

## Diocesan Board of Education Members



**The Venerable Douglas Dettmer Archdeacon of Totnes (Chair)** Douglas grew up in Kansas, in the midwest of the USA. Having read English at the University of Kansas and Divinity at Yale University, he came to England to serve as curate in the Ilfracombe Team Ministry in North Devon, then to Exeter as Domestic Chaplain to Bishop Hewlett Thompson, after which he was for seventeen years a country priest in the Exe Valley, latterly looking after the eight Netherexe Parishes before becoming Archdeacon of Totnes in 2015. Douglas is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and of its Rural Affairs Group and Legal Advisory Commission, and chairs the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education which supports about 130 Church of England schools. He and Chloë live in Bovey Tracey.



**Fr. Robert Harris (Vice Chair)** is the Team Rector of Plympton and Vice Chair of the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education. He also chairs the Schools Organisation & Governance Group of EDBE, and is an ex officio governor at the CE VA school in his parish.

He has over almost thirty years of experience as a governor in Church and Community schools and academies covering the whole age range within the maintained system. He also has over twenty years' experience as a member of the Board of Education in three different dioceses. He has always tried to have a 'hands-on' approach, believing that there is far more to governance than attending meetings and that it is only through active engagement with pupils, staff, parents and governors that we can truly know and serve our schools.

He is passionate about the Church's role in education which must be at the heart of our Mission. He believes that ensuring excellence of educational opportunity is one of the most important gifts we can give to our young people.



**Reverend Alan Smith** was brought up in a coal mining community in East Kent. Prior to Ordination Alan Smith had a 20+ year career in Education in Berkshire. After a primary school headship, he became a senior Education Officer responsible across the County for delegated budgets, and

management together with Governor and Leadership Training. Since Ordination he has served in parishes in Taunton and Chatham in Kent.

He has served on the Diocesan Boards of Education in Oxford (as a headteacher and LEA Officer), and in Bath and Wells (as a parish priest). In Rochester Diocese he was a governor of a C of E secondary Academy. Since retirement from full time ministry he now leads ICE Dawlish offering assemblies and R.E. support to local schools. He serves as a Bishop's nominee on the Exeter DBE. Alan is married to Rosalind. His interests are narrowboats, railways and walking.



**Patricia Morris** has lived in Devon for twenty seven years, thirteen of which were spent as a Headteacher. She is passionate about education and now inspects church schools throughout the south west. She joined the DBE a year ago and is also a Trustee of Exeter ICE (Initiative in Christian Education).



**Reverend Julian Ould Totnes Team Rector.**

I describe myself as a 'nomadic priest' in that I have gone where I have been asked to serve and in thirty-three years of ministry have worked in four Diocese. After training at Mirfield I started as a curate at Hebburn on Tyneside in the Durham Diocese and experienced the struggles of extreme unemployment. For my second curacy, I served at Bretton, Peterborough (a big new town development with a shared Church with the Roman Catholics). This parish also housed a 96 bed unit YMCA and started a ten year association, which continued into my first incumbency in a more rural setting on the edge of the Fens, just outside Peterborough. Finally before moving to Totnes, where I am also Rural Dean, I served ten years on the Isles of Scilly. During my time on the Isles I represented the Diocese on the local authority Education Committee and as a consequence was also on the Diocesan Board of Education. Previous to all this I was in hotel management, principally working in London.

The provision of good education is something I see as vital in equipping people for life and I hope to make a useful contribution in advancing the schools in our care.



### **Melody J Easter**

Retired Headteacher of an outstanding Church of England Primary school and Local Leader in Education who initially became a teacher in the hopes of making the world a better place - I still uphold that value. I was a semi –conventional Head who took chickens and lambs to school in the back of her car!

I grew up and trained in South Wales but have taught and lived in several continents over time.

Became an Independent Educational Consultant so as to “to keep the ripple effect going “and have since been involved a number of exciting situations with a range of stakeholders.

I thoroughly enjoy inspiring and enabling other practitioners to take risks, try new things and embrace the demands and opportunities that the changing face of education for the 21st century offers.

I strongly believe that the Church has a pivotal role to play in preparing children and young people for life in a complex and demanding world.

Currently lives just outside Dartmouth with husband and range of animals where the beauty and wonder of the landscape brings daily renewal and inspiration.

### **Revd. Paul Ireton**

### **Sharon Marshall**