

"It does take a little bit of un-learning, when you aren't the vicar any more. There is a chain of command, and that has to be respected, but of course I'd be happy to give any advice to colleagues if I was asked."

"And you can choose what you want to get involved with, and there is still that sense of freedom from responsibility. The people who come to the midweek Eucharist actually have a real sense of community, and it's a delight to lead their service and chat over coffee afterwards. I try to give anecdotes from my time in previous parishes, so they get to know me quite well."

David, who is now 79, spent most of his stipendiary ministry in just two parishes – he was in Leicester for 11 years and in Hounslow, London, for 21 years. He was also involved in the creation of the ground-breaking Youth Praise and Psalm Praise song books in the 1960s and 70s, and then was music editor for Hymns for Today's Church.

**'You choose what to get involved with - there is a sense of freedom'**

As an organist, he was happy to play during services at St John's, Locks Heath. For eight years, he conducted the Meon Voices choir in Bishop's Waltham, and has been involved in the orchestra based at the church. Meanwhile Jan has become involved in the parish, in services and in Messy Church outreach.

"London is quite frenetic, people want things instantly, and of course St Paul's Cathedral is quite overwhelming in its size and grandeur," he said. "The pace of life is slower here, but that's not a bad thing."

## Why training puppies is also part of my priestly ministry



The Rev Lorraine Snape with Thanda, the puppy she is currently training, outside St Peter's Church, Titchfield

AS a priest, the Rev Lorraine Snape believes her role is about the ministry of reconciliation.

Training puppies to help those with physical disabilities therefore fits into her calling – it's all about reconciling the disabled and the able-bodied.

Lorraine became a 'puppy parent' at the age of 60, when she retired as minister of Whiteley Church. The idea of training dogs had always fascinated her, and she decided to volunteer for the charity Canine Partners for Independence.

They transform the lives of people with physical disabilities by training dogs in practical tasks such as picking things up, as well as providing companionship.

Lorraine is now training her third puppy in basic skills, getting it used to social situations for the first year of its life before it starts advanced training. It fits in well with priestly ministry, as she brings the puppies

to her church – St Peter's in Titchfield. They have to get used to the sound of bells ringing and the organ playing, as well as attention from fellow congregation members.

"Jesus came so that people can have life in all its fullness, and what I do with the puppies is about enabling people to live their lives as fully as possible," she said. "And it's about educating people to the way that our world can often, unwittingly, make things more difficult for people who use wheelchairs than we realise."

Lorraine worked as a legal secretary and attended St John's Church, Locks Heath, and St Paul's, Sarisbury Green, before training for ordination. She was curate at St Peter's, Titchfield, from 2002-06, before six years at Whiteley Church,

Her husband Gary was also ordained and served at Holy Trinity and St Columba before joining Lorraine in Whiteley. They retired in 2012.

"Whiteley was a younger congregation than Titchfield, and part of my role there was identifying what people could offer and encouraging them to step forward," she said.

"In retirement, I feel that I can do the same kind of thing here, although I'm very aware that there is a vicar and a curate that I should defer to when it comes to pastoral situations.

"We have a lot of baptisms here, and I baptise around four or five children a year, including going through

baptism preparation. I go to Teddy Bear Praise, which is our group for toddlers, so the families know who I am. I also took over leading the puppet ministry here for a while.

"The balance here is good because I'm happy to do whatever I'm asked to do, but I don't get asked all the time. I also tend only to lead services here or at St Columba, where Gary is mostly based, rather than across the whole diocese.

"I do the occasional sermon and lead quiet days, where I like to be creative."

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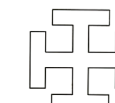
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