



ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE  
**NEWS**

**A**lleluia alleluia  
 alleluia alle  
**S**abbato primas  
 luna. antiphona.  
 in tonis suo. ic  
 luna. suo. ic

**G**loria  
 et  
 eis peruenio  
 peruenientis.  
**Q**ui tu populum hu  
 milium saluum faci  
 es: et oculos tu  
 pborum uisitabis.  
**Q**ui tu illuminas  
 lucernas meas de  
 us meis illumina te  
 nebras meas.

## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



I am very pleased to be writing this introduction as the college returns to a semblance of normal working after the shocks and disruption of the last year. I want to begin by saying how much I have appreciated the self-sacrifice and commitment of the college's staff in keeping the enterprise going during such unprecedented times, especially to those who have had really complicated and difficult responsibilities caring for others at home, and those who have been ill with Covid19, some gravely. I am very grateful to them all for what they have contributed.

I want to say too how committed and resolved our student body has been: their education has been completely disrupted, and I have been so impressed by the way in which they have worked online without recourse to libraries or face to face tuition, often in challenging accommodation, to complete their courses. Even when we were allowed to be in residence, our students have coped cheerfully with very stringent rules about households and isolation, eating behind screens and unable to socialise except in ways which looking back we all realise were very stilted and confining. It was particularly sad that those due to leave in the summer of 2020 lost their last term at the college completely.

The college has not faced a challenge so intense as this since the Second World War, and it has been for me an honour to lead such resourceful and resilient colleagues and students as we have done our best to keep going and accomplish the tasks for which we were founded. 🍷

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Illuminated antiphonal from the College library.

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## NEWS



### Congratulations to...

- Congratulations to those old members of the college who have recently married: Ross Brooks (2017–20); Priyanka Kumarasooriyar (2018–2019); Upasana Chag (2018–2019); Ali Hodkinson (2013–16); Amelia (Mimi) Whiteway (2021–).
- Congratulations to Elizabeth and Fr Ben Weitzmann on the birth of their daughter, Rosina Abigail Hazel, on 27th September.



Vice Principal Fr Andreas Wenzel hosted a tea party in the cloister garden to welcome some of the new MSc Teachers' Education students joining the College for the academic year 21/22.



Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Fr Hugh Wybrew's (SSH Tutor 1965–71) ordination to the priesthood at St Mary Magdalen's Church, Oxford.



Many congratulations to old member Prebendary Hugh Moore (SSH 1958) on the Golden Jubilee of his incumbency at St Alphege, Burnt Oak.

### SJE Arts live concerts return

SJE Arts returned to live concerts in May 2021, with the Orchestra of St John's beginning their new residency here. Their Proms Series continues throughout the year, and we enjoyed their four-day Summer Festival in June. We had a piano-filled summer with Jack Gibbons' 33rd Summer Piano Series, the Oxford Philharmonic's Piano Festival, and our own International Piano series, which continued with Isata Kanneh-Mason, Daniel Lebhardt, and Steven Osborne. In June, we hosted a memorial concert for John King, who was instrumental in setting up SJE Arts a decade ago. During our August break from concerts, the Cloisters were transformed into an exhibition space for the Oxford Art Society's Open Exhibition, including their Private Viewing with artist Samson Kambalu. We welcomed back both Oxford Chamber Music and Lieder Festivals in October, with 61 events over a fortnight! We are looking forward to our usual Christmas concerts from The Sixteen, Steve Hogarth, and Maddy Prior.



This interesting photograph of the College Chapel at the previous Norham Gardens site was discovered in a donation to Keble College, and recently found its way back to its spiritual home in the St Stephen's House library thanks to Keble's archivist. As well as books and journals, the Library maintains and curates a photographic collection of the House's members and premises, which was begun in 1879, three years after the College was founded.

### New roles



The Revd Martha Weatherill (SSH 2015–2017) has been appointed the new Rural Dean of Chichester, succeeding The Revd Dr David Jarret.

The position also includes teaching on the King's College London and National Gallery's collaborative MA in Christianity and the Arts, and working with arts initiatives at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

The Reverend Dr Chris Dingwall-Jones (SSH 2017–18) has been appointed Chaplain of Jesus College, Oxford.

The College said farewell to librarian Marjory Szurko in March. A wonderful baker alongside her talent for librarianship, many alumni will recall her magnificent creation of the College in cake form at the 2017 alumni reunion!

Emma Pascoe has joined the College's SJE Arts team as Concert Manager, following the departure of Georgia Davies, bringing a wealth of musical knowledge and experience to the role as both a composer and conductor.



The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine has been appointed Ahmanson Fellow in Art and Religion at the National Gallery. The role will see her developing new

Gallery-based networks for religious leaders from diverse traditions and curators across the country, as well as a new exhibition focusing on the Fruits of the Spirit.



The College welcomed new Librarian Andrew Hudson who joined the House in April. Andrew has worked at a range of Oxford libraries, including the

Radcliffe Science Library and Regent's Park College and read Philosophy and Theology at Worcester College, Oxford.

The Revd David D'Silva SSC (SSH 2013–2016), Priest-in-Charge of St. Leonard's, Scawsby with St. Luke's Scawthorpe, has been appointed the first National Missioner of The Society. He will undertake the role part-time alongside his parochial duties.

## THROWING OPEN THE DOORS!



*"The Edward King Centre is the place where the wealth of knowledge, experience and spiritual insight, drawn from the College's rich tradition, is shared with a wider world."*



## THE LAUNCH OF THE EDWARD KING CENTRE

The 2021/22 academic year sees a brand new initiative launched by the College: The Edward King Centre for Pastoral Theology (EKC). Named after the key founding figure of St Stephen's House, Bishop Edward King (1829–1910), the centre will serve as an online hub, provide a range of online pre-recorded and live lectures, formational talks, events, and open access resources.

As well as providing a platform to share more widely the existing academic excellence at the College, the EKC will also serve as a hub for a range of guest lecturers and specialists, plus other external contributors and speakers. ▶

### Aims of the Edward King Centre (EKC)

- To provide ongoing theological formation and education to a wider audience, lay and ordained.
- To resource the wider Church in contemporary debates from a Catholic Anglican perspective.
- To engage with adjacent academic disciplines, cultural issues and theology in the public domain.
- To strengthen the network and associateship of those wishing to engage with St Stephen's House as a place of theological, liturgical and spiritual formation.

# LEVELS OF ACCESS

## Open access (Free)

- **Annual Edward King lecture** – this will explore a 'public theology' topic, delivered by a different guest speaker each year. This event will be live-streamed, accessed online and will take place in early March.
- **Theological and liturgical resources** – for example dissertations of former students, liturgical resources used by the College, academic essays, plus a variety of other open access resources will be published on the Edward King Centre virtual portal.
- **Aimed at:** Anyone with an interest in theology, Anglo-Catholicism, and / or the work and life of the community of St Stephen's House, Oxford.

## Pastoral Theology Modules (Free, spaces limited, online booking required)

- **Individual Pastoral Studies Units** – these will focus on specific themes of Mission and Ministry in the context of the Church of England. Units will last up to a week and are delivered by staff, experienced practitioners and guest lecturers.
- Example modules will include:
  - Homiletics and Sermon Writing
  - Church planting in the Catholic tradition
  - Interfaith work
  - Communications / social media and the Church
  - Chaplaincy work
  - Death, dying and bereavement
  - Anglican social teaching
  - Collective worship and Church schools
  - The Deacon / the Priest at Mass
  - Hearing confession
  - Holy Week
- **Aimed at:** Clergy and laity looking to continue or refresh their vocational development and formation.

## Common Awards Theological degrees (A small registration fee applies)

- **Pre-ordination education for prospective ordinands** – individual modules and credits towards Common Awards degrees (e.g., preparing to learn, introduction to the Bible, study skills etc.).
- **Post-ordination Common Awards degrees** – Those on the validated pathway of Durham Common Awards (CA) may progress from a CA Diploma of HE to a BA or from their CA PGDip to an MA; or from their CA BA to an MA; these courses will be taught part-time and mostly non-residentially and may form part of the candidate's Initial Ministerial Education (IME) programme or Continuing Ministerial Education (CMD).
- **Aimed at:** Prospective ordination candidates and those wishing to continue their studies post-ordination.

## Edward King Associateship of St Stephen's House (£500 annual fee applies)

- **Public theology lectures** – Pre-recorded lectures by members of staff and guest speakers, with a quiz at the end of each lecture to register participation.
- **Open theology lecture** – Live 'open questions' lectures (one per academic term) delivered by St Stephen's House academics.
- **Theology Seminar** – Participation in virtual theology seminars.
- **Privileges** – Edward King Associates will also benefit from special rates on College accommodation and bespoke dining rights. On completion of the Associateship, scholars will be awarded an academic College hood.
- **Aimed at:** Anyone with an interest in theology, Anglo-Catholicism, and / or the work and life of the community of St Stephen's House, Oxford.



## From the Principal



Welcome to the Edward King Centre at St Stephen's House, Oxford.

The EKC is our hub for online teaching and learning; lectures, talks, seminars, reflecting the spirit of the Oxford Movement which inspires us.

We embrace the spiritual, moral and liturgical riches of our expression of the Christian faith.

Through lectures and seminars, the centre provides theological formation and education for a wide variety of audiences, lay and ordained.

There's engagement with adjacent academic disciplines, too, cultural issues and theology in the public sphere.

Friends and supporters gain open access to unique theological resources and exciting college events, much of this free of charge.

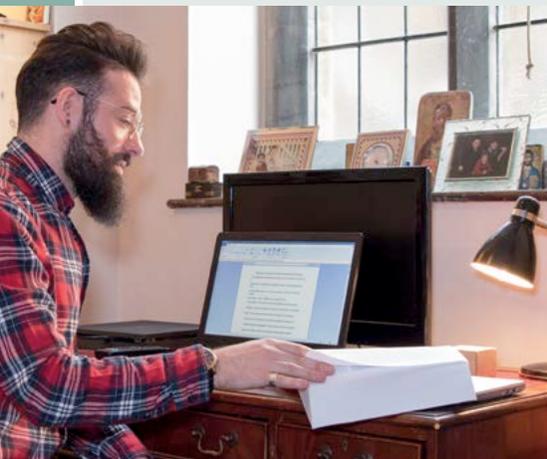
For those seeking a higher level of academic attainment, the Edward King Associateship programme offers the chance to participate in the life of the college here in Oxford, and that brings with it access to meals, residential and in-person events at St Stephen's House. Some can study on degree courses, with offerings available up to Master's level.

The Edward King Centre is the place where the wealth of knowledge and experience and spiritual insight, drawn from our rich tradition, is shared with a wider world.



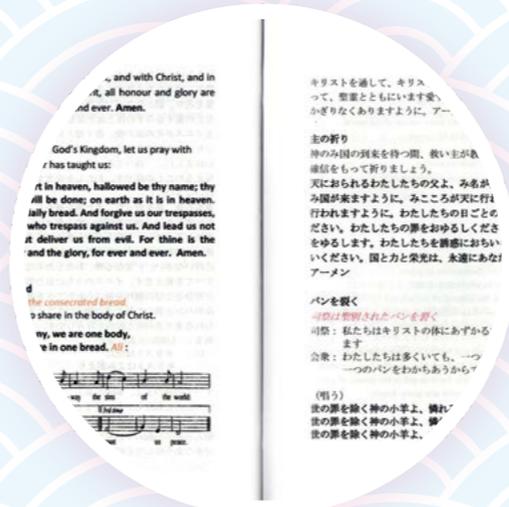
[edwardkingcentre.org.uk](http://edwardkingcentre.org.uk)

The College thanks the Fellowship of St John for its kind support of the development phase of the Edward King Centre. 🇬🇧



# A JAPANESE SUMMER PLACEMENT

日本



♥ Pictured (L-R): Image of Sadako Sakaki; Andrew Bailey; Pray for Peace Service Booklet; The Revd Julia Palmer, vicar of St Martin's, Andrew, Revd Bryony, and Yuki Johnson; Nippon Sei Ko Kai Office Book and Hymn Book

**Ordinand student Andrew Bailey planned to spend part of his summer placement in Japan having studied Japanese as an undergraduate. Although Covid put a stop to his original travel plans to the country, here he shares his experience of a summer placement with the Japanese Anglican Church in the UK.**

I was keen to be involved with the Japanese Anglican Church as part of my summer placement, having an existing interest in the subject from my Japanese grandmother, who came to faith through Christian missionaries in Kobe. My undergraduate dissertation focuses on the contribution of British missionaries towards the formation of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK), which means 'the Holy Catholic Church of Japan'. My original plan was to go to Japan and work with The Mission to Seafarers in Kobe and Yokohama, however, due to Covid restrictions this could not happen. Instead, I spent a rewarding placement in West Acton, London with Yuki Johnson, a Licensed Lay Minister of the Japanese Anglican Church which uses St Martin's Church as its place of worship.

Once a month they organise a Community Café, Evening Prayer and Bible study. I was fortunate enough to participate in all these activities as well as remembrance events for Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Community Café is a non-religious occasion, occurring on the first Saturday of each month at St Martin's. I feel privileged to have attended the first café which took place since the first lockdown. There was live Japanese music with traditional instruments such as Koto, a long stringed instrument, and around the building there were stalls selling various Japanese goods, including arts and crafts, bakery produce and jewellery. Even though there is not an overt religious focus, this event gives valuable opportunities for Yuki to give pastoral support to those who would usually not attend Christian worship.

One Sunday evening a month, Yuki leads Evening Prayer according to the NSKK office book. I was asked to read the Gospel of Mark in Japanese, which I felt privileged to do despite being a little nervous as it had been ten years since I last publicly read Japanese aloud. I am sure that I made many mistakes, but the Japanese congregation were very supportive, with some of them afterwards saying, 'well read, you should read here again to keep up the practice'. This revealed one frustration of mine; I should never have let my Japanese get so rusty.

Towards the end of the service, we all went outside into the church gardens to sing 'The Church's One Foundation' in Japanese, which I found to be the most moving part of the service. The Covid restrictions at the time only permitted singing outdoors, something,

however, which enhanced the mission of the Church since the surrounding community could see and hear us singing.

6th-9th August 2021 marked the seventy-sixth anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Notwithstanding the decisiveness of the bombs in bringing Japan to unconditional surrender, the explosions were estimated to have instantly killed over 214,000 people, with the survivors, known as 'hibakusha', suffering from radiation poisoning and immense psychological trauma. The anniversary of these tragic events focuses on the need for peace and reconciliation. At St Martin's, the Japanese community marked this commemoration by running a four-day exhibition with displays about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, prayer spaces, paper crane folding, an AGAPE World exhibit and an act of worship on Sunday. AGAPE World is a Japanese organisation which works to facilitate and nurture reconciliation with prisoners of war. I found their work inspirational, because it attempts to put right past wrongs and seek harmony between those who were once foes. I was also privileged to join Yuki in going to a remembrance service at Victoria Park, where there is a cherry tree planted in memory of the two Japanese cities. Despite the pouring rain, the service was well attended with the local mayor in attendance.

Throughout the exhibition, we had an origami table, where people were encouraged to fold paper cranes, which are a symbol of peace. In Japan the crane is considered a mystical and holy creature that can live a thousand years, which inspired the legend that if someone folds a thousand cranes, their wish would be granted by the gods. This became related to Hiroshima through the story of Sadako Sakaki who was exposed to radiation in Hiroshima aged only two years old. Sadly, at the age of twelve, she died from leukaemia related to the radiation. Whilst in hospital, she started making a thousand cranes from the paper of medicine bottles. Today, there is a memorial of her in Hiroshima and people place thousands of cranes there each year in commemoration. At St Martin's we had a display of a thousand cranes, made and given to us by a local Japanese school.

It has been an incredible experience working with the Japanese Anglican Church in West Acton, reviving my usage of Japanese. I also developed friendships and connections that I am sure will continue into my future ministry, with the invitation to continue to come to the Japanese services and online Bible studies. It was inspirational to see the ecumenical relations between the congregation of the Church of England at St Martin's and the Japanese Anglicans, who regularly have joint worship together. ♥

# THE FIRST YEAR...

**The first year after leaving St Stephen's House can be one of the most challenging of all. This is perhaps particularly true for those whose time studying was cut short by Covid as they concluded their training at the House in 2020. One year on, we caught up with two former students – one priest, one teacher – to find out how they have been getting on in their first year following training.**

## THE PRIEST: THE REVD LAURA WARD

**Years at SSH: 2018–2020**

**Courses studied: BA Hons  
Theology, Ministry & Mission**

**Current role: Curate, St John  
the Evangelist, Perry Barr,  
Birmingham**

**Age: 33**

"It was a hasty departure from Stagers when Covid hit in Easter 2020, so my final year was cut short by some three months or so, and our last Office was said online, followed by a virtual goodbye with all of my fellow cohort.

Covid also delayed my ordination by a few months, so instead I was licensed to start my curacy in June 2020 at St John the Evangelist, Perry Barr.

It could have been an unsettling and tricky time, but my incumbent, Fr Barrie Scott, was of great support to me, and we planned carefully how I would transition into my new role, and how this would change once I was ordained.

My first few weeks as a curate were daunting, and over the months, funerals were a key part of our ministry at St John's – we were often asked to conduct more challenging funerals with complex and sensitive pastoral situations. It is a great honour to be trusted with such funerals, particularly so soon in to my curacy and my formation at St Stephen's was a great preparation for some of the challenges I have faced so far.

The challenges have ranged from inexperienced funeral directors, to unexpected family requests and a coffin lid opening as it was lowered into the grave as result of the hole having been dug too small, to name but a few. As unusual as these situations have been, it has made a calm demeanour and stable presence an essential element of my public representative ministry. I credit my time in the sacristy at St Stephen's for instilling this 'can cope with anything' attitude and an understanding of how you do not react in a situation, is just as important as what you actually do.

My incumbent, Fr Barrie, who also trained at St Stephen's, has a huge amount of trust in me and that has been a key part of making my first year of curacy so enjoyable and rewarding. This is coupled with his trust in the rigorous formation at St Stephen's, and ultimately the priests that they shape.



## EXPERT COMMENT

**Revd Romita Shrisunder (SSH 2004–2006),  
Bishops' Director of Ordinands, Diocese of  
Lichfield**



"As the Church recovers from the impact of the pandemic and looks towards the future with both hope and apprehension, there is a sense of urgency within us to engage with mission and ministry through creative leadership. We are being called to minister to our communities in imaginative and pioneering ways, whilst being rooted in sacramental ministry and pastoral care.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders calls us to live and minister in ways that conform to the Lord Jesus Christ and to minister effectively in our rapidly changing society, our task is to discern how sacramental ministry might enable us to engage courageously in mission and evangelism. The formative years of ministry may seem overwhelming, but these years also provide an excellent opportunity to develop the pedagogies of spiritual and practical formation. It is imperative that during the first year of curacy, deacons give time and space to know their context, build relationships with the congregation and the wider parish, develop their pastoral identity, prayerfully discern God's will, and seek to create a firm foundation for their curacy. Finally, it is important that curates have the necessary support systems and develop self-care practices so that they build resourcefulness and grace in their ministry."

Fr Barry contracted Covid recently meaning I had to take over parish duties as well as a baptism he was due to conduct just a few hours after receiving the call from him. It was my first ever baptism, and I was very nervous, but I knew I had my TI's confidence and grounding of my training, and thankfully the service went very well. In fact, the church I went to which is currently in interregnum, invited me back to help with their school assemblies, which felt like a real vote of confidence.

Practically, combining curacy with having a young son, has been difficult for my husband Tom and I to juggle at times. Tobias, 2, was born as I was completing my formation at the House, but Tom – who also works full time, as a GP – often looks after him when I have to work in the evenings and I'm fortunate enough to have my mum nearby who helps us a lot too.

There have also been challenges from an ecumenical perspective. None of the other curates in my diocese are from Catholic backgrounds and as a result, we can often approach things very differently, both theologically and sacramentally. For example, during a training day for curates in the diocese I was surprised at my peers unfamiliarity with the sacrament of confession and reconciliation. This is something I later raised with our Head of Formation and I'm pleased to say that changes to the IME programme have been made going forward. I feel strongly about fighting the corner for Catholic theology and mission in my diocese.

St John's has been immensely welcoming of my family into the parish, and some of my greatest joys this year have been celebrating my First Mass with visiting clergy and a full choir as well as spending time in with the children and taking assemblies in the local church school.

I suppose the acid test is to ask if I would go back to St Stephen's if I had to do it all again? The answer is undoubtedly yes." ▶

# THE FIRST YEAR...

"My time at St Stephen's House was, like many of my contemporaries', suddenly cut short by the Covid pandemic, and I found myself returning home to the Midlands in March 2020, with only half of my school placement [at Wheatley Park school, Oxford] completed.

As a result, in many ways it was quite daunting to start my first role in teaching a few months later, with many students also having had a very disrupted year prior to joining my classes.

I teach at the school that I attended, a Catholic secondary school in Birmingham. I was the first person in the school to gain a place at Oxford in around a decade, and I was particularly keen on returning to teach in order to give something back and show my students what they could achieve if they set their minds to it.

Students often ask me what Oxford was like. Overall, it was an amazing experience, but at the start I certainly found it daunting at times and there were occasions when I felt like a bit of an imposter. I now look back and see how valuable the whole experience was in showing me the importance of pushing yourself out of your comfort zone and learning to have confidence to take on new challenges. I'm pretty proud of my time at Oxford, and I really enjoyed my time at St Stephen's House.

I lived in the main building, close to the library. The community was like a family and being surrounded by those training for the

priesthood was invaluable. I spent a lot of time meeting, talking and learning from others, whether at afternoon tea or at formal dinners, and the experiences I had really helped prepare me to meet new people that I wouldn't necessarily have met otherwise.

People can have a perception of Oxford as being a stressful place, and to a certain extent, it's hard and you do need to knuckle down and get the work done, but if you need support, there is lots available. I learnt a lot of skills whilst I was at SSH which have stood me in good stead in my first year in teaching: being efficient with my time and setting clear boundaries to make the workload manageable.

## THE TEACHER: GEMMA BAKER

Years at SSH: 2018–2020

Courses studied: MSt in Theology, Religious Ethics, and PGCE (Religious Education)

Current role: Secondary school teacher (RE) teacher at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, Birmingham

Age: 24



I've stayed in touch with several people that I met at SSH, and it's really nice to see where people have gone in their first year since leaving, and to share some of the challenges that come with taking on a new role.

There's no doubt that Covid made for an unusual baptism into teaching and it was hugely challenging to get to know the 200 or so students I teach when we were having to conduct lessons online. I actually think I benefitted from being a new teacher. I didn't know any different, so it was perhaps easier to be flexible and adapt to the rapidly changing situation.

Overall, I've thoroughly enjoyed my first year in my vocation. RE may not always be a student's first choice of subject, but it's so important for students to understand why religion is still so important to many in the 21st century and the impact that religion has on society more broadly.

Sometimes students have preconceptions, but they are also inquisitive in a way they might not be in other subjects. They ask questions and it's great for encouraging their natural curiosity in the world around them.

Whilst things are far from back to normal, it has been wonderful to return to a greater sense of normality over recent months. My first year in teaching has absolutely confirmed that this is what I want to do with my life. The everyday moments can be incredibly rewarding; when you see that you have made a difference to a student's confidence or understanding or when you see that a student is making progress. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.

As for the future, there are endless opportunities and additional responsibilities that are on offer. I'm now the Key Stage 4 coordinator for RE and a year 13 tutor, which involves supporting students with their University applications – you could say I've come full circle." ♥

## EXPERT COMMENT

Chris Martin, Principal, St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, Birmingham



"The first year in teaching is wonderful (helping to form the minds of young people will always be a great privilege) but also incredibly demanding. Resilience is most definitely required. While it is not true to say 'you shouldn't smile before Christmas', establishing routines and high expectations with new classes takes insistence, persistence, and consistency. The work done in the dark winter months will bear fruit in the spring and summer months. That is why humility is so important. Teachers coming into the profession are incredibly knowledgeable but should not be afraid to ask for help. Schools are full of teachers that have years of experience and wisdom and don't forget that there are leaders who are paid to support you. Finally, I think discipline is essential ... but perhaps not in the sense you think I mean! While the school day is short, the working day is made a lot longer after meetings and planning. An active social life and hobbies are fundamental to success, and you deserve them! Good luck in the greatest of jobs."

# A LONG WAY FROM OXFORD...

The Anglo-Catholic tradition around which formation at SSH is structured has always been associated with providing pastoral and practical ministry in some of the most challenging circumstances and locations. For many students who undertake formation at St Stephen's House, this means that life after ordination can be a stark contrast to their years spent in Oxford. Here we meet three alumni who have found that to be particularly true (but who also wouldn't change it for the world).

## FR BLAIR RADFORD SSH 2015–2018

Location: Lundwood, Barnsley. Age: 49.

"I was fortunate to be offered a wide range of curacy roles on leaving SSH, including a curacy in Barnsley, and it was this role that I decided to take up.

Three years on, my wife Rachel and I continue to live in the area, having remained in Barnsley.

The area once played a crucial part in the UK's mining industry, but since then it has faced major challenges, and both of my parishes are among the most deprived in the country and some of the families here are facing third-generation unemployment.

Both St. Mary Magdalene's and St. Peter's are what you would expect traditional northern Anglo-Catholic parishes to be: working class communities, where aspiration is difficult to achieve, but where faith is still something that underpins attitudes to life and how the community functions as a place to live.

Church attendance here is high, by national standards, and many people from outside the active congregation who live in the local community still follow the tradition of baptism and marriage and church funerals, with large nuclear families that tend to live close to one another – it's very collegiate in terms of how people live.

At the same time, there are quite significant issues, including drug problems, domestic abuse, homelessness, prostitution and social deprivation.

There is a high degree of mistrust of the Police and authority more generally, yet I have found there is scope to earn people's trust as a priest, and this is vital in trying to help support people in addressing the problems they face.

My pastoral ministry is very active and frequently very practical, too. I've had to build up a good network of contacts in housing services, social services and so on to try and help people find solutions. It's a very stark reminder of the many challenges of life. Sometimes, people just need a good listening ear, and that is also something I try to provide. No one day is the same and because of the nature of this type of ministry, you need to be able to react quickly and switch between tasks at a moment's notice, when a pastoral problem presents itself.

I feel very grateful to my years spent in Oxford, my training at SSH, and my placements in particular, prepared me very well for life after ordination. Fr Robin would often provide little vignettes of life in priestly ministry and I recall these fondly when I'm reminded of them in my own vocation. The long, often hard, days in College also prepared me well for life now, and when I say evening prayer in Barnsley, I know that someone at SSH is doing the same and that is strangely comforting, despite the distance."



Fr Blair and Fr David



Fr David conducting a family service

## FR DAVID D'SILVA SSH 2013–2016

Location: Scawsby & Scawthorpe, Doncaster. Age: 31.

"I've been based in Doncaster ever since leaving SSH five years ago, and I'm originally from Sheffield – I grew up in Swinton, which is about 15 minutes away from where I now live in Scawsby.

Scawsby is a suburb about 10 minutes north of the centre of Doncaster. Like many places, it has different parts. It is a really lovely place to live, but through the course of my work I often encounter the more troubling issues facing the community, issues which have definitely been exacerbated by the Covid crisis. Drug use has worsened significantly over the last 18 months (cocaine, heroin, ketamine, nitrous oxide), and it can be the more affluent areas that are most affected by drug issues.

The knock-on effects greatly impact my day-to-day work which tends to centre around supporting families. My church has a very good children's and families' programme, and we often work with families facing acute problems, ranging from domestic abuse to homelessness.

Covid has had a huge impact: I see families which previously seemed fairly settled whose lives have becoming increasingly

distressed. For many, a distrust of the Police means that assault or domestic violence victims won't report incidents, and that's where someone like me can step in. Whilst it is humbling that people are willing to turn to me and trust me, there is only so far that I can take things. My work as a governor at a local school allows me to try to help shape longer-term solutions to these issues, but it can be painfully slow making progress.

Despite this, for now, this is very much where I feel I need to be. The Anglo-Catholic part of the Church of England always served communities where others might have shied away, and I feel similarly drawn to serve in this community.

My formation at SSH provided a real sense of rootedness and it is often a place that I go back to, metaphorically speaking, to draw from in order to nourish myself. The rhythm of daily prayer and the discipline that I learnt at SSH provides a constant rhythm and a sustenance. People think it's all just stylistic stuff with Anglo-Catholicism, but it's far, far deeper than that. It is an enabler for what we need and do, and it is the thing that helps me support the homeless person who has just overdosed, or address the vandalism in my church. It sustains me in my ministry, and I don't think I could have been given any greater gift, really." ▶



🏠 Fr Jay presiding over his first wedding

### FR JAY HEWITT SSH 2016–2019

Location: Barnsley. Age: 34.

"I was keen to re-locate to somewhere new after ordination. I grew up in Norwich and I felt it was time to live somewhere different. Fr Blair, who was one of my contemporaries at SSH, introduced me to the Bishop of Wakefield, Tony Robinson, and I was delighted to be offered a curacy in his diocese when it came up. I moved directly from Oxford, where I had lived in a College room for three years and my new home could not have been much more different.

My benefice has five churches, all of which are very different, both to each other, and to the Anglo-Catholic tradition of my formation. Barnsley has a lot of social problems and I was particularly struck by the levels of homelessness – people often sleep in the church porch and I have to wake them in the morning on my way into church. They're extremely respectful of the clergy, as are most people here.

I think part of the reason I like serving my vocation here is that it is very real, very raw. Whenever I see criticism of the Church of England for being too middle class, I often think that that's not my experience. I live alongside people who take great comfort from the church in their time of need, and I take great satisfaction from the feeling that I can help people.

One of the best things about SSH was the way in which it prepared me for every type of context, whether that is comforting the dying, attending a civic ceremony, being in a hospice, a hospital or a morgue.

It can be very draining, but I find strength in the daily offices and Mass which were such a crucial part of my residential formation. Even after the most challenging of days, I can lay it all on the altar at Vespers and leave it with God so that I can stay strong for those who need me.

The immense sorrow and pain of this type of work can break people who haven't had a good enough formation." 🇮



# Visit us!

We warmly invite any potential ordinands to come and visit the College to find out more about studying here.

Please check our website for details of Open Days and other events throughout the year, or you can contact us to arrange to visit at other times.

For further details or to arrange a visit, please contact Fr Andreas Wenzel, Vice Principal: [andreas.wenzel@ssho.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andreas.wenzel@ssho.ox.ac.uk)

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# LIFE IN A COLLEGE LIVING

St Stephen's House is patron of four 'livings', or advowsons: The Beacon Benefice in Gloucestershire; St Peter's in Streatham, London; Cowley St John, Oxford and Worksop Priory. One of the responsibilities which accompanies an advowson is helping to appoint the parish priest. Here we speak to Fr Steffan Mathias, recently appointed vicar of St Peter's Church, Streatham, in London to find out more about life in one of the College's livings.

**Name:** The Revd Steffan Mathias, 34

**Role:** Vicar, St Peter's Church, Streatham

**Age:** 34

**Training:** The College of the Resurrection, Mirfield 2015–17

## Could you tell us about your parish?

Of course. The parish church, St Peter's, was built in 1870 on farmland, in what was then a relatively rural area just to the south of London. Since then, Streatham has become very densely populated and is now of course a busy residential suburb of London.

The parish is fairly typical of London, and is hugely diverse in terms of religions, ethnicities, ages and affluence. Houses include everything from beautiful Victorian housing to large tower blocks.

The parish has always been rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, and linked to this, there has always been a significant focus on music here. This continues to this day and we are fortunate to have a lot of help from the local community to run and support our children, youth and adult choirs. We also recently appointed a new Director of Music.

## And your own background?

I became a Christian as a teenager in a very evangelical and charismatic church in South Wales (Carmarthenshire). It was wonderful and introduced me to my faith, but even as a teenager, I realised that

my faith was going in a different direction, and slowly felt drawn to something else, which I would now recognise as a more Catholic form of Christianity.

I originally studied theology at King's College London, and stayed on doing a PhD in Biblical Studies, 'Paternity, Progeny, and Perpetuation: Creating Lives after Death in the Hebrew Bible'.

Part way through I started to take seriously a sense of call to ordination, and explored this through my university chaplaincy, and my local parish St John the Divine Kennington. I went on to train at Mirfield (2015–17), and after my ordination to the Diaconate, I served my curacy at St Mary's Lewisham.

## How has your incumbency been so far?

It's been interesting moving from working alongside a colleague as a curate to working by myself (albeit with a fabulous team of volunteers at St Peter's), and there have been some very positive things but also some challenges. Clergy friends and colleagues have been important in terms of sharing experiences, especially my cell group from Mirfield, and it has also been a real blessing to have housemates sharing my vicarage during the lockdowns in particular.

One of my priorities is to improve access to our church – both metaphorically and literally as the church is on a fairly steep hillside. We're also about to start construction on a church kitchen which is exciting as it will mean that we can offer hospitality after services and events in future. Incumbency during a pandemic was a challenge and as things are starting to ease back to normality, it's exciting to be starting things up in the coming months: youth groups, young adults groups, confirmations, expanding our children's choir.

## What are the key benefits having a parish linked to SSH?

People in the parish have a really strong sense of SSH being the patron. They know Fr Robin and the College well and Fr Robin preached at my induction Mass.

The link with SSH is something that I'd like to develop further – it is an exciting prospect to see how that relationship might grow and flourish over the coming years. It can be easy for clergy to theologically stagnate I think, and so it's exciting to be linked with somewhere that



takes academic study and intellectual rigour seriously. I like to challenge my thinking.

Perhaps students might come on placement here, too.

We pray for SSH quite regularly – and not just me, people regularly include St Stephen's House and the ordinands in the Sunday intercessions.

## What does it mean to you to be an Anglo-Catholic today?

When I first encountered Anglo-Catholicism, there was a sense of the liturgy being timeless, and it being rooted in theologians, saints and mystics through the ages, and being part of a continuous stream. I felt strongly that I wanted to be part of that ongoing stream rather than needing to reinvent the wheel or reacting to the current mood of the day.

I think that is key in terms of what the AnCath movement has to offer today; the sense that faith is rooted in something more – longer and deeper – than the here and now.

## Lastly, what do you enjoy doing in your time off?

I really love musicals and ballet, so the reopening of theatres has been incredibly exciting! I also love cooking – especially middle eastern food. My vicarage is a bit of an old barn, and is absolutely freezing in winter, but it's lovely to be able to open my house up to people and to offer hospitality! I've also started taking fitness seriously for the first time – I recently climbed Ben Macdui in Scotland, the second highest mountain in the UK – and am looking forward to setting myself more challenges. ♥

– Fact File –

# THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

## Location

Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6BP

## Key contacts

Fr Kevin Smith, Priest Administrator –  
k.smith@olw-shrine.org.uk

## About/history

Founded in the eleventh century by Saxon noblewoman Lady Richeldis de Faverches, Walsingham is a place of Christian pilgrimage in Norfolk in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus, and one of England's most holy places.

Richeldis, who was widowed with a young son, reported seeing a vision in the year 1061 in which she was taken by Mary to be shown the house in Nazareth where Gabriel had announced the news of the birth of Jesus. Mary asked Richeldis to build an exact replica of that house in Walsingham. This is how Walsingham became known as England's Nazareth.

The Priory passed into the care of Augustinian Canons somewhere between 1146 and 1174.



Royal patronage helped the Shrine to grow in wealth and popularity, receiving visits from Henry III, Edward II, Edward III, Henry IV, Edward IV, Henry VII and Henry VIII, who finally brought about its destruction in 1538.

After nearly four hundred years, the 20th century saw the restoration of pilgrimage to Walsingham as a regular feature of Christian life in the UK and beyond.

## Present day

Throughout the 1920's, the trickle of pilgrims became a flood of large numbers, for whom eventually a Pilgrim Hospice was opened. A new refectory was opened in 2001, followed by a further series of bedrooms

and a welcome centre in 2007/8. In normal times, around 250,000 pilgrims visit Walsingham each year.

## Visiting

Walsingham welcomes individuals, and

both large and small groups for residential stays, conferences and shorter visits. Accommodation is usually available from 1st February each year until early December and

the shrine's accommodation buildings nestle within the shadow of the Shrine Church. School visits are common, and there is also a café-bar on site.

## Key events

The Shrine church is open daily from 7am – 10pm, with a range of offices said throughout the day, plus many services are live-streamed online. In addition to the Shrine's National Pilgrimage event each year (Monday 2nd May 2022), a variety of other pilgrimages, retreats and events take place throughout the year, many with a particular emphasis on encouraging parishes, families and young people to visit Walsingham.

There are also retreats specifically geared towards priests and deacons. In 2022 this event takes place in February.

## How does Walsingham work with SSH?

Vice Principal Fr Andreas Wenzel took up his role at SSH having been Shrine Priest at Walsingham since 2017 and several of the Guardians (legal trustees) of the Shrine have associations with St Stephen's House. For example, both the Chair and Vice Chair of the College's House Council, The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner and John Booth, are Guardians, as are Ruth Ward and The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker.

Students from SSH also go on placement to Walsingham, most recently Michael Dixon. ♥

📄 [walsinghamanglican.org.uk](http://walsinghamanglican.org.uk)

📺 /shrineOLW

🐦 @shrineOLW

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Name:** Andrew Dangerfield

**Studies undertaken at SSH:** Ordination training, Certificate in Theology

**Year of graduation:** 1989

**Undergraduate degree/other studies:** Bachelor of Divinity, University College of North Wales, Bangor

**Current role:** I am the Port Chaplain for Yokohama, Japan with The Mission to Seafarers and Rector of Christ Church, Yokohama.



## Please briefly describe a typical day (for you, in your current role)

My typical weekday involves donning my high visibility jacket, safety shoes and hard hat and climbing the gangways of merchant ships. I am there to meet with the crew and offer whatever practical, pastoral or spiritual support they may need. This in itself is wide ranging with everything from passing on information to assisting with the repatriation of the body of a seafarer who has died on board. One of my greatest privileges is to celebrate Mass on board and to be asked to bless a ship and her crew. Having spent part of the day visiting ships in port I will often return in the evening to offer the crew transport to the Seafarers' Centre or elsewhere. On Sundays I have the pastoral care of the English-speaking congregation of Yokohama Christ Church.

## Could you tell us about your time at SSH?

I had a good time at SSH and enjoyed being part of the music team, playing the organ in the chapel as well as St John's Church. In those days the course for Theology graduates was fairly weak but the life and daily rhythm of the House was exceptional and with over fifty students in training it was a place where you could meet and interact with a wide range of ordinands from very different backgrounds.

## How did SSH prepare you for what you've subsequently gone on to do?

After leaving SSH I spent over twenty years in parochial ministry, much of it in the Diocese of London. More than anything, my time at SSH taught me how to be a good priest in and out of the sanctuary. To

be a caring and diligent pastor out in the parish and a thoughtful and diligent priest at the altar. Thanks to SSH, I know how to say Mass, not because of anything I was taught but because of everything I experienced.

## Are there any particularly memorable moments or experiences from your time at the College?

There are two moments that come to mind when I look back at my time at SSH. Firstly, the image of the late Fr Eric Franklin, standing at the nave altar in St. John's Church, with a vast array of silverware in front of him, desperately trying to work out which one was the ciborium. With the lid in hand, he tried them all! He found it eventually! Secondly, the generosity of the principal, Fr Edwin Barnes, who one day called me into his office to give me one of his black clerical suits. I don't know why he chose me, but it is something I will never forget.

## What advice would you give to someone considering studying here?

SSH is a place where I was not taught to be a priest, I was formed and shaped to be a priest. The community life and the daily cycle of prayer and worship is something that will equip you for ministry in ways that you may not realise until long after you have been there.

## Any parting thoughts?

'Win them by touching their hearts... In this way we must come to them in parables and human ways, and attracting them to us by the human side, leading them on to the divine.' Bishop Edward King. ♥



# THE PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

In 1970 the radical Roman Catholic priest Ivan Illich wrote a book called *Deschooling Society*. Illich was a cosmopolitan intellectual with a wide experience of working in education, who had spent most of the 1950s and 60s contributing to various church and governmental initiatives to forward 'development' in Latin America and the Caribbean. His experience left him disillusioned with the top-down model of instruction offered, which restricted access to teaching and learning to those able to access expensive and rigid institutional structures, what he called 'bridges to nowhere'. The most famous chapter of the book is titled 'Learning Webs', in which he anticipates the sort of free access to knowledge that the technological innovation of the Internet has now made a substantive reality.

In this spirit the college is launching a new initiative, The Edward King Centre for Pastoral Theology. The intention of this is two-fold: first, to deliver off-site and in a variety of

accessible ways the experience of teaching and learning that our resident ordinands already experience; second, to secure for the future the specifically Catholic character and content of pastoral theology, so that our lay people and ordination candidates are able to encounter a compelling experience of the riches of our tradition in liturgical, spiritual, moral and practical theology and practice. This is not meant as a partisan gesture: it comes from the conviction that without a specific investment of time and resources from the Catholic Movement in the Church of England at this moment, we will soon be reliant on training delivered by courses and colleges in which there is no expertise or particular commitment to the Catholic understanding of Christian thought and practice in our patrimony.

The Centre will begin to take shape over the autumn, and we have already been really pleased with the response from supporters:

those who are looking forward to participating, and the generosity of funders who wish to support the project as it begins. It is crucial for the future of the college that we maintain a residential community of formation in Oxford, where candidates can continue to come to learn 'Who is Jesus Christ, What is the Church, What is a priest.' A Movement which is unable to sustain a seminary is a movement which has lost hope in reform and renewal. But as Edward King took from his Oxford years a vision of Catholic life in the Church of England that was pastoral, ascetic, and liturgical, so the college which he founded needs to preserve and perpetuate these qualities according to the signs of the times and the opportunities they bring. So it is that we look forward to continuing our work in a new way and with new people, and 'break up the fallow ground.' ♡

Canon Robin Ward



## The 1876 Society Thank you to all members of the 1876 Society for their support:

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- Giulia Paoletti
- The Revd Graham Lunn & The Parish of St Michael and St Augustine, Beckenham
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- Ann Turner
- The Venerable Dirk van Leeuwen
- The Revd Michael Vyse
- The Revd Gary Waddington
- The Revd Alan Walker
- The Revd Dr Andrew Walker
- The Revd John Warner
- The Revd Ben Weitzmann
- The Revd Andreas Wenzel
- Richard Yoder
- The Revd Dr Jennifer Zarek
- The Archbishop of York
- The Bishop of Chichester



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## ORDINATIONS TO THE DIACONATE 2021

- Luke Demetri, Croydon (St Michael & All Angels with St James), *Southwark*
- Seamus Hargrave, Narberth and Tenby, *St Davids*
- Anthony Lawrence, Ventnor (Holy Trinity, St Catherine) and Bonchurch (St Boniface), *Portsmouth*
- James Walton, Castlefields (All Saints with St Michael) and Ditherington, *Lichfield*

*Charlotte Gibson, the wife of Samuel Gibson (SSH 2015–17) was also ordained deacon.*

## ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD 2021

- Matthew Austen, Brentwood (St Thomas), *Chelmsford*
- Helena Bickley-Percival, Westminster (St Stephen with St John), *London*
- Ross Brooks, Ettingshall (Holy Trinity), *Lichfield*
- Ross Copley, Lincoln (All Saints), *Lincoln*
- William (Josh) Delia, West Worthing (St John) with Worthing (St Andrew), *Chichester*
- Gerry Lynch, Devizes (St John and St Mary), *Salisbury*
- Alan Rimmer, Kensington, South (St Stephen), *London*
- Laura Ward, Perry Bar (St John the Evangelist), *Birmingham*

GDPR rules prevent us from publishing examination results without the explicit consent of our students. So we congratulate all our students who successfully completed their courses in 2020, and who were awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, the degrees of Master of Studies, Master of Science, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy. We are very proud of all you have achieved during your time with us.



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# HAVE YOU JOINED THE 1876 SOCIETY?

The 1876 Society is a membership society for alumni, friends and supporters of St Stephen's House, with the aim of providing a community of stewardship to help support the work and future of the College. Simply by becoming a member you are supporting this aim. You can join yourself, join in memory of someone, or gift someone else membership.

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