

Senior Faith in Leadership Programme

Monday 16th – 18th January 2023

PARTICIPANTS BIOGRAPHIES

Stuart Diamond



Stuart has experience in finance, human resources, and politics, and was appointed as a Mayoral Committee Member for assets and facilities for the City of Cape Town, South Africa. Stuart served as the Director for the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies before moving to the UK.

Stuart started a community-based football and cricket club called Grass Boots which has 250 members and served as a Board Member of the Woodstock Improvement District and the United Herzlia Schools Governing Board in Cape Town. In London, Stuart serves as a Governor for Alma Primary and a section assistant for 20th Finchley Scouts. He also developed policies for the City of Cape Town and Cape Town Central Improvement District. He holds a BA in Industrial Psychology and Environmental Studies from the University of Cape Town and was a Schusterman Fellow.

Stuart is married to Lindy and has three daughters, Ariella, Aerin, and Ava.

Reverend Dr Nathan Eddy



Nathan is Co-Director of the Council of Christians and Jews, teaches Hebrew and Bible in London in formal and informal settings, and worships in the United Reformed Church in a small church in North London. His wife is an Anglican priest and they have two teenage daughters. Originally from the US, he has lived in England since 2005, in Manchester, Norwich, and London. He has published short stories and poetry, edited creative prayer books and Bible notes, and is passionate about how the Bible can help us appreciate difference.

Suneer Fida



Suneer joined the non-profit sector over 15 years ago and has since worked with various Charities, Foundations and Trusts. She is currently undertaking a Master's programme in Grantmaking, Philanthropy & Social Investment at the Bayes Business School in London, for which she has won a full scholarship.

Motivated by the desire to serve, she sits on the board of trustees at All Ways Network, an organisation aiming to empower both grantmakers and grantees by making the grants process more accessible to underrepresented faith groups in the UK.



Imam Zakarya Gangat

Zakarya Gangat is currently an Imam at Cambridge Central Mosque. He studied for seven years, focusing on memorisation of the Qur'an and various Islamic Sciences. He has served as visiting Imam in mosques in Canada & the USA. He is passionate about Inter-faith dialogue and social cohesion.



Reverend Dr Nai Lat (Gregory) Goh

Dr Gregory Goh was a graduate of National University of Singapore (B. Social Sciences) and Trinity Theological College, Singapore (M.Div.). He obtained a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary. He joined Chinese Annual Conference (CAC) in 1992 and has since served for 30 years. He has ministered as a District Superintendent, Chairman of Disciple Agency, school chaplain and pastor of local churches. He serve as CAC President since November 2016. President Goh is married to Irene Lim, full-time educator and they have 2 daughters and a son. He enjoys good coffee and capture beautiful sights with his camera.



Rabbi Ephraim J. Guttentag

Ephraim holds a Masters Degree in Jewish education and is currently the Senior Rabbi at Whitefield Hebrew Congregation - the largest provincial Jewish Community, as well as serving as Jewish Student Chaplain at Manchester University.

Rabbi Guttentag has previously held Rabbinic positions in London, Cheshire and St Annes-on-Sea, where he also held the post of vice-chair of the Lancashire Forum of Faiths.

He is passionate about interfaith activities and dialogue, and regularly speaks at schools, civic gatherings and on university panels, as well as hosting groups from all walks of life at his Manchester Synagogue.



Dr Sohail Hanif

Sohail graduated from Imperial College London in 2000 with a BEng in Information Systems Engineering. He then spent 12 years in Amman, Jordan, where he devoted himself to studying and teaching Arabic and Islamic Studies. Sohail then completed a Master's (2014) and DPhil (2017) in Oriental Studies from University of Oxford, and taught Islamic law at Cambridge Muslim College from 2017 to 2021. In August 2021 he joined National Zakat Foundation (NZF), where he is the Chief Executive. Sohail's academic research focuses on Islamic jurisprudence as a holistic thought system, and he brings this expertise to his role at NZF, where they strive to bring Zakat to life, Zakat being a pillar of Islamic sacred law.





Dr Jayme Reaves

Jayme R. Reaves is Director of Academic Development and Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Sarum College in Salisbury, England. She also serves as a freelance public theologian and over the last 20+ years has worked as a consultant, researcher, lecturer, and facilitator in the US, Former Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain on the intersections between theology and public issues such as peace, conflict, hospitality, interfaith collaboration, memory, and gender. She regularly speaks, leads retreats, conducts workshops, and has served as 'theologian in residence' with communities who wish to dive deeper into understanding theological frameworks for social justice activism. Jayme lives in Dorset, England with her partner and 2 dogs.



Sophie Ross

Sophie is a British Jewish civil servant and diplomat. Previously, she lived in India for three years, working at the British High Commission in Delhi, and before that, she pursued a career across the Civil Service in London.

Sophie has a keen interest in the role of religion in public life, and the intersection of religion, policymaking and diplomacy. She has designed religious engagement and interfaith programmes in India, advised on community cohesion and faith schools policy in the UK, and is an Honorary Fellow at the Edward Cadbury Centre for Public Understanding of Religion at the University of Birmingham.

Sophie has taken an active role in the British Jewish community, chairing the Civil Service Jewish Network, representing her Synagogue community on the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and co-founding the Jewish choir Minim Singers. Sophie studied Theology at the University of Oxford, where she was a choral scholar



Dr Imam Haroon Sidat

Haroon is from Lancashire and after memorising the Quran, he started his journey by completing a traditional Dars-i Nizami followed by travelling to the Muslim world. He has a first class degree in Economics and Finance, an MA in Education, a PGCE in Mathematics and a PhD in the field of Philosophy and Religion. Haroon works as a research associate at the centre for the study of Islam at Cardiff university and delivers weekly sermons at a local mosque. Prior to academia Haroon worked as a tax consultant for one of the big four. Currently, he is working on two major projects. The first, Understanding British Imams is a four-year research project based at Cardiff University's Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK. The second is in the field of Islamic History and Civilisation and is titled 'Legacies of Learning' and explores the Islamic educational and intellectual tradition.





Shahien Taj OBE

Shahien Taj OBE was the founder and Director of Henna Foundation (2000-2022) a charity established to advance the needs, concerns and aspirations of Asian and Muslim women, children and families. Through the course of its operations the organisation established itself an ionic social change service known for its faith sensitised approach to mental health, tackling harmful cultural practices & violence against women & girls. Henna's legacy also includes contributions in campaigning, changing national policy and holistic approach to casework, advocacy and landmark legal interventions. Henna's work has now transitioned over to a sister charity, Women Connect First, where Shahien is now the Head of Policy, Influencing & Partnerships.



The Very Reverend Abigail Thompson

Dean of Sheffield Cathedral since 2021, Abi Thompson has served as a parish priest over the past 16 years in two of the most deprived parishes in the Sheffield Diocese and also as Sub Dean of St Albans Cathedral. She is passionate about music and sang professionally prior to her ordination in the Church of England. She is also committed to challenging economic inequality in this country and ensuring that the faith communities she serves are places of learning, warmth and reconciliation. She is currently developing the musical life of Sheffield Cathedral, seeking to become a key provider of music education in the most deprived parts of the city.



Reverend Andy Thompson

The Reverend Andy is a vicar in the Diocese of London. He has served the Church in the Middle East and Arabian Gulf for more than 20 years. He has authored several books on Christian History in the Arabian Gulf and interfaith dialogue.

His academic background is in theology and history (Nottingham, Gloucester, Oxford). He has participated in several key international interfaith events.

In 2011 he received the MBE from Queen Elizabeth II for services to Human Rights and Interfaith Dialogue. In 2019 he was awarded a Pioneer of the Emirates medal from the Prime Minister of the UAE. He is a Canon of Bahrain Cathedral and was the Chairman of the Board for the Al Amana Centre, an Interfaith Resource based in Muscat, Oman.



Michael Wegier

Michael is the Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, a role he has held since April 2021. His professional background is in Jewish education from which I moved into fundraising and strategic planning. Michael has lived and worked for extensive periods in Israel and also spent a few years in the United States. On a personal level his is very involved in his local Masorti (Conservative) synagogue and regularly give sermons and teach. Michael's academic background in Jewish History with a BA from UCL and a Masters in Contemporary Jewry from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has a particular interest in helping people develop and expand their knowledge of Jewish civilisation, Israel and contemporary Jewish life through the exploration of texts, music, art and and film.





Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet

Adam Zagoria-Moffet is the rabbi of St. Albans Masorti Synagogue. He was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary where he also received an MA in Jewish Thought. He grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, and has lived in Minnesota, New York, and Israel before moving to the UK. His interests are primarily in mysticism, ethics, and Sephardic Judaism and culture. He lives in St. Albans with his family.

GUEST SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Bishop Lusa Nsega-Ngoy

Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy was consecrated as the Bishop of Willesden in January 2022, at a service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Lusa was ordained in 2008 and served as an Assistant Curate in the Diocese of Canterbury, before becoming Vicar of St Aidan, Gravesend in 2012. In 2017 he was appointed BAME Mission and Ministry Enabler in the Diocese of Leicester, wherein he oversaw an increase in representation and participation of those from UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) backgrounds in the life and structures of Leicester Diocese. Lusa is a trustee of St Mellitus College, Church Army, and deputy chair of the Board of Initiatives of Change UK.

His interests include ethical leadership, storytelling, and poetry. Lusa feels strongly about issues of social justice, and has worked with Making Herstory: an organisation working to end gender-based violence.

Lusa's wife, Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, is Discipleship Officer for Leicester Cathedral. They have three children.



Alan Smith

Alan Smith is First Church Estates Commissioner of the Church of England, an appointment which he has held since 1 October 2021. Prior to that he had a 27-year senior financial sector executive career at HSBC with diverse international experience in ESG, climate change, strategy, investment banking, treasury, risk management and governance, in London and Saudi Arabia.

He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG London where he worked for 8 years prior to HSBC, having started his career in the Caribbean, with Coopers and Lybrand (PwC) in Barbados. Alan and his family live in London where he is active at his local Church of England Parish church, Christ Church Roxeth Hill Harrow, in the Willesden Area of the Diocese of London. He is passionate about environmental and social responsibility investment to produce strong financial returns in support of building flourishing and resilient communities. In his spare time, he coaches at his local cricket club and is an Official Adviser to the ACE Programme, a national charity seeking to increase cricket participation in underserved communities.



FACULTY & TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



Remona Aly

Remona is a journalist, broadcaster and commentator with a focus on faith, lifestyle and identity. She writes for The Guardian and other media outlets on anything from The Great British Bake Off to burkinis, fashion to her failed love life and Ramadan to rock music.

Remona is a resident Pause for Thought contributor at BBC Radio 2 on the Zoe Ball Breakfast show, and previously on Chris Evans Breakfast Show and Saturday Breakfast with Dermot O'Leary, and she's a presenter on BBC Radio 4's Something Understood which explores a spiritual theme across different faiths and traditions using music, prose and poetry.

As a commentator on TV and radio, Remona has appeared on Sky News, ITV and the BBC – often at the crack of dawn when her face is still falling into place.

Remona was Deputy Editor of emel – a vibrant and glossy British Muslim lifestyle magazine. Since going freelance in 2009, she became Director of Communications for Exploring Islam Foundation which specialises in dynamic PR campaigns and resources on Islam and Muslims across media platforms.

She is also a podcast presenter for various platforms, including for the award-winning Things Unseen which centres on moral, spiritual and ethical issues. Remona eats chocolate biscuits and watch K-drama religiously.



The Reverend Charlotte Bannister-Parker

Charlotte has held various positions at Oxford's University Church, including Priest in Charge and Director of Outreach. She is founder of the annual Oxford Interfaith Friendship Walk and the seminar "One Earth, Many Faiths". Charlotte is also an Advisor of The Oxford Foundation, which promotes youth interfaith dialogue and projects in the UK. She is a member of the Oxford Three Faiths Week, "Relating Across Divides" at St John's College, Oxford. Charlotte was Interim Rector of the city of Oxford 2017-2018, and she is a long-time Fellow of the RGS and RSA.

Charlotte for the past decade has chaired, and is currently President of, The Children's Radio Foundation (CRF), a non-profit development organisation training and empowering youth across eight countries in Africa. Charlotte has helped build up CRF following her ministerial posting in 2008 to Oxford's sister diocese in South Africa. Before being called to the priesthood, Charlotte spent fifteen years working in development NGOs and in broadcasting, with a focus on the role and education of women in South Asia.





Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski

Harvey is a community leader, organisational psychologist and broadcaster. He has been a pulpit rabbi for 25 years, a role he combines with organisational development, leadership training and interfaith activism. He is the rabbinic adviser of several organisations within the Jewish community, a trustee of the HOPE not hate Charitable Trust and sits on the community and voluntary service committee of the honours system at the Cabinet Office. He is a regular live contributor to Pause for Thought on the BBC Radio 2 Zoe Ball Breakfast Show.



Rabbi Shoshana Boyd-Gelfand

Shoshana is a rabbi, speaker and writer whose passion is bringing Jewish wisdom into the public square. For the past decade, she has served as a senior member of the Pears Foundation team, focusing her energy on building robust interfaith relationships and international development efforts. Shoshana also presents regularly on BBC Radio, teaches Hebrew Bible at Sarum College and serves as an officer of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, (the organisation that liaises on behalf of World Jewry with other international faith bodies, such as the Vatican and the World Council of Churches). She was a founding faculty member of Faith in Leadership's Senior Faith in Leadership Programme and has taught Polarity Management to each cohort. In addition, Shoshana is the author of numerous articles on faith-based leadership as well as *The Barefoot Book of Jewish Folk Tales*, a collection of Jewish stories for all faiths and all ages.



Denny Braggins

For the last 14 years, ever since his first exposure to experiential learning at university, Denny has worked directly in the field of leadership development, organising and delivering programmes at a student, corporate, community and national levels.

A husband and father of two energetic children, Denny devotes what little spare time he has in the study of diversity and world religions. He spent the whole of his formative teenage years in Singapore. Denny's viewpoint and world perspective therefore is deeply affected by his experience of living happily alongside people of different cultures and faiths.

Denny was a pupil of the United World College of South East Asia, and went on to study Geography, Politics and Business Administration at Sheffield University. He is a keen guitarist and is learning to be fluent in Russian.





Professor David Ford OBE

David is Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus in the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Selwyn College. He is married to Revd Deborah Ford (née Hardy), who is an Anglican priest and a psychotherapist; and they have three children, Rebecca, Rachel and Daniel, and two grandchildren.

He chairs Faith in Leadership, co-chairs the Rose Castle Foundation and serves on a range of boards relating to theology, education, learning disability, and interfaith relations.

He has just completed a twenty-year project with the publication of *The Gospel of John. A Theological Commentary*. Other publications include: *A Kind of Upside-Downness: Learning Disabilities and Transformational Community*, co-edited with Deborah Hardy Ford and Ian Randall; *The Drama of Living*; *The Shape of Living*; *Theology: A Very Short Introduction*; *Christian Wisdom: Desiring God and Learning in Love*; *Shaping Theology: Engagements in a Religious and Secular World*; *The Modern Theologians. An introduction to Christian Theology since 1918* (3 Editions); and *Self and Salvation: Being Transformed*. He has been a theological adviser to three Archbishops of Canterbury (Runcie, Carey, Welby), and has honorary doctorates from the universities of Birmingham, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya (Haridwar), Aberdeen and Bolton.



Dr Matthew Freeman

Matthew is the founder of Dialectix Consulting, a Virginia, US based firm that works with organisations on their diversity, equity and inclusion strategies. Matthew's passion for equity and social justice has led him across the United States and around the globe, helping people connect across difference and begin to address the challenges that divide them. Matthew has worked all kinds of organisations, and is equally comfortable with faith communities, small NGOs, members of the US Congress, or Fortune 500 corporations. With degrees in the sciences and in the humanities, Matthew appreciates the opportunities to bring that diverse educational background to bear on topics like unconscious bias exploring what we know about how the brain functions and how that impacts our human interactions. He is the author of the book *Overcoming Bias: Building Authentic Relationships Across Differences*.



Julie Kangisser

Julie Kangisser is a communications advisor to Faith in Leadership. She has more than 20 years' experience in corporate communications for organisations addressing societal issues and as a broadcast journalist for BBC News.

Alongside working for Faith in Leadership she currently leads external communications for a charity-owned ethical lender helping those that are financially excluded; is conducting stakeholder engagement for NHS England on its Chaplaincy guidelines and runs the press office for the world's largest multi-cancer screening trial (NHS-Galleri) via her company Think Communications.

Much of her previous engagement and reputation management work has been at the interface of responsible business and civil society for clients including Shell, BT, Aviva, business advisory firm Xynteo, Barrow Cadbury Trust and leadership charity Pilotlight.

Julie was Middlesex University's first Director of Corporate Marketing and Communications prior to which she established an in-house PR team for the Department for Work and Pensions. She has an MA in Law and Geography



from Cambridge University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism from City University.



Robbie Leigh

Robbie Leigh is an Anglican theologian and educationalist currently serving as a consultant to the Rose Castle Foundation, a peacebuilding organisation working with faith-formed leaders to navigate challenging divides and transform conflict.

Robbie's interest in interfaith engagement and peacebuilding developed while undertaking doctoral research on the theology of reconciliation at the University of Cambridge, under the supervision of Professor David Ford. Working closely with the Cambridge Interfaith Programme and participating in Scriptural Reasoning during this time was profoundly influential, inspiring Robbie to contribute to a range of projects promoting the dignity of difference in order to meet the challenges of a complexly religious and secular world.

After completing his PhD, he became a teacher and served as Head of Religion and Philosophy at Highgate School. In 2019 he founded a cross-sector network of academics and educationalists working to offer young people better opportunities to engage their intellect and deepest values through the study of religion. Since 2013 he has worked with Global Covenant Partners, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the victims of religion-related violence. He was a military intelligence analyst in the British Army Reserves for six years. Robbie continues to teach theology at the St Albans Cathedral Study Centre.



Alex Martins

Alex is an independent researcher, facilitator, advocate and Co-Founder of The Equity Index, a UK-based social enterprise. She has served as a Strategic Advisor to Faith in Leadership since 2018. Alex is passionate about creating a more equitable international development sector. She facilitates discussions between diverse groups of stakeholders from both the global South and North and is trained in participatory facilitation techniques including Group Facilitation Methods & Open Space Technology. She advocates for greater equity in the international development sector, with a focus on the intersection between racial and gender equity and equitable partnerships, taking into account power imbalances resulting from historical and neo-colonial dynamics. Born in Johannesburg, she was raised in South Africa and Brazil and is currently based in London, UK.





Krish Raval

Krish is the Director of Faith in Leadership and the Senior Faith in Leadership Programme. An executive educator, consultant and coach, Krish focuses on leadership development, dialogue and facilitation for change and has worked in the private and voluntary sectors for three decades. A lawyer by background, Krish had a training contract with a prominent Los Angeles law firm before a deep interest in people led him to work with inner city teenagers in 1996. Krish is a Visiting Research Fellow at St Benet's Hall, University of Oxford, and has read and researched law at Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge and the University of Sheffield, respectively. He carried the Olympic Torch in his home city of Sheffield during the 2012 London Olympics and he was appointed an OBE by Her Majesty The Queen in 2018.



Michael Wakelin

Michael is Executive Chair of the Religion Media Centre an Independent resource helping journalists and others cover stories related to religion and belief. He is a founder director of the Religion and Belief Literacy Partnership working with organisations such as the House of Commons, Tesco and Marks and Spencer to accommodate religion and belief in the workplace. He is also an Executive Producer at TBI Media one of the most successful independent production companies in the country. Michael is particularly responsible for the Pause for Thought strand on BBC Radio Two.

Michael has worked with Krish on the Senior Faith in Leadership Programme since it began in 2012 and serves on the faculty with a particular role in media training - something he also does with major Religious organisations. Formerly Michael read theology at Birmingham University and worked at the BBC for 23 years across all networks ending up as Head of Religious Broadcasting, leaving in 2010. He is Chair of the Reckitt Trust and an adviser to the Oxford University Faculty of Theology and Religion.

