

Biographies



The Reverend Mike Blake

Mike has been married for 44 years, born in Wales, educated in the English Midlands and now living in North-East Scotland.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1974, seeing active service to 2000 retiring as a Commander. Then forming a company with a friend, they provided engineering solutions to nuclear power stations across Europe and the U.S.A and managed commissioning activities on a number of nuclear support facilities for the next 20 years.

Licensed as lay-reader in 1988, Mike worked with New Wine Scotland 1998 to 2013, re-licensed lay reader 2010 by Aberdeen & Orkney, ordained in the Scottish Episcopal Church and now serving as Priest-in-Charge of a rural Scottish congregation.



The Reverend Zoe Burton

Zoe is a Vicar of the United Benefice of Blidworth and Rainworth which is located in the heart of Sherwood Forest in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. She also serves as an Area Dean, on Bishop's Council and as a Bishop's Ministry Reviewer. She facilitates a Pastoral Supervision and Reflective Practice Group in a neighbouring Diocese and a Peer Supervision Group for Spiritual Directors in her current Diocese as well as individual chaplaincy supervision.

She has 13 years' experience as an ordained minister in examining and rural contexts and part of her role has included transitioning groups of parishes undergoing pastoral re-organisation. She is passionate about seeing all God's people grow and develop in their God-given potential and finding their stories within God's overarching story of love.



The Reverend Dr Thomas Carpenter

Tom is a thirty-four years old priest, originally from Doncaster. He was educated at Oxford where, after Finals he stayed on to do a masters and then a doctorate under the supervision of Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch. Before his formation at Mirfield, he spent a year working in a L'Arche community. He was ordained deacon in 2016 and priest a year later. Since finishing his curacy in Sheffield he has been incumbent of Holy Trinity Southport.



The Reverend Dr Karen Coleman

Karen serves as the University Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry. She also serves and an Assisting Priest at Trinity Copley Square Boston. She is also a certified Koru mindfulness instructor as well as a spiritual director.

She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor where she holds a B.A. in Art History and a masters and doctor of ministry degree from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. The title of her thesis was "Episcopal Female Clergy Leaders of African Heritage: Trailblazers and Colleagues". Prior to her seminary studies, she worked as the assistant director of alumni relations and development at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania and as a national fund development consultant for Girl Scouts of the USA, NYC.

She currently serves on the Episcopal Diocese of MA Standing Committee, Clerical Deputy to General Convention 2024 and is a member of the real estate investment advisory committee. Her BU committees include, Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Student Affairs Unit Directors liaison, and the BU School of Theology Anglican Episcopal Community of Learning. In her spare-time she is a master canner, gardens and needlepoints.



The Reverend Christine Downey

Christine has had ten years' experience working in visual arts, as an art gallery curator, and artist's manager before graduating with a degree in Divinity from Huron University. Christine began her priesthood in Canada in 2006 and joined the Scottish Episcopal Church in 2017 as rector of St. Mary's, Dalmahoy. Her love for the arts coupled with the belief that there are important new ways that people are finding "modern prophets" the church should notice, has led her to read informally, in the area of popular culture.



The Reverend Kenneth Feske

Ken serves as the Pastor at Church in the Forest in Pebble Beach, California. Ken was drawn to the diversity of faith traditions. His focus on grace, gifts, and interdependence brings a holy obligation of engagement with the belief that healing and transformation happen when we meet with God. Community and civility are two passions. Ken was born in the heart of dairyland in Wisconsin, went to seminary at Northern Baptist, IL with callings to California, Arizona and Hawaii. Ken's convictions led him to California State University Monterey Bay engaging students in Social Justice and Action for seven years.



The Reverend Jonathan Flitcroft

John is currently Rector of St Mary, Old Swinford, in the Diocese of Worcester. This is his first incumbency following a curacy in Birmingham Diocese and a short interim ministry at St George, Edgbaston. Married to Mary they have two daughters, Rebecca and Molly. Before ordination in 2015, John had worked as an actor. Within this Consultation, the subjects to which he is most immediately drawn are *Grace* and *God and the Arts*.



The Reverend Sheri Gidney

Ordained in 2016, Sheri is Vicar of Lickey with Blackwell located in the south west of Birmingham Diocese. With experience in overseas and home mission and with over 20 years of experience in Children's Ministry prior to ordination, Sheri is keen to speak well of God with people of all ages who are not yet in church.



The Reverend Alison Hardy

Based in Truro Diocese, Alison is Rector of seven rural churches, a member of a town team ministry, and Rural Dean. Additionally, Chaplain to Truro Mothers' Union, agricultural business partner (hands-on at lambing), wife to Chris and mother to five children. Her background experience for the topic of Charitable Work is rooted in church ministry within the local area; an established international link with an India mission amongst poor, outcast and tribal peoples; and commitment to Children's & Youth work in church and community. She speaks about God daily in schools and pre-schools - how God's voice is then heard captivates her.



The Reverend Nicki Hobbs

Nicki is an Anglican priest who was ordained in 2014. She is currently Rector of three very different village churches in Northamptonshire, as well as being Rural Dean of Kettering. She is studying for a Masters in Christian Spirituality through Sarum College, with her main academic interests being in feminist and disability theology. Before being ordained, Nicki was a project manager in the charity sector, working for both Christian and secular charities.



The Reverend Canon Dr Philip Hobday

Philip is Sub-Dean at Wakefield Cathedral, having joined the team in September 2022, where he oversees pastoral care, learning, outreach, and events. Previously he was a parish priest in east Kent and Reading, and a university chaplain in Canterbury and Cambridge. He has taught theology (especially Christian doctrine, church history, mission and evangelism) in two universities and for those training for different kinds of Christian ministry. His doctorate was on theological method (how we can know and speak about God) in three theologians (Richard Hooker, John Calvin, and Thomas Aquinas); the resulting book will be published by T&T Clark in October.



The Reverend Clive Hogger

Clive is a former Registered Mental Health Nurse who currently serves as an Associate Archdeacon Transition Enabler in the Diocese of Sheffield. He has a particular interest in the intersection between faith and mental health and is an advocate for better inclusion in the life of the Church for those experiencing mental ill-health. While serving as a vicar in inner city Coventry he became strangely enthusiastic about the governance of the Church of England and how its regulations support, or not, the flourishing of the people of God, an enthusiasm which led him to complete a Masters in Canon Law.



The Reverend Lesley Jones

Born in Sunderland, ordained in Durham Lesley currently serves as Rector of Jarrow and Simonside, leading across a large urban parish as they learn and grow together. Their church buildings range from being 40 years old and in the middle of a housing estate to the former home of The Venerable Bede at St. Paul's, Jarrow.

Lesley has had a number of careers: local/national politics, education and marketing - all have come together since ordination in 2012. In terms of Ministry, her particular experience includes walking alongside people facing debt, homelessness, domestic abuse and as a regional spokesperson on poverty.



The Reverend Erik Khoobyarian

Erik is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA), currently serving as the Executive Associate Pastor of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. In this capacity, Erik works with the administrative functions of the church and coordinates many aspects of the programs while also participating in the worship and education life of the congregation. Prior to seminary, Erik was a litigation attorney while also serving as a church lay leader. In 2015, Erik answered the call to vocational ministry and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Erik enjoys cooking, exploring nature, camping, finding great coffee, and cheering for the San Jose Sharks hockey team.



The Reverend David Longe

Prior to ordination in 2009, David was a lawyer specialising in representing asylum applicants and Human Rights Law. From 2009 to 15 he served in North Lambeth Parish, before being selected, along with his wife, as a Church Mission Society Mission Partner and serving as Chaplain to The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem. Since 2018 he has served as Rector of the Matlaske Benefice, a group of seven rural parishes in North Norfolk. He currently chairs the Diocese of Norwich's Environmental Working Group and is a trustee for a number of charities whose remits cover the Levant.



The Venerable Simon J Lumby

After careers in engineering (RAF) and development work (Theological Training) Simon was curate in a rural team ministry. He was Rector of rural parishes in Lichfield Diocese and Chaplain to the National Memorial Arboretum. Then Chaplain to the Order of the Holy Paraclete in Whitby. Then as Rural Tourism and Social Exclusion Outreach Enabler on an ecumenical project in the Peak District National Park. He is currently involved in supporting Ukrainian Orthodox people in his parish in Ireland where he is Trustee of a Museum/Stately Home.

His interests include Tourism Spirituality, Orthodox and Early Irish Christian Spirituality and Christian Meditation.



The Reverend Dr Sandra Millar

Sandra was ordained in 2000 after a career in retail marketing and world mission, and have variously worked in parish ministry, as a Diocesan adviser on children and families, and a national post around Life Events. She is now the Director of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of Gloucester. She has written about funerals, weddings, christenings, children, families, mission and welcome, and my PHD is about faith development. She is interested in communication, and how the language we use enables, or not, people to make connections with faith. She lives in Gloucester, and likes travel, TV, tea shops, books and galleries.



The Reverend John Penman

Aged 55, John is a graduate of Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities in Divinity and trained for ordination at Edinburgh Theological College. Ordained Deacon in 1993 and Priest in 1994, he served curacies at St Ninians Pollokshields, Glasgow and Christ the Saviour Ealing Broadway in West London. Incumbencies followed at Kirkcaldy in Fife and Falkirk in Central Scotland. John then moved into Support Work with Autistic adults, whilst serving as Non-Stipendiary Assistant Priest at St Michael and All Saints Edinburgh for ten years, before returning to part time paid ministry as Priest in Charge of St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge Edinburgh. Married to Rachel, his interests include Church History, art, music and going to the races.



The Reverend Canon Malcolm Rogers

Malcolm has served as Anglican chaplain in Moscow for the last six years. Previously he was a vicar in Bury St Edmunds and Holloway. He is married to Alison and they have three grown up boys.

Malcolm has seen many lives and hopes in Russia devastated by the current war in Ukraine, and he has noticed that speech about God has been a significant factor in the rhetoric around the 'special military operations'; a dimension which has been seriously neglected by western politicians.



The Reverend Canon Nick Rowan

Nick has been Rector of Hawkwell (population approx 12,000, just outside Southend-on-Sea) for five years. There are two church buildings; a small medieval church and a larger 1960's building. He is also Area Dean of Rochford Deanery, and serves on Chelmsford Diocesan Synod and Bishops Council. His previous roles were as Curate and Team Vicar in Rayleigh, a large market town in South-East Essex, where he served for 12 years in total.

Over the years he has started Messy Church in both parishes, as a way of introducing non-church families to church, and has run several Alpha course for those exploring the Christian Faith. A key focus for his current parish is to make greater connection with the community around us (drop in's; warm space, support groups etc.)

Nick is married to Nina, who is a SENCO in a local Primary School, and they have four children aged 6-16.



The Reverend Richard Seabrook

Richard has been the Chaplain in the Chaplaincy of Ss Peter and Paul, Torre Vieja, Spain since 2015. Ordained Deacon in 1992 and Priest in 1993, he has served in various parishes in England and rural Australia with large farming communities. He was Archdeacon of The Murray, Vicar-General and then Administrator of the Diocese during a vacancy in see from 2009 – 2015. In England he also engaged in broadcasting work including Pause for Thought (Radio Two) and programmes on Radio Five Live. He has served on General Synods in England and Australia. He is interested in liturgy and Mariology.



The Reverend Lisa Taylor

Lisa is a Church in Wales' Minister in the Gwent Valleys, one of the poorest and most deprived regions in Wales. She is English but has lived in the Valleys for nearly two decades and worked as a District Nurse. She has been involved with many families, seen the hidden poverty and people desperate for God's grace. She has served on the management committee of a homeless project and am currently involved in the local foodbank. Her heart is for all those on the edge of our society. They are a caring family; her husband is training to be a counsellor and her grown-up daughter is in the University of South Wales studying psychology.



The Reverend Dr Stefanie Taylor

Stefanie is the Head Chaplain of Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Atlanta, Georgia. Holy Innocents' is the largest parish day school in the United States. Before serving as Head chaplain at Holy Innocents', Stefanie served at St Martin's Episcopal School, where she worked as chaplain for almost ten years. Ordained a priest at St John's Episcopal Church in Tampa, Florida, in 2011, Stefanie is a graduate of The University of South Carolina. She earned her MDiv at The General Seminary and her DEdMin at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Before entering seminary, Stefanie served as the Interim Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the diocese of Western North Carolina. She was also the director of the diocesan camp, Camp Henry. Before joining the staff at St Martin's, she served as the assistant rector to St John's Episcopal Church and assistant chaplain to St John's Episcopal School in Tampa. Stefanie is a Canterbury Scholar and a contemplative. She has completed two wisdom schools with Cynthia Bourgeault and numerous other wisdom retreats and classes.

Stefanie is married to Arthur, a clinical psychologist. The Taylor's enjoy working together in the field of spiritual psychology and host retreats and workshops on marriage, altruism, depression and anxiety in children, as well as creating meaningful relationships to ourselves, others, and our community.

When the Taylor's are not working, they serve as chauffeurs, personal assistants, coaches, and cheerleaders to their two children: Mattis, age 10, and Mary, age 8. The lovable oaf of a dog named Spot, and their mighty lion man of a cat, Texas Pete, compete the family.



The Reverend Nick Watson

Nick was ordained in 1992. He has served since as parish priest, school chaplain, Warden of Readers, Team Rector and Rural Dean. He has been in his current post as a full-time Area Dean since June 2021.

In his current role, he is seeking to support local church life, ministry and mission across south and west Manchester. At the heart of this is helping churches adapt and engage with the varied local cultures and communities of their parishes - the strapline of the diocesan Transformation Programme is 'Church for a different world,' to which the theme of the consultation seems well connected!

Facilitators

The Reverend Dr Darrell Hannah

Darrell is the Rector of All Saints Church, Ascot. He has served there for 15 years. He previously served parishes in Birmingham and Oxford. Prior to his ordination, and during his first years as a priest, he also had an academic career. He has a PhD in New Testament and Christian Origins from Cambridge University. He has held teaching or research posts in New Testament and early Christianity at the universities of Sheffield, Birmingham and Oxford. He is married to Linda, a violinist and violin teacher. They have a thirteen year old son, Michael. Darrell is an American and hails from Seattle. Linda is a Swede and her hometown is Skellefteå.

The Reverend Canon Peter Johnson Fellow, St George's House

Peter became a Fellow in November 2008. He retired the previous year after 17 years as Canon Treasurer of Bristol Cathedral, a post with responsibility for finance and fabric within the whole work of the Cathedral, and he was also Chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. He has a degree in Mathematics from Melbourne and in Theology from Oxford. Much of his ministry has included teaching those subjects, in educational institutions and ordination training courses, and he maintains his interests in these and other matters.

The Reverend Canon Martin Poll Canon Chaplain & Canon Precentor, College of St George

Martin was installed as a Canon of St Georges Chapel, in October 2012, having previously been Archdeacon for the Royal Navy. As Canon Chaplain he has responsibility for the Royal Chapel in the Great Park and pastoral care of the community there and in the Castle. In June 2014, The Queen appointed him as a Domestic Chaplain in Windsor. At Easter 2016 he was additionally appointed Canon Precentor. Martin was born and educated in Enfield, Middlesex, prior to reading English at the University of Kent at Canterbury (Christ Church College). After training for the Priesthood at Oxford (Ripon College, Cuddesdon), he served his title at John Keble Church, Mill Hill.