

Deacons' Biographies for Ordination Order of Service

Scott Lewis ANGELL

Benefice of Honiton with Monkton, Awliscombe, Buckerell, Combe Raleigh, Cotleigh and Gittisham

As long as I can remember, the call to some form of ministry within the church has always been there. I have been involved in church music, leading choirs, and playing the organ for over 30 years. I worked in the Nursing and Clinical Education sectors, which further helped me develop my faith in God. I completed the Diocese of Exeter Foundations in Christian Ministry (FiCM) course and senses a real call to Ordained ministry, which I continued to explore. I was thrilled to be recommended for training. I completed my training with St Mellitus College, Plymouth, and the West Dartmoor Mission Community. I am really looking forward to using all my previous experience within my curacy, building on links in the local hospital and developing the Anna Chaplaincy programme.

Norma Marion BAKER

Benefice of Saint Pancras, Pennycross

I went to Sunday School in an Anglican parish church in rural Lincolnshire. My grandmothers were both prayerful women, and I am sure their prayers have pathed the way for me to have faith in, and follow, Jesus. I am sad to be leaving my training parish of Plymstock and Hooe. Thank you all so much. I am humbled, overjoyed, and amazed that I will be going to serve as curate at St Pancras Church, Plymouth, and I look forward to coming alongside others, to serve /love Jesus and people in Plymouth.

Jonathan James Charles COOK

Benefice of Okehampton, Inwardleigh, Belstone, Sourton, Bridestowe, Bratton Clovelly, Germansweek, Lydford, Hatherleigh, Northlew with Ashbury, Exbourne, Meeth and Jacobstowe

'Feed my sheep' are the words I encountered in prayer 10 years ago, that led me to ordination. I fell in love with Devon working with Aggie Weston's at HMS Drake in Plymouth, shortly after that time. I spent eight years in corporate sales in London. My family and I are moving from Oxford, having enjoyed training at Wycliffe Hall. We love the outdoors! I'm excited to live alongside, muck in, serve and care for the sheep of this pasture as best I can: 'For Christ's love compels us' (2 Cor 5:14).

Jonah Denison Steen HORNE

St Basil's Church, A Bishop's Mission Order

I grew up in a loving Christian family but really began to take my faith seriously in my late teens. Once I'd studied at university, I worked as a graphic designer in London and whilst doing so, began to volunteer within the prison ministry through my church. In this time, I

recognised the distinctive call of the priest and the church within these settings, this led me to pursue ordination. I have spent the last three years training with St Mellitus SW and am excited to serve in Devon with St Basils over the next three!

Katherine Jane JACKSON

Benefice of Saint Matthew with Saint Sidwell, Exeter and the Benefice of Exwick

I have lived in East Devon for the last 15 years. I have a wonderful husband, four beautiful children and a very fluffy dog. My calling has been nudging me for longer than I have lived in Devon, and my ordination is a glorious fulfilment of a rather rocky journey during those years. I trained with St Mellitus SW, and I am really looking forward to working alongside the team at St Matts, Exeter, to help increase the community of disciples here in Exeter.

Julia Jayne JOHNSTON

Benefice of Upton Saint Mary Magdalene

I found my faith in 2012 when faced with a challenging life circumstance. Since then, my life has been transformed. I have increased my love for people (including myself). I passed my driving test (I failed six times before). I went back to school and achieved my GCSE's, and went to Exeter University where I qualified as a Secondary School English Teacher. I taught for ten years until I took a year out to work as a Children's Pastor in my sending church. That year out of teaching has turned into five years and beyond! I still cannot believe I have the privilege of being ordained to serve in my community, where I am keen to journey alongside people bringing joy, truth and hope through the Spirit of the Lord.

Deborah Jane LEIGHTON PLOM

Benefice of Brampford Speke, Cadbury, Newton Saint Cyres, Rewe, Stoke Canon, Huxham, Thorverton and Upton Pyne

I trained with St Mellitus College, Plymouth, whilst on placement at St. Boniface church, Exeter. Sacramental ministry is at the heart of my calling to the priesthood, and I am passionate about pioneering mission as well as intersectional, postcolonial theology and practice. I am looking forward to my curacy in Nether Exe - serving with joy, discovering what God is doing in people's lives and communities, and continuing to learn and grow in ministry.

Carys Maria PULESTON

Benefice of Exeter St Thomas and Emmanuel

I came to faith as a young child through the Sunday School at my local Anglican parish church. I have had an exciting and varied Christian journey, during which I've explored different denominations but ultimately came home to the Church of England. Throughout my life, I have constantly been aware of the tug of God's call. I have worked as a radiographer, an NHS manager, and ran my own psychotherapy practice before starting

ministry training at Trinity Bristol, as well as being a wife, and a mother to our five children. As I look forward to starting curacy, I am excited to see where God is leading me.

Sarah Alexandra ROCK-EVANS

Benefice of Sidmouth, Woolbrook, Salcombe Regis, Sidbury with Sidford, and All Saints Sidmouth

I grew up in North Yorkshire and attended our village church but drifted away in my teens, finding services rather boring! A series of challenges in my early 20s led me back to church, where I came to understand the Gospel in a much deeper way, and following Jesus became a core part of my life. I spent 12 years working as a Chartered Surveyor, predominantly in Scotland, before moving to Devon with my husband Martin and becoming a full-time Mum. I loved serving in children's ministry in church and increasingly wanted to live and work in ways that would 'make a difference'. Ten years ago, our vicar began encouraging me to explore ordained ministry. It took me a while to get on board with the idea, but here I am, having taken many small steps, discovering the faithfulness of God who knows me better than I know myself! I'm looking forward to all that lies ahead. I am so grateful to those who have supported me on this extraordinary journey of faith.

Karen Amanda Susan SHARLAND

Benefice of Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston

My Christian journey began while going to a convent school. After the birth of my daughter, Harriet, I started to attend church regularly, and it was at this point I knew there was something more, but I could not articulate it. I trained as a spiritual director and feel immensely privileged to do this work. The nudge to explore vocation continued, I was recommended and trained with South West Ministry Training Course (SWMTC). I am excited about being a distinctive deacon, building bridges between the church and the community, whilst combining my skills in storytelling and performing arts to reach out to those on the margins.

Gareth Shaun TIPTON

Benefice of Littleham cum Exmouth with Lympstone

Although I grew up in a loving family, none of us were churchgoers. My faith developed in my mid-twenties. I worked as a solicitor for 31 years in the criminal justice system. I felt a growing whisper to ordination, originally with what I thought to be a focus on prison ministry. I trained with South West Ministry Training Course (SWMTC). I am very much looking forward to curacy, meeting and developing relationships with others, inside and outside the church community.

Candidate to be ordained DEACON in Exeter Diocese on Sunday 30 June 2024

Alexander Richard Newman HONEY

Benefice of of Heavitree and Saint Mary Steps

It is such a joy to be back in Exeter to serve the people of God in Heavitree and St Mary Steps. Exeter, as a place, formed me during my undergraduate studies. It was during that time that I finally gained the confidence to answer God's call and seek ordination. Please pray for my family and me as we embark upon this adventure.