



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

God Calling

Our stories as we use our gifts to serve God
and others in the name of Christ



Dear friends,

It is such a joy to be working as our Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO). It is a privilege to meet people from so many different backgrounds, ages, traditions and contexts to explore with them what it is that God might be calling them to in his church.

Please find in this booklet a series of vocation spotlights, each a case study featured on our website. I hope that you enjoy reading the stories of these people as they have sought to follow God's call in their life.

If you would like a chat about your vocation journey please do email me. Or perhaps you could chat with one of our newly appointed Vocation Champions. To find one, please visit our website: www.cofesuffolk.org/vocation-champions

I would also be really glad to come and talk with incumbents and PCCs about how we can encourage and support vocations in our parishes, benefices and deaneries, please do email me.

With every blessing,

The Revd Canon Stuart Batten, DDO
stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org

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Jenny Digby

Six years ago, I was enjoying my recently retired life when my eldest son, Lee, who was just 42, was diagnosed with cancer.

I was not a churchgoer but Julian, a Lay Elder who was also a Town Councillor at the time, asked if I would like him to add Lee's name onto the Prayer List at church for 'Those who are sick' and Lee's name would be mentioned each day in prayer.

When I found myself in this dire situation, I turned to God, like I'm sure so many other people do. So I decided I would attend Morning Prayer each Wednesday and pray for Lee myself.

Six years on, I ask myself why? Somewhere in my psyche I must believe there is a divine being who can put all things right and save us. It's there, the seed has been sown, but some of us have never watered it and watched it grow.



Elder

Sadly, Lee passed away in January 2022 but there was a positive side for me - meeting so many lovely, caring and supportive people at church.

I gradually became a little more involved, and when asked if I would like to train to be a Lay Elder, I decided it was the best way I could give something back to the church.

I now lead Morning Prayer two mornings each week, and I've started writing articles on a regular basis in the Benefice Newsletter called, 'Meet The People, Our Unsung Heroes'.

My life has changed in more ways than one. Being involved and making a difference is the perfect place to be when you are grieving. I'm still with the lovely Lay Elders within the church who have been so supportive while listening to me. Getting involved a little more is making me think outside my grief and helping me heal.

Kate Cracknell



I became a Christian in my early teens and I enjoyed the vibrant youth ministry in my parish. I was in teaching for 20 years and I did feel that I was called to do something within the Church, but dismissed it time and time again – what could I offer? How could I give up teaching? I was filled with doubt.

Eventually, I made the very difficult decision to leave the teaching profession that I had dedicated my life to. At the same time, I went back to our church in Beccles. The day I came back was the same day as the Youth Pastor's last Sunday. Then I saw the post advertised and noted that the post was fully funded by the parish, supported by the PCC, and most importantly it was a real priority.

I realised I couldn't ignore God any longer – he couldn't have made it any clearer! I've just been licensed as a Youth Minister, and having completed the Youthscape Essentials course, covering insights into the issues for young people, developing youthwork skills and characteristics for leadership.

Licensed Youth Minister

I love the variety of the role I have now. From leading Junior Church on a Sunday to Youth Hub on a Thursday, it's all the bits of my previous profession that I loved! I have built contacts with the high schools, attended Christian Union and am exploring the possibility of chaplaincy. I mentor some of our young leaders and together we've started a pop-up game café in the school holidays. Our musical venture, Joy Collective! a youth choir, recently performed at our Mothering Sunday service and is growing in number.

I mentor and support those that need it and walk alongside young people, helping them become closer to God.

Serving young people is a joy and a privilege and seeing these young people growing in confidence and faith is an honour.

Sandra Cresswell

I became a Christian at the age of seven when our church had missionaries visit from Cliff College. I spoke with them and I and a whole group of others asked Jesus into our lives.

Then, nearly seven years ago, we moved to Suffolk. I really felt that God called us here. The move took two months from start to finish and lots of things just fell into place. Once here it took me a while to find a role in our rural benefice. I started out setting up and leading Messy Church. This was a new area and a new team and we learned together, adapting things as we went. I learned that rural ministry was hard work and people came in a random way, always happy, but never consistent. I was then asked by my Vicar to attend a Connect Course. I love learning new things and although I did not really read the paperwork, I signed up for the course - it was 10 Saturdays and quite a commitment on top of my full-time job as a primary school teacher!

The training

The Connect course was just what I needed: here were other people doing what I was doing and all of us having the same struggles! It was my oasis in the month and I really looked forward to the Saturdays.

The training was great, presented in a fun way, where no question was too silly to be asked. It was not long before I realised that this was a pathway to becoming a licenced Children's and Families' Minister (I should have read the material!) but I think God knew. After a bit of battling I decided that becoming licensed could open more doors than it would close. So, I decided to go ahead and become licensed. Then Covid hit and the monthly meetings stopped.

I was finally licensed in a small (15 people) service which friends and colleagues were able to watch online. It was a big deal. From that course friendships have been made and we still connect monthly.

Children's and Families' Minister



So what do I do now?

Currently I still run our monthly Messy Church, with a team from the '456 Club' which is an after-school club for children in years 4, 5 & 6 at the local primary school. We have about 20 children each week and we start with toast before connecting in. We then have an activity and a "reconnect with God" spot and prayer. It is great fun.

I help with all-age services, leading activities or an active prayer time and I am part of the Ministry Team.

Recently we have reconnected with both local schools, running days for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. I also head up our bags of food scheme which is needed for some families in our benefice.

I am thankful that I have God-given skills as a teacher which helps with leading anything. My relationships with both adults and children are strong. People know and trust me and this builds bridges rather than creating barriers.

I know that children are born with a spirituality and I believe it is our job to nurture and nourish that relationship.

To show children that God loves them just as they are and that they are very important now, I like to teach children different ways to pray and to enjoy the presence of God. I do not have all the answers but know that God has enabled me to use the gifts that he has given to me in this place.

Sarah Lock

The past

I was brought up attending a local strict Baptist chapel. I came to know Jesus as my personal Saviour at the age of just 11 and became heavily involved in life within the church. Sadly, I ended up leaving the church when my first marriage fell apart. After my second marriage also finally come to an end, I really felt that I was absolutely no use to anyone, in particular to God. How could he possibly use someone who had been divorced twice, and had spent about 20 years just wandering in a spiritual wilderness?

In 2013 a dear friend at church persuaded me to go on a Cursillo weekend at Leiston Abbey. It totally transformed my faith, bringing me back to a much closer relationship with Jesus and encouraging me to a life of prayer, study and action.

In 2018 I was given the tremendous privilege of being their Lay Director which is usually a three year appointment. I loved every minute of it, but as the third year rolled round I began asking God what it was he wanted me to do next.



Priest

Opening the door

Obviously, it was NOT going to be ordination, as I had a long list of reasons why I didn't need to be ordained to work for the Lord. Covid came along and my term as Lay Director was extended for another year. During this additional year, a lot happened that removed my 'reasons' for not looking at ordination and I began to realise that they may just be excuses rather than reasons! Having 'pushed a few doors' they all swung open and there I was on the training course!

I followed the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway which I loved. We spent one evening a fortnight with the Bishops learning about what we were committing to in the vows we would take at our ordination, as well as many other topics. We also attended training modules that fed us with additional knowledge on a range of subjects such as the Old and New Testaments, Worship, Preaching, Ethics, Pastoral Ministry and Doctrine.

There were seven of us in our cohort, each from a wide range of backgrounds. I learnt so much about the different workings of the Church of England, as my rural parish has always been a very 'low' church and I had never known anything different.

Our cohort worked closely to support each other, and we also had fun along the way! I seemed to be the one always putting my foot in it and causing amusement for the others, especially as I have so much to learn about being an Anglican! I never would have managed going to theological college, so this programme really worked for me, not least because I still need to work part-time.

The difference

Our benefice was in vacancy when I was training so I worked with the children in the school next door to one of our churches. We restarted our weekly 'Open the Book' sessions and I lead an assembly in the church on a weekly basis for a different key stage each time. We have also started a new Family@Church all-age service, which we hold on a monthly basis to build on our school links and I am delighted that some families have come along and joined us. Equally encouraging is that our older congregation members also come, have breakfast and enjoy the service. It really is an all-age service!

One of the big bonuses for me is that I grew up here in the local village and I know so many people, I attended the local schools and I really do feel an affinity with them.

I hope that I make some difference to my benefice. My prayer is that the Lord will use me to truly serve him here amongst these wonderful people in our little corner of Suffolk so that many can come to see Jesus for themselves.

Nigel Cook



Churchwarden

My faith journey began many moons ago when I used to attend Sunday School. Having been married in Rushmere St Andrew church and having my children baptised at St John's Ipswich, our family ended up living in the parish of St Augustine's in Ipswich.

At this time I would say I was not really in a relationship with Jesus. However, in the 2000s, I started helping out with the 'technology' at the Sunday children's services. And over time I was led to attend an Alpha course.

Alpha was, and remains, such an important resource for making disciples and bringing people into a relationship with Jesus. This was in 2007, and I was confirmed later that year into the Church of England. I'm still part of our Alpha team today.

But God had more plans for me, and the following year I was called to serve as a Churchwarden. A daunting challenge, a big responsibility, and of course a privilege.

I began a crash course of learning about parish life, the inner workings of the Church of England, faculties, gutters and downpipes, lost and found umbrellas, and serving my parish.

Five years later, my time was up. And it felt a bit like an MP must feel, moving to the back benches (pews!) after a stint on the front bench!

In 2016 I was called again, but this time to a different role of Churchwarden from what I had last experienced. The role had become more strategic, working extremely closely with the incumbent.

God's light shone from St Augustine's, and throughout the community.

A new Vicar took up the baton, we regained control of finances, launched new ministries, engaged with the community as never before and we are so excited for what God is doing in our part of town, and across Ipswich. I feel very lucky to have been able to play a small part in that.

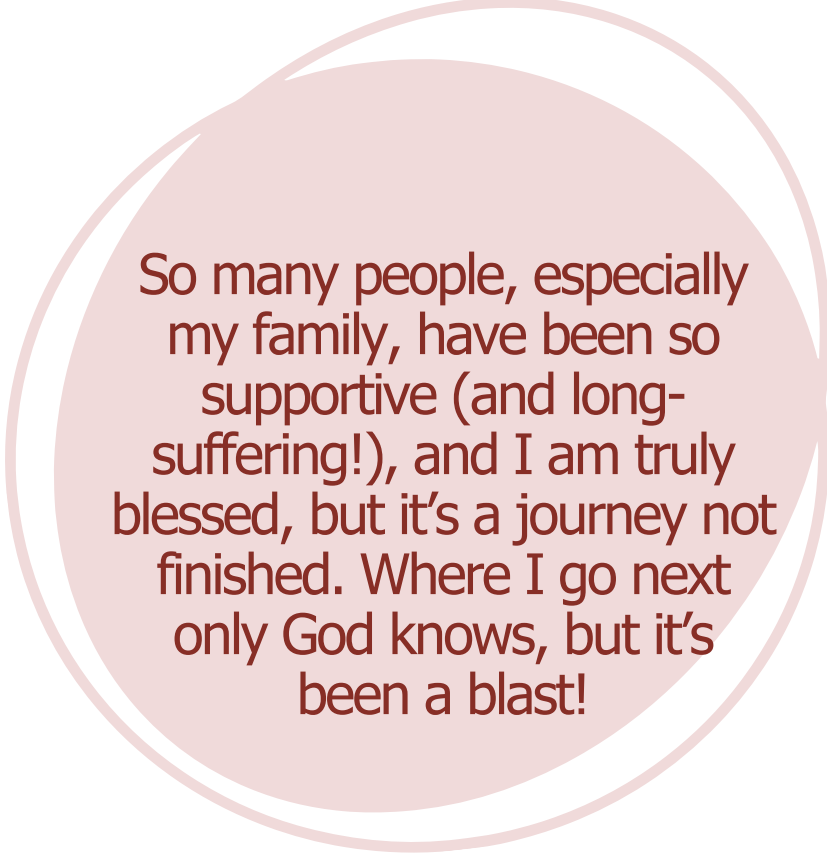
I step down again in a few weeks, returning to the 'back benches', with time to reflect on a journey from Sunday School to Winter Warm Spaces and everything in between.

The opportunities

I helped to drive the revitalisation of our Welcome Ministry, championing prayer and sung worship in a more informal and relational way - and most importantly, calling on the Holy Spirit to come and move among us, as we discerned God's plan for our church and our community.

Things changed again in 2019 with another interregnum, coupled with helping two new planting curates to find their way in parish life, and of course, a global pandemic in early 2020 led to very challenging times. Times where it was so easy to forget God and his provision, his favour and blessings.

But also times where there were real moments of breakthrough, of people stepping up to help and support the church family and local community through those dark Covid times.



So many people, especially my family, have been so supportive (and long-suffering!), and I am truly blessed, but it's a journey not finished. Where I go next only God knows, but it's been a blast!

The Revd Richard Stainer

The Church of England and I did not see eye to eye for a very long time!

We should have done, as I went to a church primary school in a small village and attended Sunday School. Jesus said that we should come to him like little children, and I did. I asked question after question after question until the local vicar suggested to my father that perhaps Sunday School was not the right place for me on a Sunday.

Time passed and I found myself taking O level RE. My teacher, a very patient man, seemed very happy to answer all my questions, although at some points he would snap, "Enough Stainer" and I would reply "Fair enough Sir!"

Time passed again and I started going to church regularly – but only to ring the bells. Campanology taught me to think quickly and in patterns. and also how to drink beer. None of us stayed for the services.

Time continued to pass and I did not trouble God and seemingly he did not trouble me. Strangely though I did not stop believing in him and, of course, vice versa.



Priest

Eventually I met Christine who was a practising Christian and we decided to marry. I started to go to church with Christine. Somehow I ended up on the PCC and got more and more involved in church life. I was confirmed in 2000.

My knowledge of the Bible grew and I began to understand what it meant to be a follower of Christ.

I applied and got the the job of World Mission Adviser as I had been working for Fairtrade for the previous ten years.

Our next Rector, Sharon, suggested I would make a good priest and I have to say I was so stunned that I laughed out loud. However, I did train to be a Lay Elder.

Bishop Mike asked to see me and casually dropped AOP into the conversation. I had no idea what it meant, but soon found out – the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway.

The training

I spent a year asking others what they thought, and praying. I kept saying, "You've got to be joking God!" But of course God wasn't, and I started the Auxiliary Ordination Programme the following September.

To be honest, the training was a bit of a mixed bag - whilst much of it was excellent, there wasn't enough time to answer all of my questions each week!

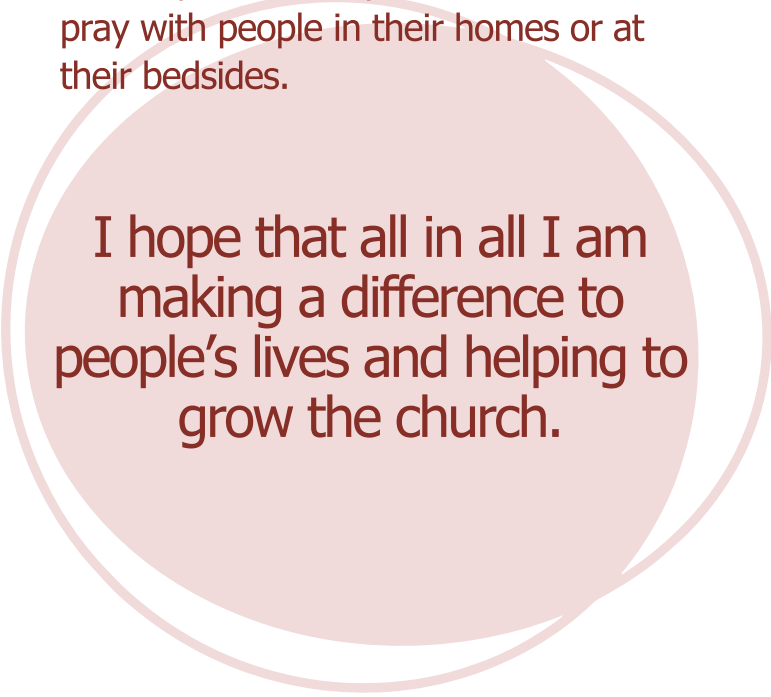
On the whole it was very enjoyable particularly as some of it was quite challenging.

The best thing was meeting my cohort group who have proved a brilliant support and good friends. We spent, and indeed spend, a lot of time on Zoom, but have been able to meet on occasions and we really get on very well.

I think it would be true to say we have been through a lot together for all sorts of reasons and it seems to have brought us closer together. We are also quite an awkward bunch, so I feel very at home!

Now I am an assistant curate coming to the end of my third year of training and hoping to become a full self supporting minister in the coming months. I am thoroughly enjoying what I do.

It is a real privilege to preside at communion and to take funerals, weddings and baptisms. I enjoy putting a service together and writing sermons. I also visit people who are ill or housebound in the benefice and at present, I am completing a placement at the hospital. It is a pleasure to talk and pray with people in their homes or at their bedsides.



I hope that all in all I am making a difference to people's lives and helping to grow the church.

I never imagined in my youth being where and what I am today. God is full of surprises and full of answers to life's difficulties and mysteries, but, of course, I'm still asking lots of questions as there is always so much more to learn.

Helen Prior - Townsend



I came to faith around 13 years ago when I started going to church after the birth of my daughter. I hadn't been to church apart from things like weddings, baptisms and funerals since I was at primary school, but when I was pregnant I started to think that there was much more to life.

A close friend suggested I join her and her family at St Margaret's church in Ipswich for their all-age service as no one worried about any noise the children made - so I went along to see what it was all about.

I was blessed to meet so many welcoming and friendly people at church, many of whom I count as close friends now. I was soon asked if I would like to help out. I ended up helping at a holiday club in the summer, read in church, joined the PCC and so much more!

Evangelist

I had felt a calling to do more but I wasn't sure what it was.

Then I saw information about Evangelist training and I couldn't get it out of my head. I spoke to my Vicar who put me in touch with Andrew Payne who used to lead the training. After talking to Andrew I knew that it was the right thing for me and Andrew also thought that I would fit well with the training.

The training

I loved the 'Share' course as it was known then (now 'Faith Empowered').

Sharing my faith with others - on a similar path to mine was an enriching, confidence building and empowering experience.

It was really useful to delve deeper into faith - and also to learn about other people's experiences and develop our calling to help others no matter where they are on their journey of faith explore this further.

Being an Evangelist is now really part of who I am. My faith is an integral part of me. I believe that everything I do shines with the light of Christ.

In July 2022 I was lucky to join a group of Evangelists and the Diocesan Mission Enabler, the Revd Phil Dykes, on a weekend mission to Brandon. We worked alongside the Revds Sharron and Dennis Coburn and their team and it was a wonderful, faith-affirming few days.

I hope I make a difference

I have been able to create our Advent and Lent bags project for all our congregation, encouraging them to share the bags with friends and family, we also give them to our school who have used them in their RE lessons. I have trialled litter picks in our parish, I am also setting up a Mission Working Group where all types of missional events can be prayerfully planned.

I feel that I help build people's confidence in their faith, so that they feel confident to tell people that they are a Christian.

I ask questions about faith and ask people to serve our church using the gifts that God has given them. I want to be able to share my gifts and those of others with our community and build networks of trust and compassion, all underpinned with God's love for all of us.

My journey of faith, like many others, hasn't been a straight path, but all the loops and backs and forths have made me who I am.

I love speaking about faith with people – but I do 'read the room' first! If people can see that I am a genuine, caring, open person then they are much more likely to trust and open up to me when they feel they want to.

Ben Wale

I grew up in Northwich, Cheshire. I enjoyed going through the various Sunday School groups and when I was 15 at a youth weekend away with my friends, I responded to Jesus' call from Revelation 3, deciding not to be a lukewarm disciple anymore and to give my life fully to Jesus.

After University I had a year out with the Christian Charity 'Careforce' and worked in a rural parish in Warwickshire. There I became a children's and youth worker, within the church at the village youth club and leading clubs in primary schools. After enjoying this role immensely, the following year I trained to be a primary school teacher.

Although I found the teaching role was not for me, I realised my passion was for Christian witness to younger generations, especially in a primary school setting.

When I heard about the work of Lightwave, shining God's light across rural Suffolk, I knew that God was calling me to a new vocation.



Lightwave Hub Leader

Now I am the Lightwave Hub Leader for 'Emerge', working across the Fynn Valley just outside of Ipswich.

As a Lay Leader for Lightwave, I have welcomed the opportunity to be part of the Formational Community for Church Planters, which Bishop Martin, Bishop Mike and Archdeacon Sally Gaze have facilitated.

Meeting each month with such a diverse and committed group of leaders when we can pray, be honest about the ups and downs of mission and meet God in new ways (through the Examen and Dwelling in the Word) has enriched my discipleship and given me something fresh to offer my community.

'Emerge' is working alongside established churches in the Fynn Valley with people of all ages who are currently outside church. We also work with a local charity, 'Just 42', to lead a CU at the local High School and a village youth club.

We lead Sunday worship at Playford Village Hall with a few families joining us. Recent events included a Seed Swap (inspired by a grower's group in the village) and a Pancake Party.

In good weather, we have a 'Playford Pitstop' at the Village Hall as part of our Sunday worship, when we serve drinks and snacks and have conversations with walkers and cyclists passing through the Fynn Valley.

Last summer we had our first service of 'Thanksgiving for the gift of a child' at the village hall. A couple of new people have started attending, who are just being introduced to the Christian faith, one brings his four-year-old daughter and they are asking questions and helping to shape our community and how we disciple others. They are also getting involved and using their gifts, one of them baked a delicious chocolate cake recently and brought it to our Seed Swap.

We have a few mid-week Lightwave groups or mission initiatives.

Little Bealings Borrowers is a wildlife after-school group working in Little Bealings churchyard. The group was set up in partnership with East Suffolk Community Partnership and Little Bealings Church. Our strapline is 'Do something small to be part of something big'.

We're helping children and their families to see that caring for the natural world begins in a small way - on our doorstep, near our home or school. Recently we built a den in the wild area, collected and identified wildflower seeds and did a bioblitz to see the variety of invertebrates living in the churchyard. We also enjoyed making pancakes and peppermint creams in the church before Christmas.

Each week we reflect on the beauty of nature, God the creator and his creation, and the children have collected Bible verses on wooden discs on a keyring to take home.

We're so thankful to God to see the difference he is making to families in our communities through the work of Emerge.

We want to see the Fynn Valley become a Valley of Grace as we pray and join in with what God is already doing.

Mike Turton

PCC Secretary



I grew up in Hampshire and regularly went to church, I was also part of the church community during my 43 year working life in Reading. Then three years ago my wife and I moved to Laxfield in Suffolk to have a quieter life, be closer to nature and live nearer the sea. Laxfield village is very friendly and soon we joined the local church and made new friends.

I am now the PCC Secretary at All Saints' Church in Laxfield, and my wife has just been appointed as Churchwarden. As Secretary I do all the admin for the PCC committee meetings, organising them and keeping the paperwork up to date.

The role includes making sure we are governed correctly, we keep within the rules and don't miss any important deadlines! I previously worked in business and IT and my background certainly helps to make this an easier job to do!

Being part of the church and the PCC Secretary as well as being an active part of the village has been a springboard into doing so many other things.

My real passion has always been the care of the environment. My interest in the environment is motivated by my Christian faith as I strongly believe we have a responsibility to look after this wonderful world we live in. So now I am a volunteer member of the Diocesan Environment Group and the Environment Deanery Champion for the Hoxne and Hartismere Deanery.

So moving to Suffolk and living in the countryside has clearly enabled me to be closer to nature but I am not certain it has resulted in a quieter life!

I see the environment as a wonderful way to open the church to all members of our community. If you are looking for advice or help to get started, I regularly visit other churches to talk about biodiversity in our churchyards and how we can connect to others through our calling of protecting the environment. I would love to come and visit you.

My email is miketurton2001@gmail.com should you wish to contact me.

Caitlin Brinkley



I started attending St Edmundsbury Cathedral with my family when I was about 12. We were welcomed into the community and we all fit into respective roles within the church: my Mum as deputy churchwarden and now a priest, while my brothers were both choristers. The then Diocesan Director of Ordinands recommended that I join the discernment process to become a Reader, and I attended my discernment panel two days before my first A Level exam.

I decided to take a gap year before university to undertake the Reader training and it has allowed me to grow in my faith and relationship with God through this ministry.

For the past two years I have been involved in the leadership of the Chaplaincy at the University of Winchester where I was studying for a Psychology degree. The Chaplaincy team helped me to complete my training, observing ministerial tasks like leading intercessions or preaching and giving me feedback, and since my licensing I have been part of the ministerial team.

Reader

Having a smaller and different setting has done wonders for the beginning of my ministry, I've been able to explore my strengths with great guidance and serve the Chaplaincy community and beyond.

Being a student meant that I had a connection with other students in a way that the Chaplain and other team members didn't have.

I felt I was able to relate more, I understood what would be appealing to students, even down to when was better to put on events based on when engagement was likely to be higher.

More importantly I could give an insight into the pastoral issues the Chaplaincy community was facing, and students shared with me what they may not have felt comfortable sharing with the wider Chaplaincy team.

Being able to serve on the team from the perspective of a Reader, as well as with an understanding of current student life, was especially beneficial.

Alicia Holmes

I was brought up in a Christian home where we had family prayers every night, but it was only when I went to a Scripture Union camp at the age of 13 that I began to have a personal faith in Jesus. Years later, having been an RE teacher for many years, my school closed down and I had a very difficult year when I had 10 interviews with no job offers. I remember being greatly inspired by Bible passages - particularly from the book of Isaiah, which gave me hope that the Lord had good plans for me when I was feeling very discouraged.

At the time we were attending Elmsett Methodist Church as a family, and I heard there was a job opportunity to work part-time as an Outreach Worker in Elmsett and Holbrook. I set up and led Messy Church and toddler groups. I realised that this would suit me really well. It was a great opportunity to learn how to welcome new people to church in new ways. When I got the job, I didn't think about it in terms of pioneering - but actually that was exactly what I was doing.



Pioneer

I went on the Mission Shaped Ministry course which introduced me to the 'missional journey' and taught me how to start new worshipping communities or Fresh Expressions of church.

The missional journey involves listening to the needs of the community, finding out what God is doing and joining in. I discovered how loving and serving people and then building community with them can lead to them becoming interested in Jesus and finding faith in him for themselves. The missional journey continues by forming church in ways that people without a church background can find relatable and relevant to their everyday lives. This often involves meeting together at a time which suits the participants. For instance, Messy Church often works well after school on a Friday when families are out and about and are keen to have fun and have a hot meal together.

I needed to work full-time and felt led by God to apply to become a Chaplain at Norwood residential home in Ipswich.

Then in 2019 I saw the job of Pioneer Developer with Inspiring Ipswich advertised - here was an opportunity to pioneer two new worshipping communities and to enable others to do the same across Ipswich Deanery.

As well as leading Fresh Expressions of church, I would be involved in training people to join in with God's mission in Ipswich. It would also entail teaching people how to grow as Christian leaders and helping them to learn how to pioneer and develop new worshipping communities which would reach new people in new ways.

After a process of missional listening I felt led by God to set up a Messy Church as well as a well-being worshipping community which has become Wellsprings Well-being Café which meets every Thursday at St Peter's Stoke Park in Ipswich. Our area also set up a Top-Up Shop with the offer of an optional interactive prayer time, this has been a great gateway to welcome those who are interested in finding out more about faith to other worship opportunities at St Peter's including Messy Church, Wellsprings, Wellsprings Pilates and Sunday church.

It is so encouraging to see the impact that new worshipping communities can have on the lives of individuals as they discover the joy and peace of getting to know God for themselves and journeying with him through the ups and downs of life.

Linda Pepper

I offered my whole life to Christ when I was 10 years old, trusting that he would lead and guide, show me his direction, and lead me to the vocation he had in store for me.

There is something about the student world that I love...and have since I arrived at Lampeter University in 1983. When I found 70 other 18–21-year-olds meeting together in the Uni Social Space, I was thrilled and delighted and remember rushing to the phone box to tell Mam and Dad that I had found the very best thing to give my life to.

Working with the Christian Union Movement (UCCF) enabled me to develop gifts and skills which equipped me to work with those who are inquisitive, those who are in a place of change, those who are open to the possibility of a living faith.

Going on to work in Belgium with International Students, leading successive teams of young graduates through a one-year mission programme, grew and expanded my vision for this period of transition that the student life, at any age, represents.



Chaplain

Back in the UK by 1999 and with two small boys, my passion for the student world resolved into working part-time with CYM (the institute for children, youth and mission).

My boys grew up and the student world beckoned again, this time uniting my passion for people from other nations with my love for students as I became the International Student Chaplain at the University of Essex before accepting my current role as Lead Chaplain at University of Suffolk and Suffolk New College.

I still love this 'world' I have been called to. I am still answering some of the same questions I have been answering for 35 years...and I am still learning new answers to new questions that come my way.

I still love relating to those much younger than myself. And I love working with Staff too.

Chaplaincy is a joy.

Jo Pitt School Foundation Governor



I grew up as the eldest of seven children in London, and our family were practicing Catholics. I stopped practicing as a Catholic in my teens and only went to church again when engaged to my husband. We then married in the Church of England and moved to Germany, as my husband was in the RAF. While there I rekindled my faith. I happily volunteered to be a Churchwarden when they needed someone. I had been doing that for about nine months before the vicar realised I was not confirmed in the CofE so I rapidly took some classes and was confirmed!

I was the Churchwarden for five years in my current village. I was also a member of 'Generate' for 14 years, until this spring, where we visited schools using puppets, mime, songs and sketches to take the message of God's love in a way that was accessible to primary school children.

As a Foundation Governor I attend Collective Worship about once a term (and write a report for the school records about that), I join the Headteacher and the other Foundation Governor for meetings once a term where we discuss developments and ideas for demonstrating the ethos of the school.

The Foundation Governors carry out interviews with the children to give them a voice and produce reports on these for all in the governing body and the school.

The Foundation Governors also help in the preparation for the SIAMS inspection and question the senior leadership of the school about how Christianity, spirituality and religious study is taught in the school.

I truly believe that the ethos of our school provides the very best beginning for all its students.



For more information

Resources specific to all our roles are also available on the diocesan website:

www.cofesuffolk.org/training-for-ministry

For all general vocations enquiries please contact the Revd Canon Stuart Batten
stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
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