

## Priests:



### **Nicholas Baker**

Having felt the call, or 'persistent nagging' to ordained ministry for many years, I was delighted when I was recommended for training in 2017. My formation involved three years as a full-time contextual student at St Hild College, alongside a placement at Burbage and Aston Flamville. Prior to training, I had been working with historic printed book and manuscript collections in various settings, latterly at Princethorpe College. I am looking forward to serving the Wigston Benefice, to playing a part in making Christ's love known in that place and to helping others deepen their discipleship.

### **Matthew Creber-Davies**

Matthew, along with his wife Lynda and daughter Esme, is excited to join Leicester diocese after training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Ordination marks his next step in a lifetime stumbling after Jesus. He is passionate about seeing God's justice in community. Prior to ordination, he was building community with a church in post-riot Tottenham, with experience supporting a prayer and campaign network for global justice, and working with refugees in West-Bank Palestine.

He is looking forward to pioneering new things in Netherhall, making a home at St Luke's in Thurnby, and taking long walks in the Leicestershire countryside.



### **Pauline Cummins**

I studied at St Mellitus College, Nottingham and my curacy is at St Simon & St Jude Church, Earl Shilton with St Mary's Church, Elmesthorpe. Although I have a Baptist history, I responded to God's call to ordination within the Anglican tradition. I was born in London to Jamaican Parents who settled in the UK during the 1950's. I am married to John and have a Jack Russell dog and three chickens. In my spare time I buy and sell collectables and antiques. I have a passion for social justice and human rights whilst being inspired by those who give inspiration and guidance to others, especially to those within the BAME community. My nursing background enables me to be intentionally supportive and to encourage all who are discerning their vocation and God's call.



### **Paul Emberton**

I am Paul Emberton, married 37 years to Julie. From Liverpool, in Leicester last 40 years. We have 4 wonderful children and 4 lovely, tiring grandchildren. I've been a medic for 35 years (Radiologist). We've been Christians for most of our lives, and have a broad churchmanship.

I've pursued Ordination for many years. Why? I don't know. I just do. And, after much perseverance, the opportunity has come. I suppose I am pragmatic. There are some things only a priest can do, some roles require a dog collar, a vocation I want to pursue.



### **Rosalind Harper**

I trained at the Queen's Theological Foundation in Birmingham and before this I was a teacher. I am married to Phil and we have a nine year old daughter called Flora. As a family we love nature, being outdoors and exploring new places. God's call to me has been gentle but persistent and I have trusted in God's faithfulness and perfect timing. My hope is to help others to see where God is working in their lives and in the world and in doing so to draw them closer to Jesus. I am excited to walk alongside people on their journey.



### **Maria Jukes**

I came to know Christ during secondary school, and the realisation that He knew and loved me directed me to a life of worshipping God and serving His Church. Whilst working as a worship leader I felt called to consider ordained ministry.

After a period of discernment, I was accepted for training at St Mellitus College whilst also serving the team ministry in Kegworth and Hathern. Throughout it all God has been faithful, and I'm excited to continue this journey of worship and service in the Oadby and Great Glen benefice during my curacy and find out what God is doing here.



### **Robert Leveritt**

Until August last year I was working in television as a freelance Sound Recordist which I had done since joining the BBC in 1990. The job had taken me around the world working with amazing people in sometimes incredible locations.

My Christian journey started when I was young, my parents took me to church but there have been significant moments along the way where I have personally made a decision to trust Jesus and obediently follow His call. I have a supportive family (thankfully), my wife Sarah and two children; Freja and Eddie (20 and 18), plus a one eyed dog called Nellie.



### **Dawn Matthew**

My call to ordination has not been a lightning bolt of realisation, rather it has felt like a growing sense of a different and specific calling, laying down the ministry of Lay Reader and exploring new possibilities. Bereavement ministry and an increasing call to preach the word have been important parts of my journey. It has been a privilege to explore these elements (and many others) in more depth as I trained at St Mellitus College.

My husband and children have been a key part of my path to ordination and I am so thankful for their love and support. Looking to the future, I'm excited to see all that God has in store for me!



### **Crystal McAllister**

I have a background in nursing, running my own beauty therapy business and children and youth work. My passion and joy comes with nurturing those beyond the church walls, to those with little or no faith. I am an innovator, someone that dreams differently, lead by action. I share hope and love through my own story and the Gospel.

In response to my calling, I completed my theological training through the pioneering pathway with the Church Mission Society and Ripon College at Cuddesdon. I have two children, Ollie (20) and Daisy (17) and two dogs. I love being creative; being outside, baking, making and discovering new ventures. I am excited to pioneer in new ground of God's creation.



### **Bridget Frances Saunders**

After a long and fruitful career in nursing and midwifery, I answered a call to ordained ministry following training as a reader. I always felt that God was at work blessing, enriching and preparing me for a life dedicated to those in need.

Through my training at Queen's Ecumenical College I have been constantly reminded of God's faithfulness. I live with my Husband Phil and together we have Thomas and Christopher both grown men with lives of their own. As life is often frenetic, I enjoy the peaceful pastimes of embroidery, knitting and walking our two dogs Stanley and Sophia.

## Deacons:



### **Paul Betts**

Sensing a call to ordination initially through leading Taizé prayer in the Harborough Anglican Team, and followed by a time of further discernment and subsequent recommendation, Paul trained contextually for ordination whilst studying theology, ministry and mission at St Hild College in Mirfield and Sheffield. With a background in the arts and previous career as a graphic designer in a leading creative agency, Paul is excited to serve curacy in the Wigston Benefice, to be part of a diverse and spirited worshipping community to our Creator God, to further discover how charismatic and sacramental worship may work together, and to explore more how the arts might inform and interact with ministry, mission, and discipling.



### **Caroline Brown**

I was born in Nottingham, and moved to Leicester in 2011 having travelled working as lay/youth worker. I live with Pandacat, I'm currently a support worker for adults with learning disabilities and autism to live an independent life, which is both, challenging and rewarding, and will continue to do. The road to ordination, as a distinctive deacon has been a long and winding route with a few bumps on the way that formed the person knowing what it means to be served by another as well as to serve. Social justice and the environment are passions along with cycling and Radio 2.



### **Luke Dobson**

Originally from Essex, I am a husband, father of three children and a dog. My Passion has always been to serve the church. Prior to my training for ordination at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, I have worked for several churches over the years. Most of the time alongside other jobs such as manual work, customer services or the civil service. Wherever I find myself, I love to see Jesus made known. I am excited this journey is now taking me into a place where I can serve Jesus and his church in this way.



### **Tom Grant**

My name is Tom, I am married to Jo, and we have a 4-year-old son. Before ordination training, I was a Children's and Youth Worker. I sensed God's call to ordination from quite a young age but took a while to act on it. I attended an event called 'Step Forward' in York, for under 30s considering ordination, and having already been encouraged by several people to explore it, I took the plunge and started contextual training at St Hild College. I enjoy running and walking in the great outdoors, as well as cooking dishes from around the world. I am excited about starting my curacy in Market Harborough and exploring church planting as part of the Resourcing Church team.



### **Stephen March**

Having been spiritually helped and nourished by many different Christian traditions – Evangelical, Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox, Anglican, Baptist, Southern Baptist – I have finally found a permanent home in the Church of England – somewhat to my own surprise!

After several years working in Fresh Expressions and Pioneering, I found myself exploring ordination – somewhat to my own surprise!

I love small, rural communities and am excited by the possibility of growing new congregations and supporting existing ones.

I don't know what God has in store for me – but I hope to be surprised!



### **Charles Ngirirwa**

I was born in Kashenye village which is near Lake Victoria in Tanzania to a Christian Family, last born of seven children. I am married to Pauline and have three children Grace (19), Alex (14) and Kisha (11). In Tanzania I trained as a carpenter then following further studies came to the UK with Pauline and completed an IT degree. For a number of years people prompted me to consider full time ministry. I felt God has always been pursuing me and this was confirmed when in a 4 day period on separate occasions three people came and asked me to consider ordination seriously. I attended St Hilds College and I had a fantastic experience. I am excited to be going back to St Christopher Church as curate. My leisure interests include all kind of sports, cinema, and spending time with the family.



### **Rhianne O'Rourke**

I'm mum to three boys and wife to Steve. I love board games, baking, being creative and movies. I grew up in a Christian home that was full of noise and life, and taught me a lot about community and how to do hospitality really well. Those formative experiences have shaped how I have seen God working in my life, especially as a call to pioneer ordination grew stronger in me. I am excited to see where God will lead me in this next stage of my vocation, with pioneering you never know what will happen next!



### **Steve O'Rourke**

I am married to Rhianne and we have three boys. I used to have a job as a web designer. It was a good job, but it always felt like a step on a bigger journey. One time, when I was asking God about my future, he said, 'I want you to set a table and invite people home'. That sounded exciting and helped me make sense of my call to ordination. I've experienced God's grace many times so I know how I can feel like coming home and can change everything for a person. I never expected to get ordained, but I think life's important moments usually come as a surprise.



### **David Palmer**

Pioneer Minister in Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Married to Marie from Belgium; have one son, Simon, an actor/writer.

Born and baptised in Canada; became confirmed aged 22 following a serious road accident.

Early career included the wine trade; but working with African Christians in Zambia in 1985 reaffirmed my commitment to follow Christ and serve his church. Since then, worked in different church/ charity contexts in UK, including 15 months in Peru.

Currently pioneering two new church communities, and being ordained would give me more tools, credibility to develop and disciple them more fully.

Interests include gardening, watercolour painting, learning French, good food/wine/conversations/friends! Newcastle Utd supporter!



### **Liz Piki**

I am looking forward to being ordained deacon. I did my Ordinand training at St Mellitus College in Nottingham. I started exploring my call to ordained ministry in 1999, whilst I was still in Africa.

Before starting my ordination training, I was a licensed Lay Pastoral Assistant. I previously worked as a nurse, health visitor, and in hospital and prison chaplaincy. I also worked at the Leicester Cathedral as a Volunteer Verger and volunteer Cathedral Chaplain.

I am married to France, and we have four children, one son and three daughters. I enjoy spending time with my family, listening to music, singing and dancing. I also like planning events & weddings, and events decorating, in my spare time.



### **Manuela Schmucki**

Manuela is originally from Switzerland, where she trained as a pastor and attained a BA in theology from the Institut für Gemeindebau und Weltmission. She then moved to London to work as an intern at Hope Church Islington, where she began to discern a call to the priesthood.

After being recommended for training, she served as an ordinand in the parish of St John of Jerusalem, South Hackney. As part of her ordination training at St Mellitus College, Manuela is currently working on completing an MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission with a focus on systematic theology.



### **Alexis (Ali) Simpson-Smith**

My name is Ali, I am married to Stuart, and we have an awesome boy called Joey who is now 7 and a 16 year old cat called Izzie who just likes to hang out in the sunshine sleeping!

I first met Jesus in a field at a rave when I was about 15 but didn't make the decision to follow him until I was in my 20s, and was shocked when I realised I was being called into ordained pioneer ministry – I didn't think that I was 'vicar material' with my past – but God reconciled that and gave me a new future!

I previously worked as a detached youth worker and Lay Pioneer Minister for 14 years prior to training. I have just finished studying through CMS and Ripon College Cuddesdon and am really looking forward to my curacy where I'll be continuing with St John the Baptist Church in Clarendon Park, and excited to be working alongside the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team helping to develop and support pioneer ministry and lay ministers at a grass roots level.



### **Steve Sweet**

I'm very grateful to God for my family who raised me in a Jesus-centred home and who ensured I was a part of the church family from my earliest memories. Following on from my time at university, I took on an assistant minister role working closely with teens and those in their twenties and felt increasingly enabled, equipped, and called to longer-term ministry within the church.

Having now spent the past three years at Oak Hill Theological College, my wife, Sarah, and I are excited to be moving to Leicester and to be starting a new chapter together. We're particularly looking forward to exploring the wonderful opportunities presented within church planting, as well as investigating the best curry houses along the golden mile and paying a visit to see the mighty Foxes at the King Power!



### **Kate Szejmann**

I never thought I would be here. My journey has been quite incredible. I started my adult life as an actor. It was such a wonderful life. I thought I couldn't expect any more. Quite dramatically, Christ would enter my life and change its course.

I am blessed in my marriage to Chris of 25 years, and by my amazing children; Max, Laura, Ella and Grete, whom I am incredibly proud of and love dearly. They have embraced all the change in family life with resilience and courage. I am truly thankful.

I am full of gratitude to my Jesus, for talking an ordinary girl from West London and showing her that she can do great things for God, take others on that journey, and reveal the good news of Jesus to those yet to know him.



### **Benjamin (Ben) Williams**

I am married to Emily and we are parents to Jude. After three years training at St Mellitus London, we are looking forward to a new phase of ministry serving in the Benefice of Oadby and Great Glen. It's a pleasure to be staying in Leicestershire having spent much of our lives here. I pretend to enjoy exercise (running and swimming) so am looking forward to running through new parts of the countryside and my guilty pleasure is watching Christmas films in July. I hope this comes in useful for ordained ministry.