

Biographies



The Reverend Canon Paul Arthur

Paul is a Parish Priest in three parishes and Acting Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Truro where he has spent the whole of his ordained ministry, Prior to ordination he taught and led in tertiary education. He trained for the Priesthood at St Stephens House. He has a particular interest in Canon/Ecclesiastical Law and is looking to personally reflecting on how it impacts on the way in which we speak about God.



The Venerable Stella Bailey

After a career as a police officer in Coventry Stella was ordained in 2009 in the Diocese of Coventry where she undertook her ministry in various urban and town settings. Within ministry she found her passion to be in reshaping and renewing church life to be contextually appropriate to preach the gospel afresh to 'this' generation. Now in the former mining communities of the Gwent Valleys as an Archdeacon, she holds the mission brief for the diocese with a specific focus on church planting and new congregations, the environment, equality and diversity and social justice. She is passionate about how we shape church in accordance with the world outlook of differing generations.



The Reverend Nicholas Bowry

Nick worked in Human Resources from 1979 to 2016, in the public and charity sectors and in a more general managerial role for The Tor Christian Nursing Home. In his career he worked in operational, policy and strategic roles. Interests in strengths-based approaches to change, Appreciative Inquiry and Asset-Based Community Development. At the Tor he learnt a lot about dementia and caring for the terminally-ill. Widowed in 2008, his wife died of cancer.

Ordained 2016, curacy in a socially deprived area of Aberdeen. Since 2019, Rector of St James the Less, Penicuik, Midlothian and St Mungo's West Linton in the Scottish Borders. He is a member and Trustee of the Iona Community.



The Reverend Matthew Burns

Matthew is currently serving as a Team Vicar in the Rectoral Benefice of Leominster, this is a rural ministry based around the market town of Leominster in the Diocese of Hereford. Before this he served in North Wales; in the Wrexham Team Ministry, and in the coastal parish of Towyn and Kinmel Bay (described, unflatteringly, by Bill Bryson as 'caravan hell').

He is interested in the rural Church, and how it engages with the communities it serves; as well as how theology has a part to play in public moral/ethical debates.

Before ordination he attempted to study Philosophy and worked in hospitality.



The Reverend Canon Ian Coulter

Ian has been a Non-Stipendiary Minister in the Church of Ireland since 1999, having been a Parish Reader for 14 years previously.

He worked with the National Rehabilitation Board from 1978 to 2000 and with the Citizens Information Board from 2000 until he retired in 2019.

Once retired, Ian was appointed Priest-in-Charge of Templemore Union of Parishes and in 2020 was appointed as a Canon of St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny.

He is married to Daphne and they have two adult children, Rian and Ailbhe. He has been involved in the voluntary sector in Kilkenny since he came here in 1979. Key roles include being Chairperson of Kilkenny Arts Festival, President of St Canice's Credit Union, Chairperson of the Good Shepherd Centre Kilkenny (a hostel for the homeless) and he is currently Chairperson of Kilkenny Archaeological Society.



The Reverend Suzanne Cousins

Suzanne is a parish priest in the Church of Ireland with a special interest in inter faith dialogue. She is Inter Faith Adviser to the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, convenes the COI's Inter Faith Working Group, and is author of *Generous Love in Multi-faith Ireland* (2017). She grew up in rural Co. Down, went to school in Belfast, and graduated in Education from Queens University Belfast (1985). She worked as a primary school teacher and as an at-home mum in earlier years, in Co. Down, Dublin and Pretoria. She was ordained priest in 2016. She served for three years as Bishop's Curate in the Moville Group of Parishes, on the Wild Atlantic Way, Diocese of Derry & Raphoe, then as rector of the Benburb Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Armagh for four years, before being instituted to serve in her present Aughaval Parishes (United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe) in the West, also on the Wild Atlantic Way.



The Reverend Lucas Dorion

Lucas serves as the Coordinator of the Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. His work with Alabama CBF includes providing connection and resources for ministers and churches in his state. This involves cultivating relationships with both lay and clergy leadership of congregations and building both discipleship and mission experiences for their partner churches. The 30 churches that partner with Alabama CBF are united in the historic baptist identity but they fall on a broad spectrum of theological and political positions. Finding common ground that allows for collaborative work is at the core of Reverend Dorion's work and the mission of Alabama CBF.



The Reverend Raphael Duckett

Prior to Ordination Raphael had a career in industry working in Marketing, Sales and Finance with experience of the Industrial Gas Industry, Financial Services, Private healthcare and automotive markets.

Post Ordination after a curacy in Telford, he had an Incumbency for 13 years in an Urban Priority Area in Wolverhampton. The Church had extensive youth work and social outreach ministries and he oversaw the redevelopment of the Church Buildings costing almost half a million pounds.

Whilst in Parish Ministry he was a Sea Cadet Chaplain that led him into becoming a Royal Navy Reserve Chaplain and finally a full time Chaplain. He has served at Sea on Ships and in shore based establishments.



The Reverend Brenda Forrester

Brenda is a wife, mother, nature lover, vicar of St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick. Her incumbency follows curacy impacted by pandemic and vacancy. Her learning: ongoing and rapid; her reliance on God: essential.

She came to faith at 36 and endeavours to live as a Christian, (including now the shepherding of church) using scripture and the still, small voice as her main guides. The formational journey to ordination afforded church placements, complementing life experienced before knowing Christ, studying and working in the fields of science, social care, counselling, the prison service and the arts. This journey offers deep variety and richness of experience, when speaking about God.



The Reverend Dr Richard Frith

Richard is Canon Precentor of Southwell Minster, the cathedral church for Nottinghamshire. He was previously a parish priest in Halifax and a curate in Oxford. In the more distant past, he completed a PhD at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, on medievalism in Pre-Raphaelite poetry. He retains an academic interest in the interaction of literature and theology, as well as in Eucharistic theology and the history and practice of liturgy. He is married to Emma, an artistic hand embroiderer, and they have one son.



The Reverend Barry Jackson

Barry has been the Rector of the Edgehill Churches for 14 years - a group of six rural churches in South Warwickshire.

Currently he is a member of Bishop's Council in Coventry Diocese and serves on various Diocesan finance and strategy groups.

He has written various 'pre-alpha' courses, developed their own enquirers course, and in the last year has been experimenting with a new digital platform (their own App) providing a combination of a microlearning library and social media.

He loves engaging in Ignatian reflection and has written up some reflections that have been shared across the diocese and further afield.



The Reverend Matthew Jackson

Matthew is currently Rector of Attleborough with Besthorpe in the Diocese of Norwich where he has been in post since 2010. Attleborough is a market town with a population of around 12,000 and is growing rapidly with a proposed 4,000 new homes being built over the next decade or so. Besthorpe is an adjoining village with a population of. The two parishes were joined together around 50 years ago. Matthew has been Rural Dean for 12 of the last 14 years.

Previously Matthew was previously Curate of King's Lynn Minister before becoming Vicar of Pembury near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. Before ordination he worked for the Mission to Seafarers in Southampton where he met his wife, Emma. They have two children, aged 12 and 13.



The Reverend Derek Kerr

Derek has been ordained almost 34 years in the Church of Ireland. He served a curacy in Belfast that was both inner city and suburban, followed by a second on the shore of Belfast Lough.

He was raised on a small dairy and pig farm when his country was experiencing the worst of the "troubles". Therefore, a parish in Co. Fermanagh where many, with a similar upbringing, suffered loss from terrorist attack and a second in a provincial town with paramilitary involvement, together with his curacy's, allows for some contribution to today's church where extremism and free speech could be problematic.



The Reverend Iain Lothian

Although from Scottish roots, Iain was born in New Delhi and has worked in England for most of his life, teaching English. He was ordained in Sheffield in 2005, and his first parish involved bringing an Anglican and Methodist church together. He is presently Rector at St James Leith, Edinburgh, which focuses on the Arts and working with those in recovery.

He is married to Fiona who works as a psychotherapist, working with refugees, and has two sons, one of whom has graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds whilst the other is studying History at Manchester University.



The Reverend Hannah Mears

Hannah is Director of Licensed Lay Ministry training for the South West Ministry Training Course and Vocations Advisor for Exeter Diocese. She was raised in Plymouth and studied theology at Durham where in her MA she explored the self-esteem within the Church. This generated a long-term interest in pastoral psychology and leadership. She was a support worker for previously homeless men in Edinburgh before training for ordination at Trinity College Bristol. Following ordination in 2008 he served curacies in Bristol and Cornwall, and was vicar of a church in Rugby, before returning to the South West in 2017.



The Reverend Melanie Otto

Melanie is the Vicar of St Agnes in St Paul's and Priest in Charge of St Annes, Eastville, in inner-city Bristol. She served her curacy in Wiltshire and did part of her theological studies at Trinity College, Bristol, and ordination training at Sarum College, Salisbury.

Since being in Bristol, she has become increasingly involved in racial justice issues as St Agnes is home to many descendants of the Windrush generation. She sits on the Cathedral's Racial Justice Advisory Group and is a member of the Reconciled Church Network which supports churches who are interested in reconciliation in the area of racial justice.



The Reverend Brad Page

Brad holds a BA from Jacksonville State University (Alabama) and an M.Div from The University of the South (Tennessee). Ordained in 1994, Father Brad has served parishes in Alabama, Florida, and the UK. From 2000-2005 he was Chaplain to The Florida State University and Canon for College Ministries in the Diocese of Florida. Since 2006 he has worked full-time for The Walt Disney Company, where he is the Production Manager for Communication Strategy. In addition to his work at Disney, he is a priest in The Anglican Church in North America and serves as Rector of St. Nicholas Anglican Church in Kissimmee, Florida.



The Reverend Tomos Reed

Tomos was ordained in June 2019 after training for ministry at Westcott House. During curacy, he completed an MA in Religion with a particular focus on biblical studies. He became Vicar of Holy Saviour Croydon in February 2023, one of the most deprived parishes in South London. His broader experience within the Church includes membership of the Croydon Episcopal Area Racial Justice Group, Diocesan Synod, and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. He is a Diocesan Vocations Advisor and also has a strong interest in clergy wellbeing. Before ordination, he was a housemaster, a physics teacher and a rowing coach at The Leys School in Cambridge.



The Reverend Mary Rolls

Mary is a Pioneer priest, having trained in the normal track for ministry at Cranmer Hall but then being called to serve in a pioneer curacy. She has been in her first post for five years, in the Multiply project in the Diocese of York. This is funded by SMIB to create new worshipping communities particularly to attract the 20-40s to faith and regular worship. She is also Area Dean for Mowbray Deanery, working at the moment with the strategic development of their Deanery Plan and a big pastoral reorganisation involving about 75% of the deanery!

She is not sure she would claim a particular area of expertise related to the conversations we will be having (very excited about these!) but her ministerial experience has been particularly geared towards mission, outreach and community engagement.



The Reverend Neil Shaw

Neil is a parish priest in the Diocese of Lincoln. He is originally from Sussex and before ordination he worked in education firstly in Sussex and then in London. He grew up as a Christian in the Baptist church and found his way through to the liberal catholic tradition of the Church of England. He enjoys reading, running, swimming, the gym and walking his dog Dougal in his spare time.



The Reverend Angie Smith

Angie is the vicar of St John's Hartley Wintney, St Mary's Winchfield and All Saints Dogmersfield in the Diocese of Winchester and she is married with two adult children.

She grew up in East Africa and Hampshire and qualified as an architect in her mid 20s, practicing for 16 years before she went to work as a lay pastor in her local church. This journey took her through a brief spell in educational building research.

Angie is a creative person, big picture thinker, deeply inspired by scripture and the story of God's love for humanity. She loves to grow things; people, plants, ideas, possibilities and walk her spaniel, Finn, where her thoughts have space to grow. She is familiar with being the only woman in the room but finds herself in the unusual position of leading an all-female clergy team.



The Reverend Canon Becky Stephens

Becky taught maths in Birmingham for seven years before being ordained in 2014 and has remained in the diocese ever since. She is currently the incumbent of two parishes in the town of Sutton Coldfield. Here, she is involved in Interfaith dialogue as well as civic engagement.

Becky is also the Bishop of Birmingham's Adviser in Women's Ministry. She has held this role for seven years and is passionate about enabling women to live out their vocations. She recently completed an MA in Theology, focusing particularly on women's experience of worship within the Church of England.



The Reverend Chrys Tremththamor

Born in California to German parents, Chrys grew up living in two different cultures and languages. In 1988 she emigrated to England. After fifteen years in finance, she trained for ministry in the Church in Wales and was ordained in 2006. In 2016 she became Clergy Training Officer for Peterborough Diocese. Her MPhil was in 'Fowler's Stages of Faith' but most of her lecturing has been in Christian Ethics. She is currently interested in institutional/structural sin which can include prejudice and historical abuses of power. Her hobbies are fiction writing, travel, and photography, and she lives with a small parrot called Tilly.



The Reverend Julie Willmot

Julie's early working life was spent in a variety of roles for a bank in London for nine years, followed by 13 years as a full-time mum and a further 14 years as an Early Years Practitioner in Primary Education.

She has been in full time ministry as Priest-in-Charge of three rural parishes within the Church of England for five years. Prior to this she was licenced to two of these parishes and a neighbouring town centre civic church for three years as Part-Time Assistant Curate. She is a Training Incumbent, a Vocations Advisor, and a Deanery Wellbeing Representative.

Facilitators

The Reverend Canon Dr Hueston Finlay Canon, College of St George and 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.

**The Reverend Dr Darrell Hannah
Rector, All Saints' Church, Ascot Heath**

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 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.