

Called by God

Deacons' Ordinations, 29 June 2019



Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad

All are called

God creates and calls everyone – including everyone in the Cathedral this evening. But we are here to celebrate the calling of eight 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.

Helen Babiy

Helen lives in Wolverhampton with her husband and two daughters. Helen has felt called to priesthood from an earliest childhood and has grown up serving in various roles in church, working life has covered various sectors including education and social care. These have given her a solid grounding for ministry today and in the future. Helen has a huge passion for supporting the marginalised and oppressed, which she will be able to engage with further in her curacy at St Chad's and St

Mark's Church in Penn Fields. The biggest misconception about preparing for ministry, according to Helen, is that it is only achievable for people from professional backgrounds.



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Helen's advice to anyone exploring God's calling is to just go for it and not to let what you see as your limitations put you off. Because ultimately it's GOD who wants YOU! Whatever it is you are being called to – that's what you need to do!

Sarah Bennett



Sarah is married to Jonathan and is mum to two-year-old Eliza. Before training, she worked as a Children and Families Worker in Wolverhampton. Sarah believes that intergenerational ministry will continue to be a part of God's calling on her life. She is also passionate about evangelism and about seeking to remove the barriers that stop people from wanting to engage with God and the Church. Sarah thinks that one of the misconceptions around preparing for ministry is that there is a 'type' of person called to ministry. The reality is that God calls all kinds of people, and one person's ministry will look nothing like another's.

Advice to those considering God's calling? Strange as it may sound (says Sarah), obedience is freeing; being obedient to God's calling on your life means living fully as the person that God has created you to

be and using the gifts God has equipped you with – and there is great freedom in that! Prayerfully weigh up what you think God is calling you to with someone you trust, she says, and remember that God may be calling you to do something new exactly where you are now.

Ruth Clay

Ruth loves being creative, cooking and growing things and travelling the world learning about other cultures. She wants to share the good news of Jesus in her local community, among disadvantaged groups and wherever else God calls.

She and her husband Steve have 18 and 13, and have often shared their home with others too. Over the years, she has been involved in work, teaching and training, mainly worked for the Diocese, focusing transformative to both leading a team in South Africa.

Ruth took a while to recognise that leadership in the Church of challenges along the way, but has College in Liverpool. She reckons

in which God chooses to use you is different from how God uses others. We're all unique and God works with each of us individually to make the most of who we are.



three wonderful children aged 24, their home with others too. Over all sorts of youth- and schools- in the Black Country. She has also on church partnerships which are communities – this included

God was calling her to ordained England. She has met a lot of loved studying with St Mellitus that you shouldn't worry if the way

Christopher Lane



Chris Lane grew up in Walsall and has continued to live there with his wife Amy and their two young daughters. Chris originally studied law and was called to the bar as a barrister for 15 years before receiving a different calling to ordained ministry.

Since starting training Chris has realised that God is calling him to 'pioneer ministry' (i.e. new ministry alongside a traditional parish), particularly within the setting of church planting. Chris would like to explore in practice how Fresh Expressions of Church can transform our communities, especially in and around Walsall.

Chris says, 'We live in times that have changed dramatically in recent decades. People often see the Church as static and irrelevant to their lives. However, ordination training has shown me that there are great opportunities to engage with people in our communities and that God is still using the Church to transform lives. As you explore God's calling upon your life, look at the context that God has placed you in, and seek to understand how you can best speak Christ's transformative love into the lives of those around you', Chris advises.

Treena Larkin

Treena lives in Wolverhampton with her husband Jason, their two daughters, and their chocolate Labrador. She has been working for the last 25 years as a physiotherapist. Throughout her physiotherapy career Treena felt that she was searching for something. Then 10 years ago she attended the Alpha course at St Bartholomew's Church and realised, as she started her Christian journey, that she had found the missing element in her life. It became gradually clear to Treena that God was calling her towards an ordained role within the Church – it was a feeling she could not ignore.

Passionate that everyone gets to know Jesus, she has a strong sense of calling to those who currently don't feel they have a place in church. She has a real desire to make the walk alongside those who are their life. Treena is excited to see serves her curacy in Penn Fields.

gospel understandable and to searching for God's calling in where God leads her as she
Treena remembers the sense of about her calling to ordination, supported since then. She has alongside fellow Christians from her ordination training. Her call would be to talk it through talking to God and to believe could be God who is calling.



relief when she first told her vicar and she has felt incredibly enjoyed working and learning a breath of traditions throughout advice to those feeling a sense of with people they trust, to keep that, despite the doubts, it really

Lisa Mitchell

Lisa was born and raised in Lichfield where at the age of 16 she met her husband Paul. This year they celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary along with their two sons, Liam and Owen. For 16 years, Lisa worked as parish administrator for the church in which she and Paul were married – and eleven of those years passed normally enough.

Then in 2012 Lisa was overwhelmed by God's presence to the point where she could no longer ignore God. This is when she came to faith – though looking back, she can see that God was always there, nurturing her through her work and through the people who have touched her life along the way.

Lisa's roots are very much in working-class communities, which is where she feels spiritually energised. She feels her ministry is about building relationships within the community, by meeting people where they are, being part of what is already happening.

Lisa's advice to those feeling a sense of call would be to trust in God to guide you through, always be true to yourself because that is who God has called you to be; and remember that we don't need all the answers, because if we trust in God and each other they will be revealed.



Stephen Morgan

Steve is married to Muriel, and Harry lives in Walsall, where he has Church since 2007. In July 2015, after various Christian friends and family, take early retirement from his career as Service, in order to explore and pursue God to ordination. Based on his own you too to 'seize the day' and pursue calling you to do.

When he was accepted for Steve's friends and former he'd retired from a job he loved in vicar'. Steve says he felt frustrated when people failed to grasp that this is not just another job, but that it's a vocation and calling from God.

For the past two years Steve has enjoyed ordination training at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. This has prepared him well for ministry by helping him to confront and reflect upon current issues of the day and topics of conversation in relation to life and faith in God. Steve feels that God has given him a profound passion for reaching out and sharing God's love with people in the church and in the wider community, and he is looking forward to meeting people where they are, prayerfully seeking opportunities to help them to develop their relationship and faith in God.



together with his sons George and been involved with the Town Centre much prayer and discussion with Steve decided to 'seize the day' and a senior manager in the Insolvency a long-held sense of calling from experiences, Steve would encourage whatever you feel God may be

ordination training, some of colleagues wanted to know why order 'to apply for a job as a

Linda Vawer

Linda is married to Colin, and they have three grown up boys and two daughters-in-law – along with two cats and two tortoisés. They live in Wolverhampton and their home church is St Matthew's.

Linda is a reception teacher, managing the foundation stage in a primary school, and she believes that much of her ministry will continue to be within her workplace.



She was licensed as ALM for pastoral ministry, and then encouraged by her vicar to consider the possibility of ordained ministry. She then found herself on an amazing journey. Training has been challenging and rewarding in equal measure – but above all Linda has embraced the real joy of discovering more about herself and her tradition. She's excited about what the future holds.

Her advice? Listen to God and people around you and follow your heart for ministry.