

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCES NEW RECTOR SELECTED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MANHASSET, NY, July 18, 2014 -- The Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church Manhasset is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Rector, Father David Sibley. (The Vestry is the policy-making and governing board of the Church.) Father Sibley will succeed The Very Reverend David B. Lowry, who retired after almost ten years at Christ Church. Reverend Dr. Charles R. Colwell has been serving as its Interim Rector since last fall.

Father Sibley was selected after Christ Church conducted an extensive search, with the assistance of a Search Consultant, The Reverend Dr. Bruce Griffith, and a Search Committee comprised of five parishioners. The Search Committee vetted the candidates, finally recommending three finalists to the Vestry for their selection. Each candidate came to Manhasset, toured the church, met the Committee, conducted a Eucharistic service with sermon, and then dined with the Committee to get to know all in a more informal setting. A similar process, complemented by a tour of Manhasset and the wider community, was conducted with the Vestry and the finalists.

Consistent with the guidance of the Diocese of Long Island, and with the assistance of the search consultant, the Vestry, Search Committee and parish implemented and followed a process known as Appreciative (or Affirmative) Inquiry. Appreciative Inquiry is a strategic approach to identify the strengths of the Church and its parish, as well as their most significant values as applicable now and for the future. The process began with a meeting with the Vestry conducted by Father Griffith to identify the strengths and values of Christ Church. That step was followed by a similar session with the parish, conducted by Father Griffith and the Vestry. The parish identified among the most important values the warmth and family welcome of Christ Church, the Sunday School and youth programs, the music program, and the various community outreach activities; the parish determined a new Rector should embrace these same values.

Father David Sibley is the Priest-in-Charge at Saint John's Church in Brooklyn. He started at St. John's in June 2011, upon the recommendation of its Vestry and the appointment of the Bishop of Long Island, The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano.

Born and raised in South Carolina, Father David is a graduate of Furman University, where he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemistry, with his Masters degree thesis exhibiting a specific focus in the field of transition metal photochemistry. In 2008, he moved to New York to begin studies for the priesthood at The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in Manhattan. During his time in seminary, Father Sibley served as a Seminarian at Saint Paul's Church, Carroll Street in Brooklyn for two years. He also worked as an intern in the Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Office of the Episcopal Church Center. He graduated with his M.Div. in 2011, with a thesis focusing on liturgy.

When he's not at the church, Father David enjoys traveling, hiking and the outdoors, taking in live music, and all things food related. He also says he is a rabid fan of Chicago Cubs baseball and South Carolina Gamecock college football.

Father Sibley's appointment comes at an exciting time for Christ Church, as the Parish House renovation is almost complete, and its ribbon cutting ceremony is in the planning. Also the parish is growing with more new families drawn to become parishioners at the Church.

The Episcopal Bishop of Long Island, The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano, said "The Diocese is pleased to retain Father Sibley in this new capacity, moving from Brooklyn and St. John's to Christ Church in Manhasset, as he is a valuable member of our spiritual leadership team."

Father Lowry, who knew Father Sibley when Father Lowry was interim Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at The General Theological Seminary, commented that, "Father Sibley is the right fit for Manhasset and Christ Church." Father Colwell said, "We were very prayerful throughout this search process, and with Father Sibley's appointment, clearly our prayers have been answered."

Christ Church Vestry Wardens Ariana Tadler Paterson and Bill Siener said, "On behalf of the Vestry and the parish, we thank all for the time, diligence and focus brought to the search and the selection. Everyone is eager to welcome Father Sibley to the Church and the community in the fall."

Christ Church is located at 1355 Northern Boulevard in Manhasset. For more information about Christ Church, its services and programs, visit the website at www.christchurchmanhasset.org or contact the Church Office on 516-627-2184.

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Christ Church was founded in 1802. Its nave houses magnificent stained glass windows, including one dating to 13th Century France that was a gift to the Church from the Whitney Family. It is surrounded by a landmark cemetery. Services and church school education occur on Sundays. There are also weekday services, an extensive adult program on Biblical studies and church liturgy throughout the year, and various fellowship activities for adults and children.