



A message from Reverend Dormandy

I wanted to be vicar of Holy Trinity Church for nearly 20 years. I'd never been here; I knew next to nothing about it; but my church was over in Sydenham which is in some ways a similar area, and I once played some music with some of the people from here.

When you put that together, it isn't much to go on! But there was a mysterious connection. It was like love at first sight: you don't know what the connection is when you first see that person on a crowded bus or across a room, but it's there - and you can never forget it.

When I first came to worship at Holy Trinity I was checking it out before applying for the job. I felt like I was coming home.

Maybe that's why I have felt so happy and at ease here over. And these are the sort of things I hear other people say about the church: "friendly" "down to earth" "surprising" "natural" "God's presence"

Of course no community is without its troubles. Someone flares up; someone flares back. The church or vicar deals poorly with a situation and someone is hurt or disillusioned.

But one thing I've noticed in the character of Holy Trinity is a passion for honesty before God, for genuine peace and thoughtful reconciliation. These things are costly for people and show how much they care.

And we should care! Because this church is one where we really believe in the presence of God. Recently we adopted a new mission statement: "Our aim is to be channels of God's transforming love."

We know, through our own sometimes messy lives, that God's love *is* transforming. It changes us both suddenly and gradually. And our aim is to be channels of God's love for other people too, and for this area.

People don't always know what to expect when they come to church. At Holy Trinity our services are fairly informal.

Any given Sunday there might be 100 adults and 30 children. We have Sunday Schools, All Age Worship, kids clubs, toddler group, we do weddings and baptisms. Give it a try and you might get a glimpse of why I fell in love.

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