



## **CHRISTINA CAMPTON**

I feel blessed that I can't remember a time without an awareness of God. Born into a faith-filled home with siblings Ruth, David and Peter, my family migrated from England when I was eleven. My father Charles, ably supported by my mother Sheila (later also priested), became rector of Claremont/Chigwell.

I met Paul, the love of my life, whilst studying my B.Ed. We married on New Years Day 1977. My joy and vocation has been raising our amazing children; Jonathan, Emma, Luke and Liz. We praise God that each faithfully uses their gifts to help others. We have been blessed by spouses Claire, Tim, Emily and Phil and grandchildren Sophie, Jacob and 'Little One' (due January).

Attracted by each other's expression of faith Paul and I chose to worship together, alternating weekly between Edge Anglican and St Monica's Catholic Church; communities we both love deeply. This shared worship greatly enriches our lives resulting in a lived passion for ecumenism. I have been deeply blessed by involvement with the Emmanuel Spirituality Centres where I grow in relationship with Jesus and develop my love of contemplative prayer and retreats/quiet days. I thank God for Spirit-led mentors, sound biblical foundations, CWCI, Marriage Encounter, and also my formation as a Spiritual Director and inclusion in the Diploma of Pastoral Ministry by the Catholic Church. My Cursillo culminated in writing a poem at 3am and the firm realization that pain is never wasted when handed to God. This core truth empowers my ministry and my desire to accompany those in pain or grief.

I have been blessed that present and previous clergy have encouraged me to test and utilize my giftings. However, when invited to pray about ordination I was so certain it was not for me that I almost forgot to pray! When I did, I sensed a clear calling which has been confirmed as I have ministered as Deacon at Edge Anglican Claremont. I am deeply grateful to my rector Stephen, colleagues Bruce, John and Dan and all the amazing parishioners. I also thank Paul, family and friends for their loving and unstinting support.

Having nearly died twice, I hold a profound belief that life is precious. It is my deepest prayer that the Spirit enables me to be the fragrance of Christ in a hurting world.