

Called by God

Deacons' Ordinations, 30 June 2018



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LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad

discipleship vocation evangelism

All are called

God creates and calls everyone – including everyone in the Cathedral this evening. But we are here to celebrate the calling of ten women and men to the ministry of deacons in God’s Church – an ordained ministry through which they will serve God and other people by the way in which they live and the things they will do – in their communities, their churches, their neighbourhoods, their workplaces. This booklet tells you a bit about each of them, and what has brought them here. If you would like to talk to anyone about God’s calling to you, please contact angela.bruno@lichfield.anglican.org and Angela will put you in touch with someone who can help you explore this further.

Deborah Aitken

Deb lives with husband Peter, daughter Alex, two dogs and a cat in Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, and worships at St. Matthias. She believes she’s been called to serve the people of Hanford, and that she has a particular ministry to the elderly, the sick and the dying.



Deb used to be a chef and a homemaker, and active church-member even before training started. Before starting training, Deb thought it would be a lonely journey, but instead found deep friendship with people from a breadth of Anglican traditions.

If you think God might be calling you, says Deb, talk it over with wise and mature Christians – pray and read the Bible too.

John Beswick Pallister

John was born in Portugal, where he spent most of his working life. He is married to Laura, and they moved to Britain in 2013. They have a young baby, Matilda.

John also worked as a manager in Royal Mail and then as the Outreach Worker in a church just outside Ashford in Kent.



During his time at Ridley Hall, John enjoyed his academic training, experienced different church traditions and found a rhythm of prayer in a community setting. He also felt God's calling to rural ministry.

He likes to encourage everyone to think about vocation and ministry. If you think ordination may be for you, speak to your vicar! Doubt and uncertainty are usually part of the process, John says. But the certainty is that God loves you and calls you!



Rachael Farnham

Rachael is originally from Croydon, lived in Tonbridge and trained in Cambridge – so moving to Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, is the far north to her! She's been married to Sam for nearly five years and they're the proud owners of two cats. Her main sense of calling is towards those on the margins – she has a particular passion for prison chaplaincy.

Before starting to train she worried that there would be no-one like her training alongside her but she soon found wonderful friends and prayer partners. Before training she was a Special Needs Teaching Assistant and way back she trained in Stage Management and Technical Theatre before getting a job selling theatre equipment.

Her advice to those exploring their call is to spend time listening. Even if you doubt your abilities, God knows what you're capable of.

Sara Humphries

Sara lives alone, having been widowed ten years ago, but has a large and close family living nearby, who not only help, encourage and guide her, but keep her well grounded in reality, she says. She also has her church family from the Loggerheads Benefice and Eccleshall Deanery, and the friends she's made at Queen's and Shallowford while training. She believes God is calling her to share the joy and the Good News of his kingdom with people in her rural community, especially those with little or no faith. Perhaps the biggest misconception



about preparing for ministry is that you won't be the same person after ordination; to a certain degree this is true, but, Sara says: 'We still know how to enjoy ourselves. It's just that we heard God's call and chose to answer it.' As an OLM Sara will continue to work for Greggs the Bakers as part of the national Shop Development team. And if you are exploring what God might be calling you to do? Then Sara's advice is first of all listen, then talk to your friends, family, your vicar; don't just keep your calling to yourself! There is so much help and guidance available in the Lichfield Diocese that no one should be left regretting, 'if only'...

Lisa Knight

Lisa was born in Lichfield Diocese and since the age of eleven, has lived and worshipped in each of the Episcopal areas with her family. She's married to Andrew, and they have two student daughters – one at university and the other in sixth form.



Having worked as a nursery nurse and teacher Lisa used some of those skills as a Children & Families enabler before training for ordination at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. She's enjoyed her three-year part-time training and is now very much looking forward to her full-time curacy, in the largely rural Wrockwardine Deanery.

Lisa is eager to learn from the breadth and diversity that a multi-parish setting will provide, working as part of a team across the generations in exploring God's call upon all our lives in our unique contexts. She's particularly looking forward to helping people to develop their relationship with Jesus at key times of their lives, such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Lisa asks for prayer as she embarks upon this new phase of ministry, not least as she attempts to navigate the Shropshire countryside!

Ian Macfarlane

Ian and Keren, his wife of 38 years, have three daughters, and a lovely cocker spaniel. Ian was born in St Andrews, but moved around the world in his formative years as his father was in the RAF. Ian himself joined the RAF at 19, initially as an electronics technician and later as a Search-and-Rescue helicopter pilot, before leaving the RAF and becoming a civilian instructor to military helicopter pilots.

His biggest fears on his journey to ordination were that he might be too old, or unworthy, or unable to cope with the academic side of training. But he's

learned not to use what he sees as his failings or shortcomings as an excuse: he says that the Holy Spirit has provided him with all he's needed as he's gone along.

His advice to anyone exploring what God is calling them to do is to listen to the 'still, small voice' or the 'burning inner voice' that is doing the calling, because it doesn't fade away. Understanding what God may be calling you to do is challenging but at the same time exciting.

Ian aged two-ish in prophetic mode. Try to identify him this evening from this picture!



Michael Shaw



Mike and his wife Tracy live with his father Derek and his Labrador Millie. They have five children, now spread across the country. After ordination, Mike will be baptising their youngest grandchild Oliver, a privilege and joy.

Mike has been a Christian all his life, and has been worshipping at St Andrew's, Shifnal, since moving there in 1993. Past and present clergy have encouraged Mike to develop his leadership and ministry gifts, and he is looking forward to serving as an (OLM) in Shifnal.

When he looks back at key moments in the journey which has led to today, Mike remembers, after having done a reading aged 17, being approached by a retired headmistress and asked if he'd ever considered going into the ministry. Some 45 years later he is today being ordained as a deacon.

When he started training Mike was very worried that, at his age, he might find it difficult to integrate with younger course-members, but that couldn't have been further from the truth. The friendships that he's made with Anglicans and Methodists in training will always sustain him, he says, as rejoicing in difference but united in the love of God they move forward in ministry.

David Sims

After teaching Geography to teenagers in Birmingham for a challenging and fun-filled three years, David eventually sensed God calling him to ministry - despite his best attempts to ignore this! His wife Kimberley, with their young



son and daughter, are excited about moving to Wellington, Shropshire, and he's looking forward to learning, listening and getting stuck into all that God is up to there. They're particularly passionate about adoption and fostering, making church accessible, and becoming a church full of believers

empowered by the Holy Spirit.

David feels that part of his ministry will be making church relevant for people who have written off faith as something which they don't need or value, and to point them to a God who died and rose again to bring them to relationship with himself – a living relationship that can start now, regardless of previous actions.

Other people tend to assume that as someone training for ministry he'll have life all sorted and have all the answers – whereas, in fact, he's just a Christian trying to follow Jesus.

His advice to those feeling a sense of call would be to pray. To push doors, and see if they open. And to spend time with those who may have a different tradition from you and could give insights from a different angle. And a warning would be never to pray: 'Lord I'll do this...but I won't do that', as you can be certain what God will challenge you to do next...

Robin Trotter

Robin Trotter is a retired GP who has also been a Reader and churchwarden at St. Modwen's Church, Burton-upon-Trent, for some 30 years. He's had a vocation to ordained ministry for many years, but also a vocation to medicine. After early retirement, however, he was able both to fulfil a



desire to study theology, which he did for two years part time at Wycliffe Hall, and to train for ordination, which he did at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. As a deacon he hopes to develop and deepen his ministry in Burton, both in his parish churches and in the town centre, where he has developed a link with the YMCA. Wycliffe deepened his love of 'wrestling with the scriptures' and Queen's broadened his horizons and his ecumenical enthusiasm. He has a love of architecture, Italy, church history and the music of Handel and Haydn, and frequently enthuses (bores?) about them all, he modestly comments.

Lucinda Wray-Wear



Lucinda grew up in Harrogate, where church played a regular part in her life. In 2005, she began to sense an insistent 'nigging' that God was calling her in some particular way when working as a fundraiser for Worcester Cathedral – and was humbled at people's responses when she had the courage to share these feelings. While *she* was surprised, she says, others were not. But her career

then took her away from the comforts of the cathedral and in 2015 she moved to Shrewsbury. Yet still the 'niggle' persisted and three years ago, after many searching interviews, courses and a Bishop's Advisory Panel, she started down the long and winding road of formal training at The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. It's not been an easy journey, she says. There have been many high and low points along the way – changes of jobs, redundancy, bereavement, demanding study and the basic need to earn a living.

But she believes that she's been sustained through all of this by the love, prayers and generous support of those around her. Above all she now realises that God has encouraged and guided her in many unexpected and wonderful ways through both the good and the bad times, and that her Christian faith has deepened and grown. On the verge of ordination, she is now looking forward to the privilege of serving God by ministering to God's people.

Her advice to anyone else with a 'nigging' feeling like hers? Talk to others and listen to what they think about it. Above all, don't give up: keep talking to God and one way or another you will be answered. In her experience the end result will be well worth all of the effort involved.

