a home at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

At this point I have spent most of my life sharing the gospel of Christ, serving first in youth ministry, but also in community outreach and parish evangelism in the parishes of Portland, Carleton, and Chatham. My path to ordained ministry included studies at Taylor College, Atlantic Baptist University, and an M.Div. from Wycliffe College in Toronto. I was ordained in 2014 and have had the privilege of serving the Parish of Kent for the past eleven years. Now, I look forward to what I pray will be a long and fruitful season of ministry in the Parish of Lancaster, beginning with a shared ministry between Kent and Lancaster but with the goal of my joining you full-time in the future.

As we begin this new chapter together you should know that I am an evangelist at heart, so I am particularly interested in community engagement and outreach. As your priest I will be committed to: the worship of God Almighty, the proclamation of the gospel, loving our neighbours and enemies, listening to the truth of Holy Scripture, and administering the sacraments. I would describe my ministry style as being one who sees himself as 'a servant of God's servants,' so I tend towards collaboration as we do our best to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and allow our shared ministry to be guided by the Five Marks of Mission. You can expect me to identify your gifts and strengths and to equip and empower you for the expansion of the kingdom of God in the world we live in. Together, we will be particularly focused on serving the west side of Saint John.

Beyond the life of the church, I have enjoyed writing, watching movies, playing video games, collecting vinyl records, and volunteering as a firefighter. My wife, Laura, and I are foster parents. She is a high school teacher who understands her vocation to be her ministry: sharing truth and knowledge, and shaping the lives of young people. When it comes to ministry, she has shown herself to be particularly gifted in encouraging others, hospitality, communication, administration, teaching the faith, and helping behind the scenes. We have been married for twenty years.

I eagerly look forward to growing together in faith and service. I truly hope to connect with each of you in the weeks and months to come. Please introduce yourselves—I'm excited to hear your stories! The Lord bless you!

Chris+