

Senior Faith in Leadership Programme

Monday 13th – Wednesday 15th March 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 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

Gregory 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 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 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 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

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 film.



Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet

Adam 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



Dr Christine Davis

Chris is a graduate of Carleton College with a major in World Religions. She has a Masters of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, with a concentration on Moral Development, Biomedical Ethics, and Mind/Body Medicine. Chris has done further graduate studies at the University of Iowa exploring the intersections of faith and health. For the past sixteen years Chris has been a Bodywork Therapist, blending her interests in nutrition, exercise, and well-being, in addition to being a mother of four adult children.





Dr D Mark Davis

Mark is a graduate of Emmanuel College; Union Presbyterian Seminary; and has his Ph.D. in Theology, Ethics, and Culture from the University of Iowa. During his graduate studies at Iowa, Mark taught courses in the Global Studies Program of the Center for International and Comparative Studies. For 18 years Mark served as the pastor of Heartland Presbyterian Church in a suburb of Des Moines, Iowa, during which he served on the Executive Board of The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, including being the Chair for two years. For the last nine years, Mark has been the Senior Pastor at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, CA. He is the Chair of the Faith Leaders Council and a member of the Executive Committee of United to End Homelessness (a division of United Way Orange County), as well as a member of the board of CIEL, the Friendship Shelter, and the Newport Beach Homeless Commission, in addition to being a father of four adult children.



Brigadier John Kendall

John is a strategic analyst with a background in tech, scenario-based decision-making, and complex problem analysis.

John has worked on influence techniques; international conflict and crisis analysis; unconventional power projection; and futures projects for governments, NATO, and research organisations. This includes over 40 crisis wargames from humanitarian response to warfighting in areas from Africa to the High North. Additionally, John has worked with the UK National Health Service during its COVID response, red-teamed a major tech innovation project, inter-state trade negotiations, and worked with senior leadership courses in international crisis planning. His alumni have applied the techniques widely from disaster response work to industry projects.

John has supported UK government work on policy options for Russia as part of a major international thinktank and other agencies for a decade. This includes work on analysing Russian conflict above and below the threshold for war with NATO; and its international reach through proxies, partners, and economic levers. Recent work includes an examination of the strategic and operational implications of Ukraine War and possible Russian options out to 2030.

John holds an MA from Kings College London and is a recent alumnus of the Royal College of Defence Studies strategy and leadership course. His academic work focussed on threats to international security, stability and prosperity from Space Weather, Russia and Chinese cyber strategy, and the development of an analytical framework for state behaviours. John is also a diversity advocate with a particular interest in inter-faith relations and its intersection with operational effectiveness, modern and post-modern history.





Dulcie Kugelman

Dulcie was born in England and has lived all her adult years in the United States. She received a degree in Peace Studies from Chapman University California. Interested in the conflict in Northern Ireland, she undertook a Masters Program in Peace and Conflict at the University of Ulster, Derry/Londonderry. This was in 1998, immediately following the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Dulcie has served on the Board of the University of California Center for Citizen Peacebuilding for twenty years. She has also been part of the founding of the Oliver Tree Initiative and the Center for International Experiential Learning. Their mission has been to provide educational travel experiences to conflict zones in order to fully understand the conflict's complexities and nuances by meeting and listening to all sides. She and her husband Larry have two sons and five grandchildren, live in Newport Beach, California and are members of St. Mark Presbyterian Church.



Laurence Kugelman

Larry spent his early years in a Catholic monastery. Following his departure he earned his BA from St. John's, University, New York. He spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Baluchistan, Iran then earned a MBA from Vanderbilt University, Tennessee. He had a successful career as a Health Care Executive until his retirement in 1996. He accompanied his wife Dulcie to Northern Ireland where together they studied at the Masters Program in Peace and Conflict at the University of Ulster. He serves on the Board of the University of California Center for Citizen Peacebuilding and is also a Foundation Trustee of the University. He was a Board member of the Olive Tree Initiative and is now the Board Chairman of the Center for International Experiential Learning.



Dr Krishan Manocha

Kishan is the Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw. From 2015-2020, he was ODIHR's Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Kishan has extensive experience in freedom of religion or belief and related human rights issues in Europe, North America, the Middle East and North Africa, and Central and South Asia as an advocate, researcher, trainer and consultant to a number of international and non-governmental organisations. He holds degrees in psychology and medicine from the University of London and in law from the University of Cambridge. Kishan has worked as a psychiatrist and is a Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists of the UK. He also practised as a barrister in the areas of domestic and international criminal law. He served as Director of the UK Bahá'í community's Office of Public Affairs from 2010-14, where he was responsible for



leading the community's engagement with government, parliament and civil society and coordinating its interfaith activities.

Kishan has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard University, a Fellow of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, and a Special Adviser to the late Shahbaz Bhatti, former Minister for Minority Affairs in Pakistan. Kishan is a Research Fellow at the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation, a Professional Associate at the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff University, and a Fellow at the Centre for Religion and Values at Dublin City University. He is currently a member of the Global Steering Committee of the UN Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes and of the International Religious Freedom Alliance's Global Council of Experts, a Patron of Faith in Leadership, and serves on trustee and advisory boards of a number of organizations, including Beyond Conflict, Faith Matters and Most Mira.



Seanne Winslow Wehrenfennig

Seanne grew up in Germany and spent time in England, Israel, and the Middle East. Her unique ability to tell stories that entertain, delight, and inspire global audiences is evident throughout her work as a writer, director, and producer. She recently directed the award-winning feature film "[The Falconer](#)" and three episodes of the upcoming "[Beyond Belief](#)" reboot with Jonathan Frakes. She also re-wrote the thriller "Nowhere" for Netflix and developed "The Witchverse" for Disney+. Seanne is currently writing "Ilona," a film inspired by her childhood in a German castle, which deals with mental health and depression through the lens of hope. Seanne was the Executive Producer of "[The Lego Movie](#)" starring Will Ferrell, Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks, Liam Neeson, and Morgan Freeman, and oversaw "[Sherlock Holmes](#)" starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law for Dan Lin.



FACULTY & TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



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.



Dr Benjamin Ellis

Benjamin grew up in an orthodox family in Leeds, and studied for two years at Yeshivat Har Etzion before embarking on his career in medicine. He has been involved with KeshetUK since it was founded and believes passionately that every Jewish organisation can find a way to be more inclusive and welcoming to LGBT+ Jews.



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 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.



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.



Dr Daniel Wehrenfennig

Daniel is the Executive Director and Founder of the Center for International Experiential Learning (CIEL). He has worked in global education for about two decades. Born in Germany, he permanently moved to the U.S. and received his Ph.D. in Political Science/International Relations from the University of California, Irvine in 2009. After graduating, he became the inaugural Executive Director of the Olive Tree Initiative, an award-winning experiential learning program based in the University of California system that worked with many national and international universities. He also created and taught in the Certificate Program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and served as the Vice-Chair of the Chancellor's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion at the University of California, Irvine. In 2021 he founded CIEL as an independent



educational non-profit organization focused on experiential learning in conflict-affected regions. Besides leading many international programs, he also published and presents (TEDx) on conflict resolution.



Dr Tamra Wright

Tamra wears many hats, both literally and figuratively. As an academic researcher and lecturer with a PhD in Philosophy, she specialises in 20th-century Jewish thought, particularly the ethics of Emmanuel Levinas and Jewish responses to the Holocaust. She is the author of *The Twilight of Jewish Philosophy: Emmanuel Levinas's Ethical Hermeneutics* as well as essays on Buber, Rosnezhweig, Fackenheim and Levinas. Inspired by the legacy of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z'l, she has also developed an abiding interest in the points of intersection between Positive Psychology and Jewish teaching.

Tamra spent most of her career to date at the London School of Jewish Studies, where she created and ran the Bradfield Educational Leadership Programme, training over 200 Orthodox women for roles as Jewish educators and leaders, as well as overseeing the development and delivery of degree programmes in Jewish Studies and Jewish Education.

During lockdown she trained as a Tiny Habits® Certified Coach and founded 2020 Torah, an online Jewish learning platform.

