

## Overview

Current Post: Team Rector, The Lantern Church,  
Canford Magna Team Ministry  
(2018 - Present)

Previous Posts: Associate Vicar, Christ Church, Turnham  
Green (2014-2018)

Assistant Curate, Christ Church,  
Cockfosters (2010-2014)

*both in the London Diocese, Edmonton  
and Kensington areas respectively.*



Family: Married to Michelle. Three young children (and a dog!)

Proposed by: The Revd Jo Haine, Team Vicar, Emmanuel & St Mary's, Weymouth

Seconded by: The Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt, Director of Mission & Ministry and  
Deputy Diocesan Secretary

## Other involvements and responsibilities

- Member of the Mission and Ministry Council
- Member of the Diocesan Synod
- Trustee to Redtribe, charity birthed in Church of England, serving the Maasai in Kenya
- Member of Salisbury DEF
- Training Incumbent

## Commentary

Having grown up in Tanzania to missionary parents before living in urban Essex and then rural Gloucestershire I studied Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College, London. I trained for ordination as a pioneer minister at St Mellitus College and was ordained in 2010.

Whilst training and in my curacy I served all ages, but with a particular emphasis on young people, communicating faith and helping nurture disciples of secure identity, spiritual discipline and missionary zeal in a confused, consumerist and apathetic cultural context.

My curacy gave me experience in a busy, diverse parish with a more liturgical and sacramental expression of worship. As Associate Vicar in West London I helped re-launch a church that had been closed for many years. New disciples were made of every age and background, as well as seeing the church become home to a Youth Minister - pioneering and resourcing creative youth mission and ministry in that part of London.

Since arriving in Salisbury diocese in 2018, I have enthusiastically engaged with the wider church, serving and offering what experience I have, and learning lots more as I go.

I love Jesus and I love his Church, in all its breadth, diversity and colour - and despite its weaknesses. I passionately believe that disciples of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, equipped to serve through the church and in the world, can see individuals and communities transformed by God. I have good friends across the spectrum of churchmanship in the Church of England, feel passionately about many of the issues facing the church in our own diocese and in the national church in the next quinquennium and am keen to present a positive agenda for mission, wellbeing, renewal and unity.

- **Mission and the Church post-Covid:** There is no doubt that the Covid pandemic has brought huge challenges, missionally, pastorally, financially, and perhaps particularly for the rural and semi-rural churches in our diocese. However, there has also been huge creativity in mission, parish churches serving the poor, individuals connecting with their neighbours more, befriending the lonely and supporting our key workers.

Historically the Church of England has met similar challenges to those we face today with an urgency in prayer, deeper discipleship, courageous evangelism and compassionate, locally-discerned mission. We need fresh creativity in mission, a mixed ecology of church that really works at a parish and deanery level, revitalising healthy parish ministry *and* investing in fresh expressions. We must work hard, with some of the challenges we face, ensuring proper support for faithful parish churches; but we must also work with hope, making the most of some once-in-a-generation opportunities.

- **Reaching and discipling younger generations:** I have worked as a student pastor at a large city church, a youth and student curate at a suburban church and been the Director of a pioneering Youth Minister in the London Diocese. I lead a church that helps support youth mission and discipleship in our deanery and wider diocese. Whilst I have much to learn, I have passion and some recent experience to offer in reaching and discipling the younger, and sadly missing, generations in many of our churches. And whilst I am feeling older having recently turned 40, I do believe we need to see younger clergy like myself representing our diocese and the church nationally.
- **Clergy wellbeing:** In September last year I asked my Bishop if I could access a session of counselling, feeling overwhelmed and exhausted by the previous few months and was very grateful for the support I received. My wife works as a doctor for a company that helps serve the occupational health needs of clergy nationally. When our clergy are better supported, our churches and communities will reap the benefit too. I would advocate for even greater progress and would want to make myself available to you, so that I can better learn what might help you flourish in your calling. Email me anytime: [mike@thelanternchurch.org](mailto:mike@thelanternchurch.org).
- **Unity and the renewal of the Church:** I am not naive to the challenges, politics and un-edifying debate that has hampered the unity and mission of the church in recent years. I know the next quinquennial is crucial, and I have great hope for the Church of England if (i) those who are chosen in this election are committed to prayer, to unity wherever possible and to the priority of mission and evangelism, particularly amongst the young; and (ii) we seek a reformation in the culture and structures of church governance that it might become more efficient, well resourced at a parish level, more diverse and dynamic, less reactive and fearful, and more connected to the prodigal cry of our contemporary culture.

Your vote: I would be most grateful if you voted for me as I seek to serve you, our diocese and the wider church in this way. Obviously I'd be especially grateful if you could make me your first choice candidate, and if you have any further questions on anything I have written, or haven't had space to mention above, please get in touch.

