

Theology of Reconciliation

Monday, 2nd – Friday, 6th October 2023

Participant Biographies



The Reverend Ruth Adams

Ruth was ordained in 1997 to the Church of Ireland, moving to England in 2000 she has lived and worked in Cambridge ever since: as a college chaplain, the minister of a five denomination LEP and as a parish vicar in the city. For the last two years she has worked full time as a facilitator and mediator in conflict situations in charities and churches, work that she began in 2012. She has a MA in Peace and Reconciliation Studies.



The Reverend Graham Adamson

Graham currently serves in the Diocese of Lichfield as Vicar of Berkswich and Assistant Rural Dean of Stafford. Originally from Scotland, he moved to London to work for the National Maritime Museum on PORT (a maritime internet gateway), followed with 13 years as legal researcher in Allen & Overy LLP, interacting with lawyers, clients and data providers.

Ordained in 2014, he served his curacy in Bushey, St Albans Diocese, before moving to his current post. He is fascinated with finding ways to use the arts to bring people closer to God, each other, and themselves – especially in issues of mental and spiritual wholeness.



The Reverend Prebendary Terry Bloor

Following 20 years in project management, Terry was ordained in 2002. Soon thereafter, he became involved with their diocesan partnership with the Nordkirche (Ev. Lutheran Church in Northern Germany). The opportunity to work collaboratively for reconciliation with a European partner in the Gospel as 'reconciled reconcilers' appealed greatly, and still does. Some 10 years ago, he took a sabbatical to read more comprehensively around the theme and to visit various members of the Community of the Cross of Nails. This brought a greater appreciation of how the Church's ministry of reconciliation is worked out in diverse contexts. Nowadays, much of his ministry is focused upon parishes in which a 'living reconciliation' is prerequisite to effective, missional engagement.





The Reverend Michelle Dalliston

Michelle has been Vicar of Peterborough since March 2022 – currently an interim appointment based at the city centre Civic Church or St John the Baptist and a daughter church St Luke's to the north-west of the city. This is her fourth interim post and much of her parish experience has come from a call into ministry that is about healing and reconciliation – involving stabilising crisis situations, rebuilding trust and confidence, healing pastoral breakdown and re-engaging churches with their wider parish and community. Making sense of what has gone wrong in breakdown and finding how to move forward, take risks and relearn trust needs a praxis based on a theological underpinning of reconciliation and renewal.



The Reverend Rosy Fairhurst

Currently Vicar of St Augustine's & St Clement's in majority Muslim Bradford parishes, Rosy has also worked in multi-cultural parishes in London, at St Martin-in-the-Fields and at Leicester Cathedral as Canon Chancellor, with their own specific reconciliation challenges and opportunities. She was Director of Mission and Ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon and an Organisational Analyst for The Grubb Institute. In addition she has worked as a teacher and journalist. Her publications include Uncovering Sin SPCK 2011 and a chapter in Crossing Thresholds, SPCK 2019. She is interested in post-colonial and ethnic reconciliation especially in intercultural churches, interfaith relationships, feminist theology and liminality.



The Reverend Rachel Foster

Rachel is an assistant, self-supporting priest in Norwich Diocese. She came to ordained ministry late in life, having spent her working life in the police where she was trained in Restorative Practice and Hostage and Crisis Negotiating.

Her work in Restorative Practice involved working together with individuals and groups for whom relationships had broken down in crime or community situations. Her work in Negotiation, in relation to the Consultation topic, is the basis for her training and experience in Active Listening Skills.

Her professional experience led Rachel to become involved with the Diocesan Mediation Team of which she is now a working member.





The Reverend Dr Michelle Goodwin

Michelle is the Learning Manager for Ministry Development for Liverpool Diocese and takes responsibility within the Vocations Team for training and development opportunities for lay and ordained leaders. Michelle is working to develop a framework of learning that provides simple, staged ways for our leaders to continue to develop in the skills needed for mission and ministry in the future. She helps to support individuals and teams in embedding ongoing development of skills and understanding to be able to fulfil the missional priorities we are committed to as a Diocese. Alongside her diocesan role, Michelle is assistant curate at St Thomas, an Anglo-Catholic church in St Helens. She is married to Daniel, is Mum to a three-year old daughter and Dog-Mum to Bella the Cocker Spaniel!



The Reverend Mary Gregory

Mary was ordained in 2005, and served her curacy and first incumbency in the Diocese of Sheffield where she was also Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Dean of Women's Ministry. She then moved to the Diocese of Leicester as Team Rector and Rural Mission Enabler. In March 2023 she was installed at Coventry Cathedral as Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, where her primary focus is on fostering their vibrant arts programme to further journeys towards reconciliation, addressing questions of interfaith and inter-cultural justice and supporting our international reconciliation network, the Community of the Cross of Nails.

Before ordination she served as a Prison Governor, where she developed an interest in how people can be reconciled to themselves, and where, through a deployment to HMP Maze, she began to explore the possibilities of reconciliation in Northern Ireland, something they have explored at the Cathedral this year, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.



The Reverend Canon Matthew Hagan

Matthew is Church of Ireland Rector, Brackaville, Donaghendry and Ballyclog Group of Parishes, Coalisland and Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone. He was ordained in 2006 and graduated from Trinity College, Dublin with an MPhil in Reconciliation Studies in 2008. Canon Hagan is also Chaplain at the Southern Area Hospice in Newry, Co. Down - a post he has held for 14 years. From 2010 to 2022 he was Rector of a group of parishes on the Co. Armagh / Co. Monaghan border. He successfully applied for and received funding of just over £300,000 to build Middletown Parish Community Hall in a predominantly Catholic area where both sides of the community Protestant and Catholic come together and enhance community relations in this rural border area in N. Ireland.





The Reverend Robert Harrison

Rob grew up on the south coast of England, and was ordained in Winchester diocese after having served as a parish youth worker for three years in Coventry. In curacy and his succeeding post, Rob combined parish ministry with a specialism in communications, first in BBC radio, then in diocesan communications in London.

During two periods of incumbency in London, Rob discovered a passion for developing lay ministry, while turning his communications experience to writing novels.

Now, as Director of Ministry in Coventry, Rob's key focus is on developing lay ministry training (with attention to Coventry's historic identity as a City and Diocese of Reconciliation). Rob's base in the Coventry Diocesan Offices directly is across the road from the church where he served as a youth worker in the 1980s.

When not working, Rob plays saxophone, piano (in private), and looks forward to summer holidays spent sea-kayaking in Pembrokeshire.



The Reverend Canon Martyn Hawkes

Martyn is the Vicar of St Gabriel, Aldersbrook in East London (Chelmsford Diocese) and Area Dean of Redbridge where he has been for the past 12 years. He has been involved in reconciliation work in the Diocese as part of a team trained to work in inter-personal mediation, working with conflict between key individuals in parishes. He has also recently served as part-time interim priest for 18 months in a parish following significant conflict. His experience and expertise is very much practical, and he looks forward to deepening his theological understanding through the course.



The Reverend David Hopkin

David was born in Nottingham. He left school at 16 to work in industry and then left home to enter Theological college in Birmingham at the age of 24, and getting married to Bethan in the same year. They have been married for 32 years and have four children.

He works for the Sheffield Diocese, as a Team Rector, responsible for five churches within his own area/parish but also as Area Dean with pastoral and administrative responsibilities for clergy and parishes within a deanery. He has an MA in Theology and Education from the University of Wales which he completed in 2014. He works alongside both lay and ordained women and men of different traditions. They work hard together and mostly succeed in working together harmoniously.





The Reverend Marc Lloyd

Marc is the Rector of Warbleton, Bodle Street Green & Dallington (Diocese of Chichester); Rural Dean of Dallington; Book reviews editor for The Global Anglican theological journal.



The Reverend Tuomas Mäkipää

Tuomas is a Church of England priest of Finnish Lapland origin. His ministry has been mainly in Helsinki where he has led the restructuring of the Anglican community. This has included wide ecumenical work and leading change where the community of mainly UK and US citizens now welcomes more than twenty different nationalities and offers services in English, Arabic, Urdu and Finnish.

Recently, the war in Ukraine and Russia's demands for establishing a sphere of interest have affected his ministry, also.



The Reverend Jane Maycock

Jane was born and brought up in Coventry, spent a year working in Pakistan, then went to Somerville College Oxford, reading English and then Theology. She trained for ministry at Cranmer Hall, St. John's College in Durham where she appreciated both the privileges that Durham has to offer in university and cathedral, and the benefits of exploring the wider context of the north-east of England. Ordained deacon in 1992 she served her curacy in Wealdstone and Harrow Weald, north west London, and was amongst the first women to be ordained priest in April 1994.

The move to Cumbria came in 1995 when she and her husband moved to job-share a second curacy post in Kendal. Since then she has served in various capacities in the diocese of Carlisle: as a DDO, a tutor for those training for both ordained and lay ministries, and as part of the central 'God For All' team working with churches to develop ecumenical Mission Communities, a core part of the ecumenical vision and strategy. She has undertaken an interim chaplaincy at Rydal Hall, worked as a freelance writer and is currently an interim team vicar in the Cartmel Peninsula Team. She is in the process of completing a DThM thesis (Doctor of Theology and Ministry) for the university of Durham. She has been a member of the Bishop's Council since early 2017 and a member of General Synod since November 2021. James and Jane have four mostly adult children (and a West Highland terrier). Hobbies include singing, walking, gardening, and occasionally playing the clarinet.





The Reverend Brian Ralph

Brian trained for Ordination at St Stephen's House, Oxford. He has been ordained since 1992. Since 1995 his ministry has been in the East End of London, for the last 22 years at St Barnabas Bethnal Green. He has been involved in leading groups to Palestine/Israel over that period of time, and was a member of a FODIP (Forum for Discussion of Israel & Palestine) group who travelled there to engage with Jews, Christians & Muslims. As school chaplain to a local secondary school he also took sixth form students and staff to the West Bank. He is an examining chaplain for the Stepney Episcopal Area and a bank chaplain at the Royal London & Bart's NHS Trust.



The Reverend Dr Elizabeth Ratcliffe

Liz is the Rector of St Michael's Church, Tilehurst (on the edge of Reading), where she has been since 2018, and also serves as an Associate Area Dean for Reading. She came relatively late to ministry, having started her working life as a research biologist specialising in tropical parasites, and subsequently enjoyed a career in the then Ministry of Agriculture. Her background has fuelled a particular interest in environmental theology and the interface between science and faith.



The Reverend Diane Ryan

Diane is a parish priest who believes that reconciliation is a significant part of God's call, and she longs for the church to be a sign of God's reconciliation in the world. She is deeply committed to ecumenism, and to the possibilities for using ecumenical methodology internally within denominations, and has written on Interchurch Families and Receptive Ecumenism, and on Mutual Flourishing and Receptive Ecumenism. She is also involved in Diocesan links with the Lutheran church in Germany.



The Reverend Phil Saltmarsh

Phil was born and bred in Liverpool. He has been married to Jane for 30 years and they have two lads, Chris (27) & Matty (25) and a dog called Rocky (15). Before being ordained in The Church of England in 2011, he worked as a nurse for 24 years mainly in Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care and completed an MA in The Ethics of End of Life Care at Keele University in 2003. End of life conversations with medical teams, patients and families and some time spent as a counter clerk in an inner city housing office gave me experience and some skills in dealing with conflict and reconciliation. This has continued in ordained ministry and the parishes he has served. He has also undertaken the Bridge Builders Residential and been involved in facilitating some training around conflict transformation for parishes, clergy and laity.



From 2014 - 2019 he served in All Saints Parish Kensington, an inner city parish in Liverpool. Since 2019 he has served as Rector in St Aidan with All Saints Parish, Speke, an outer city council estate in South Liverpool and also as Bishop's Planning Officer since 2020. In August 2023 he was also appointed Priest in Charge for the Hunts Cross and Halewood Team.

He loves the subservient humour and social messages of graffiti artists like Banksy. A couple of favourite phrases are "always be yourself, unless you can be batman, then be batman.." and the second is 'let your faith, be bigger than your fears..' except when it comes to Loofahs.. He has a morbid fear of Loofah's...otherwise he's a pretty average bloke.



The Reverend Mike Sermon

Mike was born in Birmingham and ordained in 1999 following a career in banking. He has been a parish priest, oversight minister and area dean for a range of diverse parishes, including those with a significant element of ministry with other faith communities. His interest is in conflict resolution within pastoral relationships and parish contexts. His current role as area dean involves restructuring and change management. He is a remarried divorcee with a German spouse and three adult children.



The Reverend Canon Karen Smeeton

Karen was born and raised in Yorkshire (Huddersfield, West Riding) and read Law at the University of Hull before a calling to the priesthood and subsequent training at Cuddesdon. She was ordained in Manchester Cathedral 21 years ago and has spent her whole ministry in the Diocese of Manchester - albeit on the side where it's easy to get to Yorkshire. She met her husband at Cuddesdon, who is now the Director of Vocations and Director of Strategy in the Diocese and they have one daughter about to start year 10. She has been the full time Area Dean of Rochdale for just over two years and is enjoying the element of strategic planning and oversight the role brings.



Facilitator Biographies

Joshua Blanchard is a Postgraduate researcher Tutor at the University of Aberdeen and instructor at Columbia International University. He received a BS in Philosophy and Biblical Studies from Columbia International University and an MA in Philosophy and Theology from Talbot School of Theology. His research interests include ethics and political philosophy, personal identity, classical and early medieval philosophy, and philosophical theology. He is the host of The Augustine Podcast and currently writing his doctoral thesis: Personhood and Politics: Augustinian Anthropology in Liberal Democracy.

Rahel Siebald (MA, Giessen, Germany) is a Postgraduate researcher in Theological Ethics at the University of Aberdeen. Her doctoral thesis A Forgotten History of Leadership asks how the development of human resource management has changed our thinking about what it means to be the church today. Rahel is interested in questions about history and repentance, ethical questions around economics, and the intertwinement of sociology and theology. She has taught ethics to undergraduate students and facilitated a postgraduate seminar on questions surrounding abuse in theology and church. Rahel is actively involved in her local church and loves to pray, work and ask theological questions alongside people from all walks of life.

Corey Tuttle is a Postgraduate researcher in Systematic Theology at the University of Aberdeen. His research interests include Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth, Christology, soteriology, and eschatology. Corey is the host of The Bonhoeffer Podcast and The Karl Barth Podcast, where he interviews leading scholars in Bonhoeffer and Barth studies about their work. He is currently writing his dissertation on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's universal soteriology.

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.

