**Parish Member Biography**

I come from the town of Drobeta-Turnu Severin in south-west Romania on the banks of the Danube where it borders with Serbia. I grew up in the last decade of the communist rule of the Ceauşescus and subsequently lived abroad including the US. In 2013 after coming to the UK I became a member of the Parish of the Annunciation, under the spiritual guidance of Father Seraphim. My active involvement in parish life includes singing in the choir, serving on the parish council, assisting with coffee service, reading The Hours, and participating in various events such as working parties and the food fair. Among the most significant moments during my time here was participating in Danny’s baptism, Fr Seraphim and Tuija’s grandson, in October 2019.

In 2007, I relocated to the United Kingdom, where I work as a nurse and am a mother to two boys. We reside in Buckinghamshire, and we are living in a three-generation household with my parents.

Although my roots trace back to a family of Orthodox Christians, my spiritual journey was not straightforward. It was in 2011 that a dear childhood friend posed a simple yet profound question: “What do you believe in?”. This question led me to examine the spiritual side of my life, which brought me back finally to the faith and church in which I was baptized.

Maria-Magdalena Raceanu