

I am deeply honoured to accept the Archbishop's invitation to take up the role of the Archdeacon of Ardboe (Armagh). To say that it came as a total surprise is an understatement, but one that I am extremely humbled to be offered.

I am very much aware of the big shoes of previous Archdeacon, Bishop Andrew Forster, that I am stepping into, but I am delighted to be working alongside our other Archdeacon Terry Scott, across the Diocese of Armagh.

I began my ministry in 1986 on the Church Army Christian Service Scheme which presented opportunities to work with the Chaplaincy of the British Forces in Germany, Parish Ministry near Blackpool, a Church Army Residential Care Home in Brighton, and Summer Mission in South Wales.

Following this year I trained for 3 years in London at the Wilson Carlisle College of Evangelism in Blackheath. I was commissioning in 1990 in Southwark Cathedral in London, returning to Northern Ireland to the Diocese of Connor and the United Parishes of Ballynure and Ballyclare under the guidance of the former Dean of Connor, The Very Rev. John Bond. I then served in the Diocese of Down and Dromore in the Parish of Holy Trinity Banbridge and Seapatrick (with Archdeacon John Scott) and in the Parish of Waringstown and Donaghcloney (with Canon John Moore), and then as Minister in Charge of Ardmore Parish.

I was ordained in 2009 and came back to my home Diocese of Armagh, (originally from Milltown Parish) serving my curacy in St. Columba's in Portadown with Canon Bill Adair, where I was also appointed as a 'Vicar', and then in 2013 became the Rector of Mullavilly.

Eddie and I celebrated our 30th Wedding Anniversary this year, and we have 3 grown up children, Andrew and his wife Rebecca, Christopher and his girlfriend Lauren and Rebecca who is engaged to be married to Jack in 2022, not forgetting our wee miniature schnauzer 'Archie'.

Having also celebrated 30 years of being in ministry this year, I look forward to the years ahead assisting the Archbishop and Archdeacon Terry Scott in the mission, ministry and vision of the Diocese of Armagh.

Rev. Elizabeth Cairns