

## **ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Marcus Wibberley as our new Organist & Director of Music.



For the past 6 years Marcus has been Director of Music & Organist at Hexham Abbey and Festival Director of the annual Hexham Abbey Festival of Music and Arts. His responsibilities include directing 3 Abbey Choirs, Boys & Men, Girls & Men and the Voluntary Chamber Choir, overseeing the programme of concerts and recitals on the Abbey's world famous Phelps organ, and working with the Friends of Hexham Abbey Music (who provide funding for the Abbey's Choral and Organ Scholarships). For the Festival he was responsible for devising the programme of artistic events and successfully gained sizeable grants from the Arts Council of England.

Marcus was trained as a Chorister of Westminster Abbey under Martin Neary and studied the organ with Martin Baker and John Scott Whiteley. He holds a First Class honours degree in Music from the University of Hull, and was awarded the Gerald Knight prize for the highest marks in the Choral Directing diploma of the Royal College of Organists. In the late nineties he was organ student here at St George's Beckenham and then went on to hold organ scholarships at Chichester Cathedral, Beverley Minster and latterly York Minster before becoming Sub-Organist of Portsmouth Cathedral and the Music Adviser to the Diocese of Portsmouth. During his 6 years at Portsmouth, he accompanied the Cathedral Choir on five highly acclaimed BBC live broadcasts, four CD recordings and six foreign tours. For the diocese, he ran pioneering schemes to provide organ tuition to teenagers and to introduce singing to schoolchildren and their teachers.

As a recitalist, Marcus has travelled extensively. Recent recitals have been given in Japan (where he undertook a solo tour in October 2012), France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Estonia, as well as most of the major Cathedrals and Abbeys in this country.

Marcus is a very experienced Church Musician and Liturgist, he is single and will take up his post at St George's on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

I very much look forward to welcoming Marcus 'back to St George's' as a member of our Staff Ministry Team and to working with him in the months and years ahead.

**Fr. Jeremy**