

WEST OF PETERSFIELD NEWS

EAST MEON

Vicar approved by the Queen

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A FORMER Army chaplain is to be the new minister of East Meon and Langrish.

The Rev Jane Ball will be installed as Vicar of All Saints Church on Thursday, May 1, by the Bishop of Portsmouth.

Mrs Ball is currently chaplain at the Godolphin School in Wiltshire, and has served with the Territorial Army.

She is married to Jonathan, the chief executive of the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund in Portsmouth.

The couple have two children, one studying for A-levels, and the other at university, and two red setter dogs, which Jane enjoys walking.

The parish has been without a vicar since July when Canon Terry Loudon retired

after 17 years as priest in charge. Services at the church have been conducted by guest clergy.

Churchwarden Richard Lacey said; "We have been very lucky that some very interesting priests have offered to hold the services. But it's been a busy time and we are very pleased to have a new vicar."

Mrs Ball was selected from a number of candidates in December, but the appointment couldn't be formally acknowledged until after the Lord Chancellor, appointed by the

Queen, had approved.

The Lord Chancellor, one of the most ancient offices in the

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land, holds the living for All Saints. In times gone by this meant the post of vicar could be a grace and favour appointment by the monarch through the Chancellor. Mr Lacey said:



The Reverend Jane Ball

"All Saints is just one of a few churches where a priest has to be approved by the Chancellor."

New appointments are

dealt with by the Chaplain of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Guidance is also taken from the local church council to ensure that the wishes

of the parish are known. A recommendation is made to the Chancellor and with his approval, the new incumbent is appointed.