

Specialist aims to plant two churches



The Rev Mack Deptula, the new church planter in Fareham

ASK the Rev Mack Deptula what his job title should be and he will immediately say: ‘church-planter’. And he’s delighted that his new role is to create a new congregation at St Peter and St Paul Fareham – and then to develop that congregation so they can plant another new church in Welborne.

Bishop Jonathan has appointed him to be our new church-planter in Fareham. He’ll lead a group from St John’s, Fareham, to create a new, vibrant congregation of hundreds of adults and children at St Peter and St Paul over the next five years. At the same time, he’ll cherish the existing congregation, with a Eucharist in the church’s historic Lady Chapel each Sunday.

The idea is that the congregation at St Peter and St Paul grows large enough so that it then plants another new church in the brand new housing development of Welborne, which is currently taking shape to the north of the M27.

Mack has been a curate at Co Church Exeter and a Church Planter at Exwick. He arrived in July 2023 to revitalise St Andrew’s Exwick supported by national funding. Before that, he studied theology at St Mellitus College while also

working at the Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication and continued as an ordinand at St Barnabas Church, Woodside Park. He would describe himself as evangelical, but originally grew up as a Roman Catholic in Poland before moving to the UK.

“I do believe that God has called me to plant churches, and so I’m very happy to be known as ‘church-planter’ rather than ‘vicar,’” he said. “I’m very comfortable with the idea of planting a church and then inspiring that congregation to plant another new church. Ultimately, I’d love to be involved in planting hundreds of new churches.

“I genuinely cannot wait to get started. I’m buzzing with ideas about how we could do this. I’m also really happy that there is already a congregation that prefers to worship in a more traditional style.

“My background is Catholic and over the past couple of years, the Book of Common Prayer has also become really important to me. I see traditional and contemporary worship as like bread and water – they complement each other, and I can’t survive on a diet of just one.”

Mack came originally from Gdansk

in Poland. In 2012 he came to England, settling in Leicester with only £70 in his pocket. He worked in a warehouse, working his way up to team leader, and then in digital marketing and e-commerce. He made a firm commitment to Christianity aged 24, and at 29 became an intern at a CofE church in Leicester.

He moved to London and was involved with a conference on church-planting that was in danger of being cancelled when the first Covid lockdown began. Mack found a way for 3,000 people to take part in the conference online.

He felt called to Exeter, working under lead pastor Ed Hodges. Since 2019, it has grown into a vibrant, multi-generational church, running groups for children and young people, Alpha Courses and more.

The project to create new congregations in St Peter and St Paul, and then in Welborne is part of our diocese’s rejuvenate strategy. It is being led by the Rev Henry Kendal, and part of the initiative involves refurbishing the grade II listed building at St Peter and St Paul. Mack is married to Alison and will be licensed by the bishop on June 10.