

'Forming a Human Being', With the Early Church Fathers Clergy Consultation

Monday, 6th – Friday, 10th October 2025

Participant Biographies



The Reverend Canon K Paul Arthur

Paul is a Parish Priest in four parishes and Acting Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Truro where he has spent the whole of his ordained ministry, he has recently been appointed Rural Dean. Prior to ordination he taught and led in tertiary education. He trained for the Priesthood at St Stephens House. The Church Fathers are something of a peculiar gap (it shouldn't be there) in his education and he comes with little knowledge and a desire to learn.



The Reverend Heather Aston

Heather was Deaconed in 2013, and Priested in 2014 in the Diocese of Truro.

She was Curate in the Meneage Benefice – a rural parish with four churches on The Lizard in SW Cornwall.

She was appointed Priest in Charge (and then subsequently Rector) of 12 churches, six parishes in North Cornwall. She retired in October 2024 and has now been appointed Chaplain in The Anglican Chaplaincy of Poitou Charentes in western France, Diocese of Europe.

Prior to ordination she had three previous careers – Women's Royal Naval Service, British Aerospace, and the NHS – working in Quality control and commissioning Primary Care services.

She has an MBA, and an MA in Christian Liturgy.



The Reverend Canon Dr Andrew Bishop

Andrew is Vicar of Croydon and an honorary Canon of Southwark and has served in parishes in London, Winchester and now Southwark Dioceses. He has been a Residentiary Canon at Guildford Cathedral where he was also Anglican chaplain to the University of Surrey. He is author of 'Eucharist Shaping and Hebert's Liturgy and Society: Church, Mission and Personhood' the topic of his doctorate from King's College London. He also wrote 'Theosomnia: A Christian Theology of Sleep' whilst on sabbatical. Andrew is married to Alice with four (nearly) grown up children.





The Reverend Mike Clark

Born in 1971, Mike came to faith at the end of his first degree in 1992

Trained for ordination at Trinity College, Bristol and ordained deacon in 2002.

Served his title at St George's and St Paul's churches, Tiverton, before becoming Team Vicar in the Two Rivers Mission Community in 2007. In 2016 became Team Rector, then joined the Mission and Ministry department of the Diocese of Exeter in 2019 as a Mission Community Development Adviser. This role morphed to Transitional Support Minister, supporting parishes and Mission Communities in vacancy, as well as other roles such as clergy coaching, team building and support with writing parish profiles.

As part of this role, he was licensed to St David's Exeter as part time interim incumbent in August 2024 to support the parish through a time of pastoral reorganisation. He now hopes to become permanent Incumbent in the next year.



The Reverend Marja Flipse

As Vicar for Liturgy and Worship in East Cardiff, Marja's main responsibility is the worshipping life of the six Anglican churches and two ecumenical congregations in her Ministry Area. Her academic background is primarily in liturgical studies and philosophy of religion, with a focus on music. The Consultation topic appeals to Marja in her capacity as placement supervisor for candidates for ministry and pastoral chaplain to the provincial discernment panel of the Church in Wales, as well as a prospective Spiritual Director.



The Reverend Arwen Folkes

Arwen Folkes is a parish priest in the Church of England. She is currently Vicar of Eastbourne and has served in a number of parishes through her ministry. Arwen has a BA(Hons) and a Masters in Theology, Mission & Ministry from Durham University. She trained at Westcott House in Cambridge and has a special interest in the works of Saint Augustine of Hippo and the Literary Critical school of biblical hermeneutics. Arwen integrates academic theology into practice through her parish ministry and is particularly interested in the formation of the laity and engagement with the wider community. Prior to her calling as a priest she was the CEO of an early years social enterprise which was commissioned through public health to provide third sector support to parents and their new babies. Arwen also had a brief spell in local politics. Arwen is married to William and a mother of three children and two dogs. Arwen spends her free time crocheting, beside the sea whenever possible.





The Reverend Gillian George

As Priest in Charge of six rural parishes between Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor, bordering the River Tamar Gill feels very much at home. She grew up in rural Herefordshire but worked in a variety of settings, including community safety on the outskirts of Birmingham, prior to ordination. Her particular area of interest is the way in which the historic rural church is a locus of identity and belonging for the rural community. This springs from previous study in sociology, built heritage (she was a building surveyor) and theology, mission and ministry.



The Reverend Liz Jump

Rector of five Church of England parishes on the Norfolk broads, Liz has been ordained for 25 years. Prior to ordination she worked in Medical Education at the University of Liverpool Medical School as part of a team developing a new problem based curriculum, and researching into the student experience and formation of medical students. She maintains an interest in formation, and now enjoys working with ordinands in training and curates in the initial ministerial years. She is particularly interested in the interplay between the personal and institutional needs and forces of training; the internal and external work which shape the person and the balance (or not) between them.



The Reverend Rhona Knight

Rhona is a wife, mother and grandmother. She is a member of the College of Chaplains at Launde Abbey. As an educator, pastoral supervisor and spiritual director she has had a long-term interest in human growth and formation. In her PhD research, looking at trauma in curacy, she is now exploring the formational aspects of adversity and the nature of growth after trauma and moral injury. She is interested in the gendered dimensions of formation and has found dialogue partners in the work and insights of Carol Gilligan, Sandra Schneiders, John of the Cross, Hildegard of Bingen and Bernard of Clairvaux. She would like to find out more about the contribution the desert fathers and mothers bring to our understandings of human formation, particularly in and through adversity.



The Reverend Julie Lomas

Julie is a relative late comer to the ordained ministry party, having enjoyed a successful career in administration with the civil service and the National Health Service. Currently the Rector and Rural Dean for a rural area, she is kept busy serving the people of these communities who have shown her how to value their heritage, their church buildings, their churchyards and their stories of faith handed down through the generations. Story and place are therefore integral to her understanding of forming a human being, akin to searching the stories of the early church fathers.





The Reverend David McCormick

Ordained in 1992, just one year over the minimum age, David has served the whole of his ordained ministry in the Diocese of Lincoln in a variety of roles, including as a trainer and educator in ministerial formation for lay and ordained ministry, a parish priest and hospice chaplain, and now as the IME2 Officer. He has served in rural and urban areas in the contexts of higher education, healthcare, diocesan and congregational leadership. He has developed an increasingly keen interest in the understanding of the human person in the theology of St. Sophrony, the Fathers and the Christian East.



The Reverend John McLuckie

John was ordained Deacon in 1991, Priest in 1992, and has served in parishes in Perth, Glasgow and Edinburgh. He has also been a college chaplain in Cambridge, and a hospital chaplain in London.

Throughout his ministry, he has had a keen interest in Orthodox theology, and particularly theological anthropology. He has written a little on this subject and was responsible for the Scottish Episcopal Church's response to the Buffalo Statement of 2015.

On a pastoral level, he is interested in how this theological anthropology relates to the Christian's life of prayer and the process of *theosis*.



The Reverend Canon Nitano Muller

Nitano currently serves as Residentiary Canon for Worship and Welcome at Coventry Cathedral. He trained for ordination at the College of Transfiguration in Makanda, South Africa, following a short career as a history and languages teacher in secondary schools. His passions lie at the intersection of liturgy, black and queer theologies, and mission, and he continues to serve on the boards of several justice and advocacy organisations in both South Africa and the UK. He is particularly interested in how the insights of the Early Church Fathers can inform our contemporary task of mutual flourishing within a polarised Church that advocates for racial justice etc.



The Reverend Bradley 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 Andrei Petrine

Andrei was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, 52 years ago, and over the past three decades he has served in a wide range of pastoral roles - both within church settings and in the wider community. He is fluent in Russian and has spent much of his ministry connecting with people from Eastern European backgrounds - Moldovan, Ukrainian, Lithuanian - working to build bridges across cultures.

His theological journey has taken him through training in Latvia, Russia, and London. He was ordained in the Church of England in 2005 after studying at Cranmer Hall, Durham, and later completed an MA in Philosophy and Religion at Heythrop College.

He has served in parishes across London and Essex, led pilgrimages, and worked with ecumenical groups including the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association, the Nikaeen Club, and the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius. He currently serves as a Prison Chaplain at HMP Holme House, supporting both prisoners and staff through the challenges of daily life.

Outside of ministry, he has been married to Natasha for 31 years, and they have four children. He enjoys walking, hiking, reading, and occasionally driving buses (he's licensed!). He has also earned a Master of the Sport medal in archery - because why not?

Over the years, he has developed a deep love for the writings of the Church Fathers. Reading the Philokalia, various Pateriks, and the works of the great saints has been a profound joy. He believes the Church owes much to these voices of old, and that rediscovering their wisdom is essential for moving forward with clarity and depth.



The Reverend Alex Randle-Bissell

Alex is currently the Rector of the Pastrow Family of Churches, a new single parish of eleven churches in the rural north of Winchester Diocese. He has a passion to see effective and healthy change management in order to promote growth. Also acting as a consultant to other rural parishes who are looking at organisational change, especially around governance. A background in senior leadership of organisations and an ex-Senior Leader of secondary schools before his ordination in 2012, and still involved in education through membership of an Academy Trust.





The Reverend Magdalen Smith

Magdalen is an Anglican priest and writer currently working in Birmingham. She has worked in vocations (having been a Director of Ordinands previously) and has always been interested in what enables a human being to become 'fully human, fully alive'. Working with ordination candidates is about looking at the whole person and she has written two books on vocation including a personal memoir as she has been ordained nearly 30 years. She is a creative person, has a background in the visual arts and her passion is always to make links creatively with life and faith. Her other passion is spirituality and she has led many retreats and spoken around the country. Next year she has a sabbatical and plans to look at different aspects of sabbath and has just written a course to help others to reflect on this. She is married to Paul, a priest and nurse and has two grown up children and a cat!



The Reverend Dr Mike Thornton

Mike has been in ministry for thirty years, serving in Baptist churches in Chelmsford, North Cheam and Epsom. He was also involved in world mission for two years. He is Moderator and Chair of the Board of Directors of London Baptist overseeing nearly 300 churches. He is Chair of Baptist Housing Trust, and Company member of London School of Theology. He provides pastoral supervision to both other ministers and hospital chaplains. He currently works in the NHS overseeing chaplaincy support to four London hospitals. He is married to Dee and has five children.



The Reverend Dave Willis

Dave has been the vicar of St Augustine's Church in Thorpe Bay, Essex, since summer 2022. Prior to that he was vicar of Midhurst in West Sussex for nine years, having served his curacy in Crawley. He trained at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. He enjoys being a parish priest enormously, and has a particular fondness for pastoral care, youth work, and building community. He is married to Sarah-jane, who works with homeless women, and with whom he has two children, Poppy (19) and Jacob (16). Alongside his parish ministry, he is chaplain to Southend lifeboat station. He is a Brighton and Hove Albion supporter, and enjoys films and walking with Luna, his Springer Spaniel.



The Reverend Chloe Willson-Thomas

Chloe is Rector of three churches in the Slough area. She is particularly interested in children's and youth ministry, and the use of music and singing as a tool for mission. She was a curate in Leicester, and then served her first post at the 8th century Saxon church in Brixworth, Northants. Her background before ordination was in classical singing, and she trained at the RNCM in Manchester, going on to sing and teach singing professionally. She still loves to sing, and alongside her ministry is currently organising concerts to raise funds for Thames Hospice and Cancer Research.





The Reverend Canon Dr Jeremy Worthen

Jeremy is the Team Rector of Ashford Town Parish in the Diocese of Canterbury. He previously served as the Church of England's Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Theology, and before that as a member of staff and then Principal at the South East Institute for Theological Education, where he taught courses on a range of subjects including doctrine, spirituality and formation. His work there led him to write *Responding to God's Call: Christian Formation Today* (Canterbury Press, 2012). Recent publications have focused around ecclesiology. He has a long-standing interest in patristics, going back to his final undergraduate year.



The Reverend Jonathon Wright

After leaving school, Jonathon served for ten years in the Royal Navy as a Logistics officer and completed a BA in Theology & Religious Studies, and an MPhil in Old Testament Theology. Ordination training followed at St Stephen's House, Oxford, along with a DPhil researching the Christian transmission of the work commonly known as "Joseph and Aseneth". Jonathon served his curacy in north Cardiff, then first incumbency in deprived estates in Swansea. In 2024, Jonathon moved to Fishguard and took up his present role. Jonathon is married to Charlotte. They have two children, Martha (10) and Peter (4).



The Reverend Sok Han Yong

Sok Han read Theology at STM, *Graduate School of Theology (SEAGST)*, served the Diocese of West Malaysia. Diaspora Ministry in Europe & the UK. She pursued studies at Romsey House TT College, Cambridge, Ripon College Cuddesdon and Oxford Ministry Course. Following her ordination, curacy with St Aldates, St Helen's. Later she was appointed Minister and Director of Mandarin Ministry of St Andrew, St Joseph, Chaplain of St John's Cathedral and DB Ch. with HKSKH.

She served the Board of Trustees - Langham Foundation, contribution in supporting Langham Scholars, Preachers' Training programme.

She is currently PTO Clergy with the Diocese of Oxford.



Facilitator Biographies

John Nolan

John is a second-year postgraduate researcher in Patristics at the University of Aberdeen. His work explores the motif of the cosmic cross in ancient Christian literature – the dense network of poetic images, exegetical traditions, and metaphysical commitments that places the cross at the centre of all things – especially in the work of figures like Ignatius of Antioch and Irenaeus of Lyons. He holds a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Regent College in Vancouver, BC and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia. He has taught courses on patristic figures like Basil the Great and Maximus Confessor at Regent College and tutors at Aberdeen.

Rebekah Pikkarainen

Rebekah is currently in her second year of doctoral studies. Her research focuses on Gregory of Nyssa's biography of his eldest sister, *Life of Macrina*, specifically how Macrina is the paragon of the Christian life and central representative of Gregory's theological vision of the gradual transformation of the human being into the image of Christ. Key themes of Macrina's transformation include her life of prayer, her hope in response to death, and her pioneering of an ascetic community. Rebekah has a master's degree in theology from Trinity Western University, in Langley, BC, where she also lectured for one year; she also tutors at the University of Aberdeen.

Sophia Theodoratos

Sophia is in the final year of her doctoral research on Irenaeus, exploring the unity that he finds between his figures of Paul and John, in the early church period. Overall, her work focuses on the formation of a 'spiritual human being', who, as God's handiwork, is gradually being fashioned into the image and likeness of God, through the work of his life-making Word and Spirit. She has attained two master's degrees in theology from St Vladimir's Seminary, New York, where she held a Dean's Fellowship. Sophia has tutored at the University of Aberdeen; she also lectures at St Andrew's Theological College, Sydney.

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 undertook the duties of 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 as Curate to the University Church and Chaplain to Girton College after which he 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. He currently holds an honorary research Fellowship at the University of Aberdeen where he studies Schleiermacher and Barth.

From January 2026 he will be Dean of Chapel at King's College Cambridge.

The Reverend Nicholas Cook Chaplain for the Consultation

Born at a young age, Nick grew up in Hemel Hempstead and then moved to Loughborough.

Leaving school at 16 and after various unsuccessful jobs, Nick settled into Woolworths (Coalville) and for a short time was their youngest store manager at 19 (the wonder of Woolworth's?) before moving to London to be a pastoral assistant and youth and community worker at St Clement, Notting Dale, for two years. After selection for ordination training Nick went to Lincoln Theological College and was ordained in Leicester Diocese.

After serving his Title Nick was a hospital Chaplain (psychiatry) in Leicester for five years and there joined the Territorial Army as a Chaplain. As his two large Victorian Asylums were being run down and closed he tried three years as a school chaplain in Harrow before joining the Regular Army. He has served all over the world and completed four operational tours of the Balkans and three of Afghanistan.

He completed a Masters in Leadership and Management, and a PGCE, while serving with the Army and has enjoyed some very 'crunchy' jobs as a senior chaplain.

Nick retired from the Army after 26 years but was immediately recruited to the RAF Reserve. He was a school chaplain again for a while but he did not love it and so he concentrated on Reserve Service with the RAF. All-told he served 35 years as a military chaplain.

Nick's hobbies are carpentry, fixing stuff, and railways. He has an extensive model railway, is a devotee of the Great Central Railway's London Extension, and is a Signalling and Telegraph volunteer technician on the Mid-Norfolk Railway.

Nick is now retired but is responsible for ministry at St Michael, Thorpe-Le-Soken (Chelmsford Dio), now in its sixth year of interregnum...He's never felt the call to be a vicar!

Nick has been married to his first wife, Lin, for 38 years. They live in Colchester (Britain's oldest garrison town). They have three grown-up children.

Twenty years ago, Nick was one of the participants in the (long) Windsor Course. He is delighted to have been asked to be your Chaplain. You can ask anything.

