

'Dwelling in the Problem': An Exploration into Authentic Flourishing

Monday, 7th – Friday, 11th October 2024

Participant Biographies



The Reverend John Allister

John, originally from Manchester, has been vicar of St Jude's Church, Mapperley, Nottingham since 2012. He has first class degrees from both Cambridge (physics) and Oxford (theology). Prior to ordination, he worked for five years as a physics teacher in Stockport. John is autistic and has a particular interest in thinking theologically about neurodiversity and in helping the church to be fully inclusive of neurodiverse people. He is the founder of Neurodiverse Church. He met his wife, Lydia, while training for ordination at Wycliffe Hall; they have two children, an elderly cat, and a disobedient golden retriever.



The Reverend Philip Averay

Originally from Australia, Philip has lived on the UK since 2003. Having lived in Cheltenham, Cambridge, The Forest of Dean and now Chepstow for the last seven years.

He is currently a Team Vicar in the Severn Wye Ministry Area, based in Chepstow. He has recently stepped down from the Ministry Area Leader role to focus on other aspects of his ministry call. One of which is he has just started his Doctorate in Open and Relational Theology, via Northwind Seminary and Kairos University in the US.

Prior to being ordained Philip was a Social Worker and worked in several areas, namely Child Protection, Adults with Learning Disabilities, Adult Mental Health and Older People's Services.

He trained for Ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and has been Ordained since 2014. Following ordination, he also obtained an MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission through Durham University, via the Church Mission Society and with a focus on Pioneer Ministry.

He has particular interests in Process Theology and Open and Relational Theology, the mystical and wisdom traditions of the Christian tradition and Franciscan spirituality. Following from his Franciscan and Social Work roots he has a deep concern with regards Christian action to bring justice, peace and reconciliation to the world.





The Reverend Carlton Baxter

Ordained in 2007 Carlton served as a non-stipendiary minister until 2017 when he became a full time pastor and for the last three years he has been rector of the grouped parishes of Kilmore and St Saviour's The Dobbin in Armagh Diocese of the Church of Ireland.

He has been an accountant, a journalist, worked in marketing and public relations, run a business, been privileged to pastor in several churches and is now ensconced in the depths of the Co Armagh countryside - magic! (That's not a theological term!) There have been successes and failures along the way, thankfully more of the former than the latter and through it all God remains faithful and loving even though there must have been times when he has truly irked him.

And now for the best bit; he has been married to Jane (whom he has known since they were 4-years-old) for over 33 years and they have three kids, one son-in-law and one soon-to-be son-in-law, one granddaughter...oh, and a cat called Marvin! That's it...well almost. There's more, but sure where's the fun in telling you everything. Finally; he has dealt with the public most of his working life; one learns that when there are issues it pays to listen more and speak less!



The Venerable Andrew Beane

Andrew is the Archdeacon of Exeter, looking after seven deaneries across Exeter and rural Devon. He has been in post for the last five years and loves the variety and challenge of being an Archdeacon. He previously served in the Diocese of Norwich, where he was a Team Rector in a market town, running a minster model of church working across 18 different parishes. He is married to Catherine, and they have one fantastic daughter who has just started her A levels.



The Reverend James Bell-Winfrow

James grew up in Kiveton Park, a pit village in south Sheffield. He felt called to Christian Ministry as a teenager, and went on to read Theology; Mission and Evangelism with Manchester University at Cliff College, Calver. Upon graduating he became a Children's, Youth and Families Worker for an ecumenical church project in rural Worcestershire. It was during this time that he further discerned his calling to Ordained Ministry within the Military context. On being accepted to Ordination Training he read Theology; Ministry and Mission with Durham University at Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford. Ordained Deacon in 2018 at Wells Cathedral and Priested the following year, he served his curacy in Aller, High Ham with Low Ham and Huish Episcopacy cum Langport, a rural benefice in Somerset. In 2021 James was licensed as a Royal Naval Chaplain and has worked at Air Stations, base ports and deployed in the gulf on a T23 frigate.



James has long supported the Scouting Movement, and volunteers for The Scouts currently holding multiple roles from delivering programme with youth sections, to management of people, and programme for inclusion. A highlight was being lead UK Anglican Chaplain at the World Scout Jamboree in 2019 helping to provide support to 45,000 Scouts from around the world. He champions Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, supporting Scout Pride events providing a faith perspective from the Christian tradition to LGBTQI+ Scouts.

James is a father to two young children, Sophia & Josiah. When not at work or volunteering you'll find James outdoors - he is an avid hiker, cyclist and runner trying to keep fit.



The Reverend Dr Kate Carter

Kate came to ordained ministry in Church of England following 20 years of experience as a primary care doctor. During her time as a GP in Leeds and Bradford, she worked for several years in the field of substance misuse and alcohol dependency before exploring the options for overseas mission work. She has undertaken several short-term mission trips overseas, including in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and most recently delivering training to rural medical students from the Karen people group on the Thai/Myanmar border. Her experience in Sri Lanka during the early responses to the 2004 Tsunami informed her further studies and her approach to mission and ministry.

Kate has appreciated learning some of the different approaches to leadership, conflict transformation and reflective practice needed in church ministry in comparison to her previous roles as a doctor. She now serves as a Team Vicar and Associate Priest across two parishes in Thurrock, South Essex and relishes being part of the life of a diverse team and churches. When not at work, Kate is usually found encouraging wildlife into her garden, playing the piano or planning the next stage of her walk to Santiago de Compostela.

Qualifications include:

MBChB, University of Leicester Medical School 1995

BA in Biblical Intercultural Studies, All Nations Christian College (OU) 2007

MTh in Applied Theology, University of Oxford 2020



The Reverend Steve Chapman

Steve is a serving parish priest in the Church of England having been ordained for nine years. Much of the focus of his ministry is on what it means to live an abundant and full life, drawing on the teaching of the Christian faith. Prior to ordination, his experience was in Teaching, International Volunteering, and Overseas Development. Along the way, he spent some time as a Prison Officer working on a drug rehabilitation wing. One of the most important Bible passages for me is 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.' (Jn 10.10)





The Reverend Oliver Coss

Oliver has been an ordained minister since 2007, and Rector of Northampton since 2016. In 2021 he became Rural Dean of Greater Northampton, overseeing one of the larger deaneries in England, and has been closely involved in the oversight of more than forty clergy working across a variety of parochial and chaplaincy settings. He has interests in 'mutual flourishing', as it pertains to the unity-in-diversity of the Church of England, in serving clergy wellbeing, and in nourishing leaders in the church.



The Reverend Lizzi Green

Lizzi is a vicar in Devon.

Her interest in the topic comes from her particular areas of experience and expertise – namely, sexual assault and human trafficking, and reproductive and baby loss. These are spaces in which the temptation is to rush to easy answers – and yet there is a need to dwell, to experience fully the depths of despair in Holy Saturday before running to the resurrection of Easter Sunday. She believes that when we refuse to dwell, we offer a false hope and healing. She is really looking forward to the event!



The Reverend James Gwyn-Thomas

James is presently the rector of a four church rural benefice in North Yorkshire. Prior to this, however, he led a church plant for nearly a decade in the Blackburn Diocese. He has a background in drama and theatre and still uses it whenever possible in ministry.

Generally, he finds that one of our greatest challenges as church is having a word-based faith but living in a visual culture. But specifically, one of our great 'problems' here is engaging with men's mental health in rural, isolated, farming communities in a culture that does not speak about mental health.



The Reverend Catherine Helm

Cathy is the part time Incumbent of a rural benefice, comprising of Dacre, Watermillock and Matterdale churches, part of Ullswater Mission Community in Carlisle Diocese. She was ordained in 2005 at Chester Cathedral. She is married to Steve and has two children, two dogs and her background is in teaching. In 19 years of ordained ministry, she has experienced several challenging situations both within the ministry context and personally. She remains positive about ministry and at times wonders how!





The Reverend Canon Dr Sarah Hills

Sarah was born in South Africa and brought up mainly in Northern Ireland. She has been Vicar of Holy Island since January 2019, and Area Dean of Norham for the last three years. Before moving to Newcastle Diocese, she served as Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral for five years. She is also Honorary Canon for Reconciliation at Inverness Cathedral; Non-residentiary Canon at Newcastle Cathedral; Visiting Fellow at St John's College, Durham; and Visiting Practice Fellow at the Dept of Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University. She has a PhD from Durham University on the theology of reconciliation. Prior to ordination, Sarah was a psychiatrist and psychotherapist in the NHS. She is married to Richard, a GP, and they have two boys and a Labrador.



The Reverend Paul Hinton

Paul has been an ordained priest for 18 years, the last five of those years has been involved in leading on formation programmes and assessment for Curates, Readers and other lay ministers. Most of his experience has been of an evolving and more complex formation landscape, particularly as many called into lay and ordained ministry are discovering greater ranges of neurodiversity and mental health challenges – some of which only emerge as they launch into ministry after IME1. He seeks to listen, learn and grow in understanding.



The Reverend Gareth Irvine

Gareth is a Vicar and Area Dean in the Diocese of Coventry. Gareth (44) enjoys working with lay and ordained leaders across the traditions of the church to help ministries flourish, churches thrive, and engaging mission happen in different contexts. He is a member and Guardian of TOM (The Order of Mission) a new monastic religious community; a Trustee of Together for Change Coventry & Warwickshire, and he is especially keen to learn about how to support well-being and discipleship amongst children and adults living with neurodiversity. Gareth is married to Revd Jenny, and they have two children: Jessica (11) and Caleb (9) As a family they enjoy homemade pizzas and visiting the sea whenever they can.



The Reverend Phil Maudsley

Phil is currently vicar of the Parish of Filey in Diocese of York. Married with four children. Previously experience includes working with a neuro-diverse curate, and exploring how to make faith accessible to those with additional needs through sensory services, relaxed services etc.

Also experience through role as primary school teacher working with pupils with additional needs, assemblies within SEN schools and working with prison inmates who presented barriers to flourishing. Also have children with complex additional needs who have struggled to flourish within the current church systems.

Previous posts as vicar have not always been easy and barriers to flourishing have been experienced.





The Venerable Kathryn Percival

Kathryn is currently Archdeacon of the Meon, in the Diocese of Portsmouth (from 2023). Previously Canon Chancellor and Vice-Dean of Portsmouth Cathedral (2019-23), with particular responsibility for education (all ages), visual art, Anna Chaplaincy, and safeguarding. Ordained in 2010 and 2011; curate in South London and vicar in East Surrey. Co-devised surveys and services for people with learning disabilities in the parishes, and hosted, devised and led (with tuition!) sign-language services at Portsmouth Cathedral. Now in a supporting role and keen to deepen her learning so that she can enable others to flourish.



The Reverend Dr Mark Rowland

Mark has been a Methodist minister since 2009 and served for ten years in local circuit ministry before beginning work as Free Church Chaplain at the University of Warwick. Appointed two years ago as Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee for the Methodist Church in Britain, Mark has recently completed his PhD which explored a queer theology of holiness. Mark has experience of neurodiversity both personally and professionally and is committed to a church in which all can flourish.



The Reverend Lis Sparrow

Lis is presently vicar of St John's Church Bridgwater, a church in an area of multiple deprivation. They are an inclusive church and have a generous catholicity. They do not strive for perfection; they strive for healing and wholeness. This brings many blessings but also a cost and fragility.

Just before she went for her BAP Lis was formally recognised as having dyslexia. It was great to have this acknowledgement but brought another layer to her theological training at the Queen's Foundation.

Prior to ordination, she was a structural engineer for 20 years specialising in designing steel structures. She enjoys photography.



The Reverend Kate Stacey

Kate is the Collaborative Ministry Lead: Lifelong Learning in Gloucester Diocese.

Following 16 years of multi-parish ministry, which has taken her from the extremely rural through to market town multi-parish ministry and lots in between, she has spent time in a variety of different settings, working with many different colleagues. She is also a mum to three young adults and married to a vicar.





The Reverend Dr Mike Thornton

Mike has been in Baptist ministry for thirty years, serving local churches. He is currently Moderator and Chair of the Board of Directors of London Baptist Association overseeing nearly 300 churches. He is Group Deputy Head of Chaplaincy and Voluntary Services for GESH – St George's, Epsom and St Helier NHS University Hospitals, providing pastoral care for 17,000 staff and a population of 3.5 Million. He is a Company member of London School of Theology. He provides pastoral supervision to both ministers and hospital chaplains. He is married to Dee and has five children.



The Reverend Dan Tyndall

Ordained in 1993, Dan has spent half his ministry in what we now call major parish churches, seeking to ensure that their role as parish churches are not overlooked. Since 2013 he has been vicar of "the fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in all England" (Queen Elizabeth 1) which was built on the back of transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans and now finds itself at the heart of the 750th most deprived parish in the Church of England. The team there does exceptional work cross-fertilising a myriad of local communities, walking towards contested heritage & those still impacted and growing an inclusive church contemplating the question 'What does Bristol sound like?'



The Reverend Jules Williams

Jules is currently Priest-in-Charge of three parishes in Cornwall. One of her churches has had a particular ministry to the vulnerable members of their community. A number of families are connected to the church as a result of the work of CAP and Acts 435. This church has a large proportion of individuals with chronic mental and physical health problems and a number of children with SEN. As someone who would characterise their theological stance as 'charismatic evangelical' it is a constant tension to retain hope in the healing power of God and the lived reality of chronic illnesses.



The Reverend Chloe Willson-Thomas

Chloe is currently Rector of The United Benefice of Farnham Royal with Hedgerley. She was ordained in the Diocese of Leicester and was previously Rector of the historically important Saxon church of All Saints Brixworth just outside Northampton. She has a background in classical singing, having studied at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, and pursued a career in singing and the teaching of singing prior to ordination. She is currently on sabbatical, and has a particular interest in Healing Ministry. As part of her sabbatical, she is exploring Christian Mindfulness and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy techniques, and the healing power of music.



Facilitator Biographies

Cody Crawshaw is a postgraduate researcher examining the interaction between faith and anxiety in the lived experience of Christian women, utilising qualitative methodologies to engage with individual stories. She has also written and presented on climate anxiety and eco-theology, appeared as a guest on John Swinton's *Conversations in Mental Health and Theology* podcast, and has assisted on a research project titled *Sensescaping the Liturgy*. Previously, she has served as an assistant convenor of Sophia - the theology and religious studies women's network at the University of Aberdeen - and as doctoral student representative on the British and Irish Association for Practical Theology's committee.

Iona Curtius has a background in Theology and English Literature. While Systematic Theology is now her homeland, she enjoys occasional excursions into other areas of Theology. Her thesis studies are concerned with truth and embodiment, stories, and cultural developments. She has written on topics as varied as metaphors in purity culture and science fiction's depiction of embodiment. Most recently, she has contributed an essay on Christian hope in a metamodern context, to *Awake, Emerging and Connected*, a collection including meditations on justice from young theologians around the world. She is a founding member and convenor of the Aberdeen Dogmatics Society, a monthly colloquium of the university's systematic theologians.

Zoe Strong is an AHRC-funded doctoral researcher exploring dyslexia and engaging with the Bible. Her work explores the experiences of dyslexic Christians, and the challenges they face in communities where engagement with the Bible is seen as a central practice. Her research aims to shape a theology of dyslexia and to propose strategies to enable flourishing. Zoe has published on dyslexia and reading the Bible, as well as on music, autism, and public worship. She is also a Cumberland Lodge Fellow, heads up the University of Aberdeen's *Autism and Theology Podcast*, and is the neurodiversity topic editor for Practical Theology Hub.

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.

