

Jan Furnival

I moved from Swindon in 2004 to Ruardean Woodside, married in 2005 at St. Mary's church and we continued to attend due to the wonderful welcoming congregation and soon became ensconced in church duties.

I am a bell ringer, secretary to the PCC and the Friends of St Mary's. My latest role is that of churchwarden.

My job as a receptionist in a nursing dementia home is a very varied role but I love it. I enjoy researching my family history, our 5 cats, reading and swimming.

My faith to me is very private, some services make me very emotional.

The traditional style of service and the old school hymns appeal to me the most. The beautifully well-kept churchyard is where I sit and reflect in the presence of God.



John Furnival

I was born in Hereford but grew up in Berry Hill, spending most of my time and Grandad's, messing about with lorries and tractors. Although not born here, I do think of myself as a Forester. As well as attending college near Chippenham, Wiltshire, I spent four years working and studying in America, undertaking the wheat harvest which I loved and miss.

For the last 15 years I have lived in our lovely house in Ruardean Woodside, with my wife and best friend Jan.

My church roles at St Mary's: I am the tower captain for the band of church bell ringers, - please come and join us on Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 8.00pm, I am also the PCC treasurer for English Bicknor. I look after the church mowers and cut the grass in the church yard, I find it an easy place to relax and collect my thoughts.

I have many varied interests. I love following rugby, both Gloucester and Berry Hill. I enjoy going places with Jan, exploring our land and pottering around in the garden annoying our kitties.

I wouldn't say I am religious, but I have this faith. It all started a long time ago. I am not 100% sure how it all started.

I prefer the older type of service, but don't mind a change in format once in a while, my mind is open. I enjoy being with the people at church and listening to the sermons- some go in, others pass straight through, some linger about and others don't! I think this is the same for most people. I enjoy what I do and I like to help people where I can.