

# The Grammar of Obedience: Christian Ethics in a Postliberal Age

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## Participants' Biographies



### **The Reverend Alan Bashforth**

Alan has been ordained for 26 years and has served his entire ministry in the Diocese of Truro. He has held various roles and was a member of General Synod for 12 years. He was a police officer and then an auxiliary nurse in his working life before ordination.



### **The Reverend Christopher Bevan**

Christopher's initial training was in three-dimensional design, BA and MA, in Silversmithing and Metalwork. He worked in gold mining in central Africa for six years, briefly worked as a high school teacher, and then gained BA (hons) in theology (1st) at Cardiff. Ordained in 2011. Church in Wales.



### **The Reverend Jonathan Bish**

Jonathan is an Anglican priest serving in a former coal-mining district in West Yorkshire. He has completed degrees in Oxford, Cambridge and Nottingham, including recent research into the interaction between disability theology and medieval scholasticism. He has active interests in medieval theology, the Victorian church, and church-state relations.



### **The Reverend Dr Phil Bradford**

Phil has been in parish ministry since being ordained in 2010, most recently as Team Rector in West Worcester. In addition, he chairs the Diocese of Worcester's World Church Partnership Group and oversees the link with the Anglican Diocese of Peru, where he did part of his ministerial training. Elsewhere, he continues to pursue his academic interests as a historian of late medieval England.





### **The Reverend Prebendary Ashley Buck**

Ashley was born and brought up in South Shropshire, where he lives and works today. Married with three grown-up children. Studied History at Manchester and Theology in Oxford. Served in dioceses of Southwark, London, and Hereford.



### **The Reverend Chris Bunce**

Chris is Team Rector of Hitchin (St Albans) and Assistant Rural Dean. Former Lawyer and Theology graduate (Cambridge). Curacy in London Diocese. Slow runner. Fast reader.



### **The Reverend Trevor Casey**

After a career repairing office equipment Trevor trained as a Baptist Minister. He has been with his current Church for 14 years (four years as minister in training). The Church is based in Rhyl, North Wales – a very deprived seaside town.



### **The Reverend Yvonne Clarke**

Yvonne has been in Ministry a long time (chaplaincy-Parochial) from Lay to ordain and among the first women to be priested in 1994. Her ministry spans local, wider church, international work - Emerging Leadership and training here and abroad; written few articles. Non-church involvement working with businesses, the Local Council, Schools, the Police. She is currently on TSG and working on completing her doctorate in theology. She has a warm sunshine personality, loves doing yoga, 5k run, Tai Chi, listening to variety of music and dancing.



### **The Reverend Canon Caroline Dick**

Caroline has been ordained for 34 years, 12 of which were spent dealing with ethical issues arising out of her role as Diocesan Social Responsibility Officer.





### **The Reverend Amanda Digman**

Amanda was a Church Youth worker before ordination; Deacon 2009; Priest 2010. Curacy in Sutton-in-Ashfield (ex-mining, clinging to Christendom); first incumbency suburban & outer city estate, Nottingham (nine years). Currently in an expanding village (one year). She loves learning musical instruments and languages.



### **The Reverend Dr Andrew Dowsett**

Priest of Sunderland Minster since 2013, adding oversight of St Nicholas' in 2019. Andrew tutors ordinands, trains curates, and has an interest in continuing clergy-care. Married to Jo, with three young-adult children. Member of local running club.



### **The Reverend Anne Ellis**

A mathematician and artist, Anne has been a Methodist Minister since 2010. In addition, she has worked at senior church level in the area of equalities, in particular that of gender. She has sat on the Council of the Central Finance Board for the past six years and is a CFB rep on the Joint Committee on the Ethics of Investment.



### **The Reverend Jenny Irvine**

Jenny is Director of Formation at St Marks Academy, which aims to develop missionary leaders with hearts, hands and heads alive to God. St Marks Academy emerged from an HTB resource church and now partners with churches across Coventry Diocese. In addition to her academy role, Jenny serves as Associate Minister at St Laurence's, based in the North of the City. She has two children (aged 7 & 9) and has been enjoying teaching them to paddle board this summer.



### **The Reverend Beverley Jameson**

Beverley is the Rector of St Mary the Virgin Lymm, Chaplain to the Royal British Legion Lymm & District and Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Chester. Governor of Lymm High School and Chair of Trustees for Multi Academy Trust of four Primary Schools. Tutor for Chester Diocese Lay Reader Training and a Deanery Vocations Advisor. Previously Team Vicar Droitwich Spa, Salwarpe & Hindlip with Martin Hussingtree and Dean of Women's Ministry for the Diocese of Worcester.

Prior to ministry, Corporate Director & Deputy Chief Executive of a Local Authority.





### **The Reverend Dr Juliet Jensen**

Juliet worked for 12 years as a doctor in paediatrics and public health. A call to ordained ministry came when living on a deprived North London Council Estate and has since been lived out in inner city contexts in Bristol, East London and Gloucester.



### **The Reverend Prebendary Sue Roberts**

Sue has been Team Rector of a group of six parishes for the last 16 years. All 25 years of her ministry has been spent in multi-parish benefices or teams. Her interests outside church are walking her dog, gardening, cooking, cycling, playing musical instruments and reading.



### **The Reverend Helen Scanlan**

Helen had been a parish priest for ten years before being appointed to her current role of Area Dean in the Manchester Diocese. She is married to Peter and they enjoy having four grandchildren. They also share their home with their two Cocker Spaniels and four cats. She enjoys sewing and the countryside.



### **The Reverend Canon Karen Smeeton**

Karen was born in Yorkshire but spent all her ordained ministry in Greater Manchester. Married to Nick (also ordained) and with one daughter, Hannah, in Year 9. Currently full time Area Dean and enjoying the broader perspective and leadership opportunities this role brings. Fond of (but not very good at) bird watching and enjoy listening to TMS.



### **The Reverend Dr Justine Smith**

Justine was a GP for a decade before being ordained in 2012 and combining self-supporting curacy with medicine for a couple of years. After moving into her current post in four small parishes near Goole, she was area dean until recently and now volunteers with the chaplaincy department at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.





### **The Reverend Caroline Symcox**

After some years spent in Oxford studying theology, Caroline worked briefly for Wiley Blackwell publishers before following her calling into ordination, first as a curate in Oxford Diocese and then as Team Vicar in Gloucester where she is currently based.



### **The Reverend Jeffrey Terry**

Called to the Bar in 1976, Jeffrey practised law in London and Manchester until his retirement in 2021. Previously a Reader, Jeffrey was ordained in 2019 and is presently Assistant Curate in his final year of curacy in North Cornwall.



### **The Reverend Jennifer Thomas**

Jennifer is currently Incumbent at the Church of the Ascension, an Examining Chaplain to the Bishop, the National Church Bishop Advisers for Discernment in the Shared Discernment Process and a Church Commissioners Committee Member. She has been in ministry for over 35 years from a Parochial Evangelist in the Church Army, priested in 1994. At present she is completing her Master's in Theology and Religious Studies. She enjoys going to the gym, Zumba, Yoga and her warm sunshine, engaging personality helps to put people at ease.



### **The Reverend Canon Shanthi Thompson**

Originally from Liverpool Diocese, Shanthi was adopted by Carlisle while training at Cranmer Hall. She served her curacy in eight rural churches and first incumbency in three. She now serves in one of the UK widest churches in Kendal, home of the mint cake.



### **The Reverend Dr Mike Thornton**

Mike studied in a variety of theological colleges:  
London School of Theology (BA (hons));  
University of Oxford - Regent's Park College, (MTh)  
University of Wales – Trinity St. David/Spurgeon's College (DMin)

He has been in Baptist ministry since 1994 and has served three churches in that time, as well as serving for two years in international mission. He has also served as Moderator of the Ministerial Recognition Committee of the London Baptist Association (17 years), testing the call and following the progress of those called to ministry during their early years. Mike is a supervisor of student ministers, a mentor to newly accredited ministers and is a Pastoral Supervisor. He is married to Dee and has five children.





### **The Reverend James Treasure**

James is Vicar and Resource Church Leader of St Thomas and St Luke's (locally known as Top Church) which is in the heart of Dudley Town and the Borough's Civic Church. Four years ago, the Church was on the brink of closure, the Bishop invited James to begin a new Church with a view to growing a thriving congregation, known for its service to the local community and inclusion.



### **The Reverend Andrew Woodward**

Andrew is currently the Vicar of St Mary's Kemp Town, an Anglican parish in a challenging and creative area of Brighton which faces issues such as isolation, homelessness, addiction and mental health issues. As well as Rural Dean, he serves on the Bishops Council and is Chair of the Diocesan Audit Committee. He is also the Bishop's LGBTI Liaison Officer. He is happily Civil Partnered to Neel, and has two grown up children, Alexander and Matthew. His previous career was with Lloyds Bank, where after 35 years he retired in 2013 from a Senior Management position in Corporate Banking.



## SPEAKER & FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES

### **The Reverend Peter Kurti**

Peter is Director of the Culture, Prosperity & Civil Society program. He is also Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Law at the University of Notre Dame Australia, and Adjunct Research Fellow at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture at Charles Sturt University. He has written extensively about issues of religion, liberty, and civil society in Australia, and appears frequently as a commentator on television and radio. In addition to having written many newspaper articles, he is also the author of *The Tyranny of Tolerance: Threats to Religious Liberty in Australia*; *Euthanasia: Putting the Culture to Death?* and *Sacred & Profane: Faith and Belief in a Secular Society*, published by Connor Court. Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and an ordained minister in the Anglican Church of Australia.

### **Professor Adrian Pabst**

Adrian is Professor of Politics at the University of Kent and Deputy Director of the National Institution of Economic and Social Research (NIESR). A *New Statesman* Contributing Writer, he is the author of several books, most recently *The Politics of Virtue: Post-liberalism and the Human Future* (2016, with John Milbank), *Liberal World Order and Its Critics: Civilisational States and Cultural Commonwealths* (2018), and *The Demons of Liberal Democracy* (2019). His latest book is *Postliberal Politics: the Coming Era of Renewal* (2021). Together with Jon Cruddas MP, he is currently writing a book about rights and obligations in the face of new threats to human dignity.

### **Ms Marie Punter**

Marie is Director of Ethics and Compliance at G4S. An experienced Ethics and Compliance (E&C) professional and CIMA and AAT qualified Chartered Management Accountant, with extensive experience in managing E&C risks, developing Speak Up programmes and management of employee concerns within large global organisations. Trusted adviser to heads of businesses on mitigation and controls needed on broad E&C risks including bribery and corruption, money laundering, trade regulations and competition law.

### **The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern**

Having read history at Christ Church Oxford, and spent a year in the early '80s in The Sudan shadowing a local Archdeacon, Humphrey trained for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon and was ordained deacon in 1986. He served curacies in commuter suburbia at Rainham in Kent, and in inner-city Liverpool at St. Mary's, Walton. His first incumbency was at Hale in the Guildford Diocese (which he combined with being Diocesan Ecumenical Officer), followed in 1999 by becoming Team Rector (and Rural Dean) at Tisbury in Wiltshire where the Team, by the time he left after eight years, served sixteen villages.



Humphrey was appointed Bishop of Repton in the diocese of Derby in May 2007. His particular responsibilities in this role focused on areas of ministry: overseeing vocations, sponsoring people for ordination training, and appointments. He chaired the Mission and Pastoral Committee, the Diocesan Board of Education and also the local Partnership of Derbyshire Churches with the Church of North India. His interest in the Anglican Communion has taken him to Zimbabwe, Australia, and the United States, as well as India and Sudan and he is currently enjoying developing Cuddesdon's links with the Church in Hong Kong. He has also led a number of pilgrimages to the Holy Land and is a member of the Foundation of St George's College, Jerusalem.

At Cuddesdon and its associated courses Bishop Humphrey's main teaching responsibilities focus on Pastoral Theology and practical ministry, together with Anglican Ecclesiology and Spirituality. With a colleague, Cathy Ross, he recently edited (and contributed to) *Bearing Witness in Hope* (SCM, 2020), a collection of essays to challenge a perceived 'ecclesiology of fatalism' in our time.

Bishop Humphrey is married to Emma, a district nurse, and they have two daughters. His interests include reading widely, walking gently, bonfires and horse racing.

### **The Reverend Canon Dr Hueston Finlay Warden, St George's House**

Hueston read Engineering and Theology at Trinity College, Dublin and pursued his doctoral studies at the University of London. Following ordination, he worked in the cathedral parish of St Canice in the County of Kilkenny, where he acted as Bishop's Vicar, Diocesan Librarian and Diocesan Registrar. While there he taught theology in the country's largest boarding school and lectured on ethics and doctrine for the diocesan adult education programme. He then moved to Cambridge when he was appointed as Curate to the University Church and Chaplain to Girton College. More recently he has served as Dean of Chapel, Director of Studies in Theology, and Tutor at Magdalene College Cambridge. He has also held an Affiliated Lectureship at the University of Cambridge, where he taught doctrine. He was appointed a Canon of St George's Chapel in 2004 and Warden of St George's House in 2008.

