

The Revd Mark Thomson



I was born and brought up in the small town of Irvine on the south-west coast of Scotland. My father was a Church of Scotland minister and so I grew up in the Presbyterian Church. I was educated at the wonderfully named Irvine Royal Academy, which, in fact, was the local comprehensive secondary school, and then went on to study history at Glasgow University, before starting a long career in local government.

I worked for a number of years in Glasgow City Council's Housing Department, before moving to Birmingham City Council. When I moved to Birmingham I joined the Carrs Lane United Reformed Church in the city centre and served there for several years as a Sunday school teacher. I met my wife, Jo-Anne, in Birmingham and after our marriage we moved to Bedford, where I worked for Bedfordshire County Council and managed teams of staff in the Education Department and then the Highways Engineer's Department. While living in Bedford, Jo-Anne and I worshipped in the local Methodist Church.

In 1994 Jo-Anne took up a new job in Nottingham and we moved to Stamford, finding our new spiritual home in the Church of England at St George's Church. Our two daughters, Louise and Hannah, were both born in Stamford. While worshipping at St George's I served as a voluntary Children's Church leader for many years, before later being employed in the role of Associate Minister for Children. In this post my calling developed to the stage where I felt that I was being called into ordained ministry. After being accepted for training I studied at Ridley Hall Theological College in Cambridge. I was ordained in 2012 and served as curate at St Guthlac's in Market Deeping and the Priory Church in Deeping St James. At the end of my curacy I was asked to spend a year leading five of the seven churches in the Uffington Group.

In my spare time I enjoy being with my family, gardening, reading and watching films and TV dramas. I am currently reading the new trilogy by Ken Follett and I am also working my way through the novels of Ian Rankin. I am a keen motorcyclist and follow motorcycle racing, watching MotoGP and Superbike races on the television. In addition, I enjoy watching rugby and American Football, both of which I used to play.

Jo-Anne and I are excited about becoming part of the church family and the wider community of Quarrington, and I am also looking forward to continuing to strengthen the links with St Botolph's School.