

## **An Introduction to Louise Petheram**

Dear friends,

I was licensed as Priest-in-charge of Hope, Castleton and Bradwell at the end of January 2020. Richard and I have returned to an area that we have loved for many decades, as walkers and campers, since we were at university in Nottingham. We lived in Derbyshire, south of Matlock for over 10 years when we were first married, and both our children were born in Derbyshire. In 1998 we moved south to Leicestershire, before returning to Youlgrave in 2015.

I began working life as a secondary school physics teacher. After a career break with our son and daughter, I became a freelance educational writer, writing school science textbooks for all of the major educational publishers. In 2009, I began training for ordination, responding to a call that I had first felt when I was 19. I was ordained at Leicester Cathedral in 2012, spending my curacy in a group of 8 rural villages, combined population under 3000, in south Leicestershire. When my curacy ended, we returned to Derbyshire, as we had been longing to do for at least a decade.

We are delighted to be here, and very impressed and appreciative of the warm welcome we have received, even in these very complicated times.