

# Nurturing our Growth as Ministers

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## Participants' Biographies



### **The Reverend Canon Mark Collinson**

Mark was ordained in 1998 at the age of 30 after a short career in international management consulting. His first incumbency was as Chaplain of Christ Church in Amsterdam, during which time they planted two culturally diverse congregations. He studied at the Vrije University leading to a doctorate in missional ecclesiology in which he viewed the nature of the church through an apostolic lens. In 2015 he returned to the UK as Canon Principal, a residentiary canon in Winchester Cathedral and team leader of the Winchester School of Mission, responsible for vocations, training (part of a TEI) of ordinands and laity, CMD, curates and spirituality. This evolved into his current role as Director of Ministry in 2021.



### **The Reverend Andrew Corness**

Prior to ordination Andrew spent 5-years teaching at a Comprehensive in Taunton. In September 2004 he joined the Royal Navy as a Chaplain. Since joining the RN he has been privileged to have four separate seagoing appointments, travelling to many parts of the world, including two trips to the Antarctic.

He has also worked in various shore appointments: Faslane in Scotland, HMNB Portsmouth, HMS Collingwood, RNAS Culdrose, HMS Raleigh, Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre at Shrivenham and HMNB Devonport.

Andrew lives in Devon, is married to Deborah and they have two girls aged 19 and 17.



### **The Reverend Benjamin Drury**

Ben grew up in Richmond, Yorkshire, and spent most summers in Greece in his Godparent's village. At Worcester College, Oxford he read Ancient and Modern History, and Byzantine Studies; then continued exploring his vocation as Pastoral Assistant of St Michael's and St Paul's, Brighton. Ben was two years Pilgrimage Course Assistant at St George's College, Jerusalem before returning to Oxford to read Theology at St Stephen's House. His Curacy was in Oxford Diocese, first in Stony Stratford (a mixed experience) then in New Hinksey near the city centre. Since 2019 Ben has been Priest in Charge of St Luke's Prittlwell and in addition this last year of St Mary's Benfleet.





### **The Reverend Will Gibbons**

Since February 2023 Will has served as Vicar of St Andrew's, a church with a rich missional history, located in Clubmoor, on the outskirts of Liverpool city centre. St Andrew's is part the *Fit for Mission* programme in Liverpool Diocese, joining with neighbouring churches in West Derby deanery to prioritise introducing people to Jesus, deepening discipleship, developing Christian leaders and working for justice in a new single larger parish. Previously he was based in Wigan for nearly ten years, throughout the Transforming Wigan project. He wants to take forward all that he learnt in Wigan but also find space for creativity, innovation and wisdom to perceive what God is doing next.



### **The Reverend Todd Hallman**

Todd is originally from Belmont, North Carolina. He accepted a call into ministry when he was a senior in high school. He has a BA degree in Religious Studies and Philosophy from Gardner-Webb University, a MTS degree from Duke University, and an MDiv from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He married the love of his life in 1999 following his graduation from college. Tabatha and Todd have two children: Anderson (17) and Abigail (12). Tabatha is a licensed social worker, and they have been serving churches over the last 25 years in North Carolina, Louisiana, South Carolina and Tennessee. He has been serving First Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Tennessee for the last 10 years, and he continues to look forward to their ministry together.



### **The Reverend Danie Lindley**

Danie is a Priest in charge of two parishes in the heart of Gateshead, North East England. She was ordained in 2015 at Durham Cathedral. She has been a Primary school teacher prior to ordination and continued while serving her Curacy in Chester Le Street. Danie trained for ordination through a regional training partnership while working full time as a teacher and being a wife and mother. In 2018 she left full time teaching in July (after 25 years) and was licensed to the parishes of Gateshead Fell and Windy Nook in October 2018. Her focus in parish for the past five years has been to develop discipleship, build on the work already in place for children in the parishes and develop work with youth. She looks forward to exploring what her next focus should be both personally and for the parishes.



### **The Reverend Sarah Lloyd**

Sarah is the Vicar of the Parish of Shalford & Peasmarsh near Guildford in the Diocese of Guildford. She has been in post here for four years, previously in Basingstoke Town Centre Churches, and she served her curacy in Old Basing (Winchester Diocese), and trained for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon. Before ordination (approx ten years ago), she had a career in academic book publishing and was the Publisher for Theology & Religious Studies at Ashgate publishers, and before that at Routledge.





### **The Reverend Tracy Marshall**

Tracy is the Rector in a benefice of four churches and six schools in the Diocese of Manchester. She has been in her current post for just over four years and for the past two years has been a training incumbent. Her background is in primary teaching and as an Inclusion Manager and SENDCo.



### **The Reverend Claire McArthur**

Claire is currently Area Dean and Rector of Stoke St Michael's Coventry, this is one of the poorer deaneries of the Coventry Diocese. She has been ordained for the last seven years after having a good career with the BBC and within the charity and higher education sectors. She is married and has three children, who are now young adults.

Last year Claire faced a hard year within ministry both on a professional and personal level. She is now at a stage where she needs to determine where her next move, if there is to be a move, will be and needs help reflecting on God's call on her life.



### **The Venerable Robert Miller**

Robert is a committed church leader, with over 25 years' experience at various levels of ministry in the Church of Ireland; Archdeacon of Derry since 2012; member of the Standing Committee of the General Synod until 2022; 25 years' experience as Rector of three different parish groups; active in conflict resolution in both church and community contexts; experience of mediation to resolve contentious parades; experience of building relationships with Government (UK and Republic of Ireland); active ecumenist; experience of working with international psychological (EMDR) trauma specialists planning teaching; confident media performer; published author. Personal priorities in ministry: mission; discipleship; community engagement; peacebuilding; ecumenism; leadership.



### **The Reverend Canon Alex Morahan**

Alex was ordained in 1989 as a priest in the Roman Catholic faith and worked as a missionary priest in South Africa until 2001.

In the past ten years he has trained as a hospital chaplain, been licensed in the Church of Ireland, and worked in Dublin as part of the Church of Ireland chaplaincy team.

In 2019 he became chaplain in Kilkenny College and has only recently been appointed rector of Killala.

Much of his work in ministry has been engaged in mental health support.





### **The Reverend Neville Naidoo**

Neville has worked as a priest in the Diocese of Johannesburg, South Africa, since his ordination in 2013. He is also the Priory Dean of the Order of St John. Throughout his career; which spans some thirty five years, his work has centered on community development and education; primarily in schools, churches and non-profit organisations. Much of which relates to human dignity activism, raising awareness about particular social issues and working with children at risk.

Prior to arriving in the UK to take up a post as University Chaplain four months ago, he worked at a youth retreat centre where he mentored a group of young adults who come from backgrounds of trauma and economic deprivation.

He received his BA degree in Fine Art from the University of Durban-Westville and a B.Theology degree at St. Augustine College. He also studied at The College of the Transfiguration. He is married to Brendon, a teacher who has worked in South Africa, the UK, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.



### **The Reverend Richard Parkinson**

Richard grew up in Northern Ireland and has lived on the mainland UK since 2002. Prior to ordination he worked as a manager across several different industries including the Christian book trade, IT and telephony, banking and within the charity sector. Richard is married to Sarah, and they have three teenage children. Some of Richard's interests include crocheting, brewing and wine making, and fantasy fiction. Richard was ordained in 2010 and is currently serving and Rector of St Michael and All Angels in Cherry Burton, Priest-in-Charge of Etton with Dalton Holme, Chaplain to Bishop Burton College, and Area Dean of Beverley.



### **The Reverend Mark Perry**

Mark is a Church of England priest with a diverse background in military, education, and ministry. He has a strong passion for the armed forces and has served in various roles. He has also held positions in schools, city and rural churches, and cathedrals, taking on additional responsibilities in interfaith relations and ecumenical work. Perry is currently serving as a Chaplain to the Royal Air Force, being posted to an array of Stations and deployed on international exercises and operations and contributed to research projects. He is currently the Resident Chaplain of the Central Church of the RAF, Westminster.





### **The Reverend Janet Pitman**

Janet is a vicar in the diocese of Manchester. Her benefice comprises two churches, two church schools and two churchyards. She is one of six Diocesan pastoral supervisors and a Mission Community leader.

She has a degree in electroacoustic engineering which she has never used and another in European humanities, which was for fun. She trained for ordination part time over three years with All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry. She has been ordained for eight and a half years, all spent in Manchester where her family are. She is a pastor at heart.

Janet is married with two sons, both currently fledging, and a couple of family members who need some support. She loves music and knits socks for relaxation.



### **The Reverend Dr Charles Ramsey**

Charles (PhD Birmingham) is Associate Chaplain of Baylor University (Texas, USA). He coordinates religious activities for students and serves as a mentor to campus ministers. He is a specialist in the history of South Asia and Christian-Muslim relations. Prior to Baylor, the Ramseys served in Pakistan for almost 20 years in community development and university administration. A baptist minister, Charles is involved in several ecumenical and inter-faith forums. He is particularly interested in helping young fiery evangelicals and charismatics to sustain faith during transitions into new phases of life's journey and to discover and redeem the riches of tradition.



### **The Reverend Ann Richardson**

Ann has been the Area Dean of Aston & Sutton Coldfield in Birmingham diocese since 2019. Prior to that, she was a vicar in the Medway Towns and Area Dean of Gillingham. She comes from a large urban estate in South-East London and issues of housing, homelessness and deprivation are still close to her heart.



### **The Reverend Pip Salmon**

Pip has been ordained for 25 years following a career in Personal Financial Services. Having served in a remote rural setting and a seaside town, he has for almost six years been based in Pitsmoor, a multi-cultural deprived area of Sheffield with a fascinating and vibrant history. We are in the 2% most deprived parishes in the country. It is challenging, hard work, rewarding and fun.

He is also Area Dean.

Married to Ali with four grown up children and a new grandson. He likes to enjoy the outdoors and talk all things political and green.





### **The Reverend Chris Spittle**

While being a southerner by birth (born in Watford in 1974), Chris saw the light and headed north in 1992 for a Theology degree at Durham University. In 1995 he moved to Liverpool Diocese as a Lay-Assistant at St Andrew's, Clubmoor. After ordination training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, he returned to Liverpool, serving first as Assistant Curate at St Oswald's, Netherton (99-03), then as Team Rector of Sutton (03-11) before becoming Priest-in-Charge of St Paul's, Skelmersdale (11-present). Since 2022 he has also been Area Dean of Ormskirk. He is unsure that he can claim an area of expertise, as he loves the breadth of parish ministry.



### **The Reverend Canon Jane Vaughan-Wilson**

Jane's life and ministry have been profoundly shaped by her background and upbringing. Growing up in a working class family with no religious interests she discovered church for herself aged 10 years. This shaped a desire to study philosophy and religion. She won a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, met her husband Colin, moved to York. Her husband is a singer and now a psychotherapist. In York she was sponsored by the Minster for training in Durham. After ordination as a Deacon in 1989, she became a curate and Deacon/Priest in charge of parishes in Middlesbrough.

Her daughter India was born in 1992. When she was three years old they moved back to Hampshire to be closer to family and she worked in parish ministry in Basingstoke.

Throughout her life and from her earliest memory Jane has drawn and painted. It has been a persistent avocation. In 2002, already selling art in Cornwall, she decided to leave parish ministry, not something she ever thought she would do and they moved to Penzance. Life changed.

Initially she worked as a full-time artist and then added to this lecturing in Counselling studies. Counselling training was also interwoven into her story since her early 20's. Subsequently she began to work as a consultant for the then Bishop of Truro. It was this work which led to Jane becoming Director of Ordinands, 11 years ago. Over time, she has done less and less painting and has become a full-time employee of the diocese.



### **The Reverend Sue Walker**

Sue is an SSM and the sole priest at St Margaret's Prestwich, Manchester. She is currently training a Curate and supervising an Ordinand. The agreement is that she works for four days a week term time. We have been in interregnum for 20 months and expect to soon share a vicar with another parish. She volunteers at HMP Manchester as a counsellor (one morning per week) and she trains Franciscan tertiary novices. She was ordained in 2018, has a diploma in counselling and taught mathematics.

Sue is married with two adult children and they spend much of their holidays with their grandchildren.





### **The Reverend Canon Donna Williams**

Donna has been a parish priest in Manchester Diocese since 2000 and 13 years in her parish. Alongside this for the last two years she has also been mission community leader for Radcliffe and Whitefield, this includes seven parishes and nine churches. Most of these churches have been in interregnum so she set up task groups around their diocesan principles of growing, nurturing and serving. Most of the members are a lay representative from each church as she did not have clergy to work with. For the last three months she has also been Acting Area Dean for the Bury & Rossendale deanery (35 parishes). She will take this up as a permanent full time position in January.



### **The Reverend Sheena Williams**

Sheena is currently the Rector of a parish of three very different churches on the northern edge of Southampton in Winchester Diocese and has been in post here for exactly seven years. She has been Area Dean of Southampton Deanery, and is involved in a number of Diocesan projects, including their School of Mission. She particularly enjoys being involved in vocations work and is a Bishops' Adviser in the Diocese and on national panels.

Sheena's first degree was in law and a very long time ago, she was a solicitor and notary public in Glasgow with a Legal Aid litigation practice. She is married with two adult children and a crazy golden doodle, and in spare time she enjoys concerts, theatre and walks on the beach with the dog.



### **The Reverend (Wing Commander) Edward Wynn**

Eddie spent his childhood in the rural market town of Wymondham Norfolk. He trained as a Nurse in Norwich from 1984 and nursed in Critical Care in Norwich, London, and Yorkshire, appointed Charge Nurse in 1996. Ordained in 2001 appointed assistant curate in Emley and Flockton West Yorkshire.

In August 2004 Eddie joined the RAF as Chaplain, serving at various locations UK and overseas. Awarded MBE in 2011 for his work with patients and families at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham.

In 2012 Eddie left the RAF, working as University Chaplain in Wolverhampton, later appointed to the Governing Body of the University, and working part-time at Birmingham Women's Hospital. In 2015 Eddie re-joined the RAF and now serves at RAF Marham. He is due to retire military service in 2025.

Eddie enjoys walking, cycling and running, as well as playing tuba. A member of the Third Order Society of St Francis and serves on the Armed forces Synod.



## Speaker & Facilitator Biographies

### Chris Blakeley

Chris is the founding Director of Waverley Learning, and runs their highly respected leadership development practice. He has run retreats and development programmes for the Anglican Bishops, The Salvation Army, PwC, NHS, Saga, McLaren Racing, Pret A Manger, Syngenta and many more. The continual theme of his work over twenty years has been combining ancient retreat practices and contemporary psychology/sociology to help leaders appreciate and handle the human aspects of change and growth – in themselves and others. He helps people access and action their deeper insight and energy so that they are leading the system rather than it leading them. Chris also established the Crossroads Retreats Charity to provide space for people at difficult Crossroads in Life and runs the Waverley Learning Community, which provides monastic retreats for people in professional life. He is a Benedictine Oblate, a trained counsellor and Spiritual Director.

### Karen Stefanyzyn

Karen is a certified Integral Coach who has held senior global roles in Organisation Development, Leadership Development, and Talent within a FTSE top 50 company. She began her career in youth work and was a member of the YMCA National Executive. For the past 8 years, she has been building a unique coaching practice enabling senior and emerging leaders to achieve sustained levels of functioning they had not thought possible in today's pressurised world of work. Karen's work is aimed at achieving long-term excellence, inviting people to sense the world as it really is today and to work creatively with complexity and ambiguity, preparing to deal with situations they cannot even anticipate yet. She is a Director of Waverley Learning, a Trustee of 'Crossroads Retreats', a Lay member of the Methodist Ministries Committee and a Non Exec Director at Methodist Central Hall Westminster.

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

The Reverend Dr Hueston Finlay 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. Later he served as Dean of Chapel, Director of Studies in Theology, and Tutor at Magdalene College Cambridge. He 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. He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen where he studies the connections between Schleiermacher and Barth. He also has an association with the University of Jerusalem and is a member of the Irish Theological Association.

