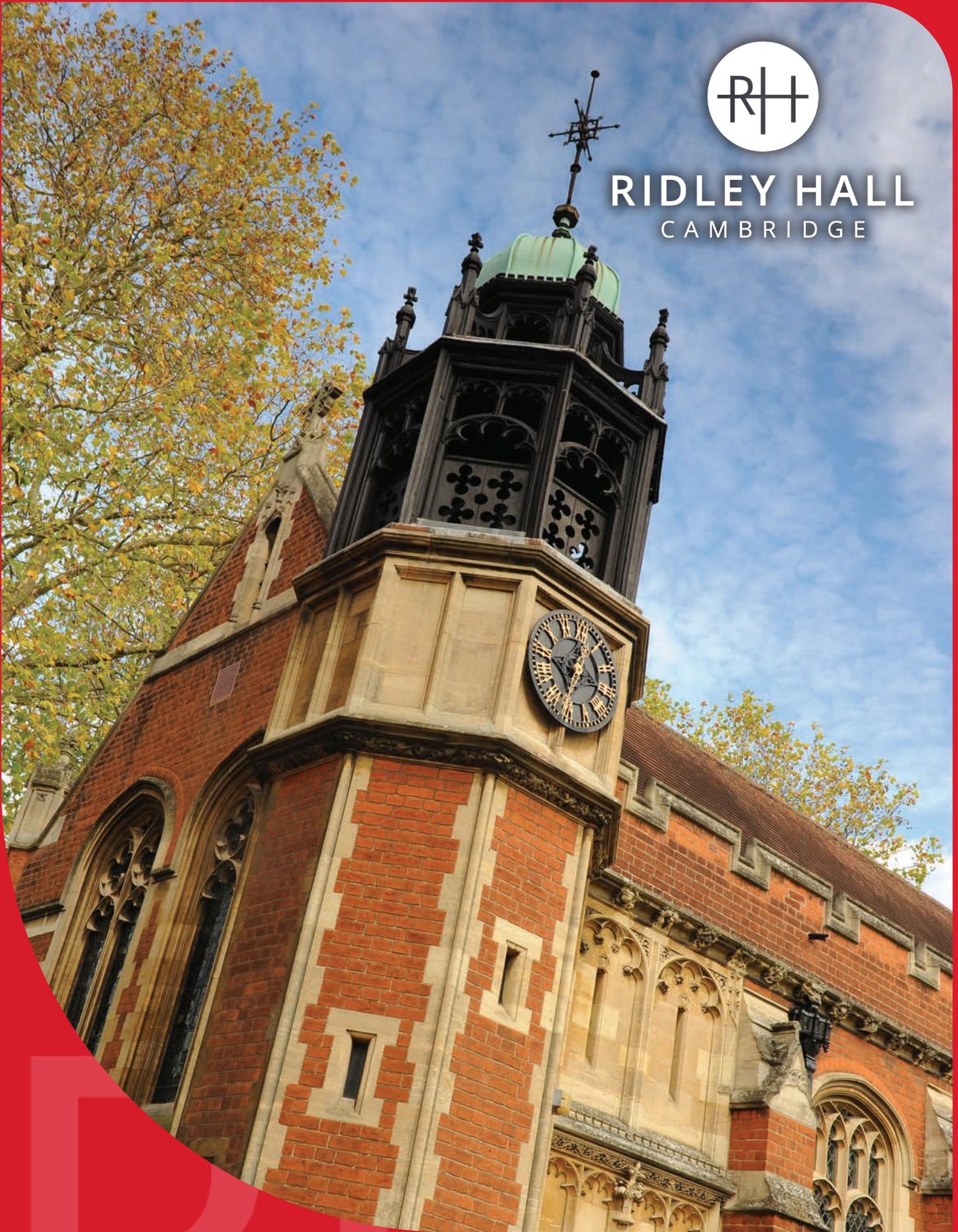




RIDLEY HALL CAMBRIDGE



NEWS FROM RIDLEY SUMMER 2023



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NEW POSTGRADUATE THEOLOGY COURSE OPTIONS

If you have been thinking about further study, take a look at this offering from the Cambridge Theological Federation.

From this September, you can now study on our new Graduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and MA pathways, by attending block week teaching. Block week teaching provides focused learning and enables you to fit your study around your existing commitments.

The Postgraduate block week teaching is taught in partnership between Ridley Hall and Westminster College and enables you to focus on theology and ministry for Christian leadership, within your tradition. Undertaken part time, across two or three years, the block week teaching enables you to complete the MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission, by attendance at two 3-day teaching blocks a term.

Interested? Why not attend our Postgraduate Open Day on July 18th, either in person, or via Zoom. Hear more about the colleges, the course and have a chance to discuss your specific questions with relevant staff. For more details, including timings and how to book, scan the QR code or find it on our Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/ridley-hall-cambridge-55366369493>



Scan me



“God gives power and strength to his people.”

In Acts 2 we find a running crowd.

They're drawn together by a new sound. A symphony of languages. People are amazed and perplexed. What does it mean for such a diverse group to hear about God's deeds of power in their own tongues? And then, Peter stands with the eleven. He raises his voice and invites the crowd to listen to what he has to say. Hold on... This is Peter. A fisherman, not a performer or a politician. Someone more used to mending nets than delivering speeches.

What's happened? How did we get from hiding behind locked doors to here? Psalm 68:35 tells us that, “God gives power and strength to his people”. It is in this power that Peter stands alongside the eleven. In the power and strength of the Holy Spirit Peter announces the good news of Jesus. He urges those listening to repent and be baptised.

Twenty centuries on, we have this wonderful knowledge of God in Jesus! We have inherited the disciple's commission to share the good news with love and confidence. And through knowing Jesus, we believe God's transformation of individuals, communities and cultures is possible. Indeed, we can witness to this transformation in our own lives!

We long, not only for the transformation that comes through diligent academic study and inspiring ministry experience, although these are valuable and important parts of God's kingdom-work. We long for the transformation that happens when God gives power and strength to his people.



The Psalmist witnesses to the fact that God, “... gives power and strength to his people”. He does this by remembering what God has done for others, and because he has experienced it for himself. He urges readers to trust that God is able and willing to give power and strength to them too, in their different time and place.

“We long for the transformation that happens when God gives power and strength to his people.”

As God gives power and strength to all those who will be sent out from Ridley Hall this summer, they can step expectantly towards God's hopeful future. This future will be an adventure and, like any good adventure, it will be full of opportunity and challenge. It will be a future in which the Holy Spirit is transforming lives and God's Kingdom is coming with justice, mercy and peace.

REVD DR MICHAEL VOLLAND
Principal

“All I have needed”

STORIES OF GOD’S PROVISION FROM THE CHAPEL AT RIDLEY HALL

The chapel has always been at the heart of community life and worship at Ridley Hall, but it is also a space where God speaks individually to his people, with words of challenge, encouragement and comfort.

We recently asked those who have been part of the community here to share their stories with us. One response came from Ann Pangbourne, whose husband trained here in the 1980s. Ann tells of how she heard God’s comforting voice during a difficult time for her and her family. “A week into our first term,” says Ann, “our house purchase had fallen through; we had sold our own home and had been kindly invited to live, with our five children, in the principal’s lodge with the principal, his wife, family, dog and puppies.”

After 130 years at the heart of our community, our beautiful chapel is in need of some long-awaited repairs and restoration. The brickwork needs to be repointed, the roof repaired, the walls repainted.

In line with other work we have undertaken at our site, we also want to improve the accessibility features of the chapel so that all of our community, and the wider community of the Cambridge Theological Federation, can benefit from using this space and joining with others in it. We also need to undertake major repairs to the chapel organ.

We have now launched an appeal for the chapel, to help raise the £75,000 we need to fund this work.

At the end of a challenging term, with Christmas approaching and no house purchase in sight, Ann recalls a moment when God spoke to her.

“We were in the chapel. A banner from the previous leavers’ year proclaimed God’s faithfulness to those He had called, and we sang: ‘Great is thy faithfulness’. When we came to the line that declares: All I have needed thy hand hath provided, peace enveloped me: it was true – and it remained true for 37 years of parish ministry.”

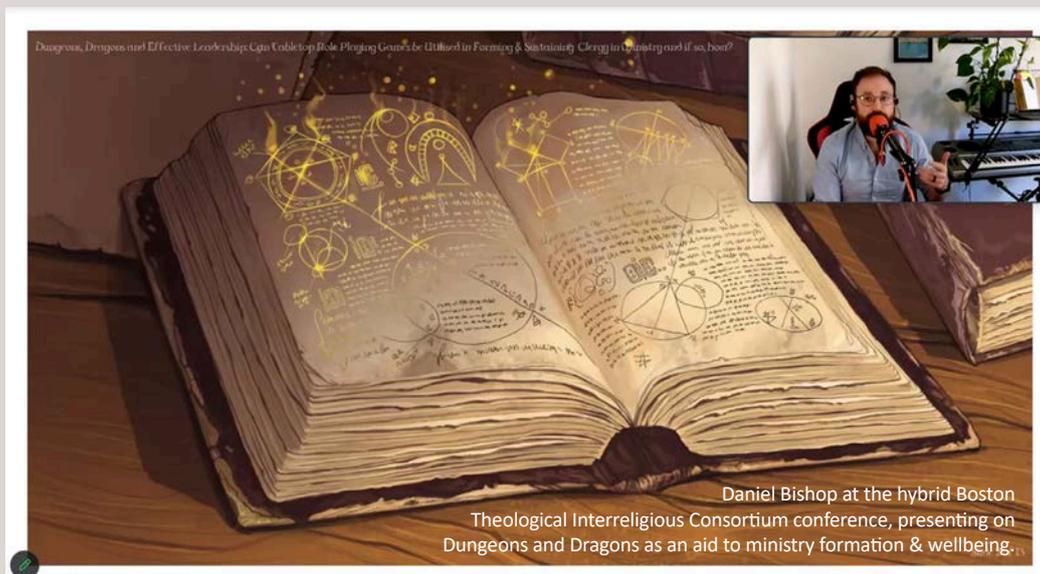
There are many such stories of God speaking to his people in this special place. If you have a memory of the chapel you’d like to share with us, we’d love to hear from you. Drop us a line and tell us your story:

Email us on development@ridley.cam.ac.uk

If you’d like to make a donation specifically for the benefit of the chapel you can do so by sending us a cheque payable to “Ridley Hall”, and including a note to indicate that the funds are for this purpose, or you can donate at www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/donate and leave a message to indicate that your gift is for the chapel.

Scan the QR code to donate online via JustGiving. Thank you for your support!





Dungeons & Dragons

Final-year ordinand Daniel Bishop asks what value the role-playing game may hold for sustainable and effective leadership in the Church.

HAVE YOU EVER FOUGHT A DRAGON, SAVED A PRINCESS, OR BEFRIENDED A LOWLY GOBLIN WHO IS DESPERATELY SEEKING THEIR FAMILY?

Such experiences may seem otherworldly, as though they have leaped out of the pages of a J. R. R. Tolkien, George R. Martin, or Terry Pratchett novel; but you can experience them too. Dungeons and Dragons has been in the public eye since the 1980s but carries with it a long history of controversy and criticism. In the 80s, the game was accused of promoting Satanism, witchcraft and violence. In recent years, D&D has been enjoying a resurgence in popularity, and it is increasingly being viewed in a more positive light. The game has been featured in popular TV shows like *Stranger Things* and *The Big Bang Theory*, and D&D livestreams are some of the more popular gaming streams found on YouTube and Twitch. As a result, D&D is becoming seen less as a niche hobby and more as a legitimate form of entertainment and socialisation.

The question, therefore, might be what such a game offers to the Church? The answer may be that the game offers

a lot for the Church's leaders. In playing the game, participants can develop greater levels of self-understanding as they embody a character. In addition, skills in boundary setting, emotional intelligence and promoting personal wellbeing are all developed by regular engagement with the game. Such skills are invaluable for ministry, but the benefits of the game do not stop here.

Traditionally, critical reflection, pastoral care, conflict management, team management, establishing vision and public speaking are all skills that have to be practised in "real-world" environments. However, entering into the fantasy world of D&D provides a safe and secure, consequence-free environment where these essential tasks of ministry can be formed and honed.

Daniel recently spoke at the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium conference on "Theology, Religion, and Dungeons & Dragons." He presented an essay he is currently writing on the topic of "Dungeons, Dragons and Effective Leadership: Can Tabletop Role-Playing Games be Utilized in Forming and Sustaining Clergy in Ministry, and if so, how?"

If you are interested in learning more about the topic, Daniel is happy to share his work with others who would like to read it. He is also willing to provide helpful resources on how to find or establish your own D&D games for those who may be interested. Email: dan.bishop@wearewoven.church

THE ZEAL OF AN EX-VANGELICAL: How might Friedrich Nietzsche disciple us today?

By Ben Somervell, final year ordinand

Last year, I shocked a room of evangelicals when I responded to the question, “Who has disciplined you most in your faith?” with “Atheists and the internet”. Ironically, the lapsed Christian Friedrich Nietzsche has become one such unwitting discipler for me.

A growing movement of “Ex-vangelicals” has emerged in recent years. As the name suggests, those involved have left the evangelical fold, embracing alternative worldviews including agnosticism, atheism, other Christian groupings, or other religions.

Nietzsche would fit well into this “ex-vangelical” category. His father and grandfather were both Lutheran pastors, and so Christian ministry was in his genes. Despite his father’s death in 1849 when Nietzsche was just five, Nietzsche became a devout believer, studying theology and winning a preaching prize. However, only a year later when Nietzsche was just twenty, he wrote that he had lost his faith and ultimately proclaimed, “God is dead”.

I began my journey with the 19th-century German philosopher when studying Theology at Durham. One of my closest friends at college had fallen under Nietzsche’s spell. He sung the philosopher’s praises so consistently that I ended up reluctantly reading some Nietzsche to see what all the fuss was about and to come up with a believing response. Once I was used to Nietzsche’s complex style, I began to see how one could admire his insights without accepting his atheistic conclusions: “He who

knows only his own side of the argument knows little [even] of that” (John Stuart Mill). To answer the atheist’s challenge, it must first be properly understood. Also in Nietzsche, I found the forerunner to the “New Atheists” and located the roots of this seemingly new hatred of, rather than just disbelief in, God.

Nietzsche has been an invaluable tonic to my faith, providing a thought-provoking sounding board.

More than that though, Nietzsche has been an invaluable tonic to my faith, providing a thought-provoking sounding board. Paradoxically, I believe that God has spoken to me and refined my complacent and insular faith as I have digested Nietzsche’s attacks on his former religion. As a once-driven evangelical believer, Nietzsche occupies a unique position from which he can, even now, constructively dialogue with those of us who have retained our faith. He has inspired me to inhabit my faith, rather than simply putting on the “borrowed clothes” of faith. As I have engaged with Nietzsche, God has sustained my faith through the fiery brook of criticism, even speaking to me in that burning bush.

I pray that my story may inspire you to constructively engage with and, through the Holy Spirit’s miraculous power, learn from ex-Christians.

For more on this topic, see Ben’s essay, “Anti-Theism and Eschatology: Countering Nietzsche’s Claim That Christianity Is Too ‘Other-Worldly’”, in *The Evangelical Review of Theology & Politics*, vol. 11 (March 2023): 15–30.

EMBER LIST 2023

We invite you to pray for our 2023 leavers and their families, as they begin their future ministries.

This year's leavers include those training for youth, sports and children's & family ministry through Ridley Lay Ministry (RLM) and Ridley Online (RO), those studying theology as independent students, and those training for ordination in the Church of England.



WILL ALVAREZ

Formerly: Youth Minister

Curacy: St. Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent (Portsmouth)

My past three years at Ridley Hall have been formational in so many ways! Alongside making lifelong friends and having the blessing of studying theology, Ridley has offered me many opportunities outside of the college. Highlights have included the opportunity to go to Israel, and being able to study alongside Muslim friends at the CMCS Summer School.



RUTH BANCEWICZ

Formerly: Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion

Course: Cert HE

I so appreciated the warm and open atmosphere of my classes at Ridley, and the teaching and discussion that expanded my horizons. I hope to continue my studies at some point in the future. Look me up at Faraday any time!



DAN BISHOP AND ANNA

Formerly: Highschool Chaplain and Youth Worker

Curacy: Woven St Margaret's, Aspley (Southwell and Nottingham)

Ridley has been a wonderful experience. It has been great to make lifelong friends (alongside studying of course), especially those whom I have been able to play Dungeons and Dragons with.



MARY BROWN

Formerly: Secondary School History and English Teacher

Curacy: Alde Sandlings (St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich)

During my time at Ridley I have developed deep friendships, people I will walk with through the rest of my ministry. I have also enjoyed placements that have stretched me and given me new experiences, and lectures that have made me excited for my ministry.



CHRISTOPHER BURROWS

AND LEYLA, JOSIAH & ROSALIE

Formerly: Gardener

Curacy: St. Hugh's Lewsey (St. Albans)

Ridley has been a blessing not just to me but also to my family as we've enjoyed the community and the growing together and learning about what it means to be a family with me as a vicar. We are most looking forward to seeing how God will use us in Luton and what we can learn and give there.



CHINYERE CHIKWEM

RO Specialism: Children's and Family Ministry

Before Ridley: Nurse

I am very grateful for being a part of this course, it has really opened my eyes to who and what I should be as a Christian, has equipped me with most of the tools needed in pursuing my ministry, giving theological words to some of the things I wouldn't have been able to describe. Above all, it has deepened my relationship with God, my understanding of self awareness and theological reflection that will always remain with me. Thank you.



PETE CLARK

Formerly: Itinerant Evangelist

Next: Looking to take a year's break, doing evangelism, more study, and writing poetry

During my time I appreciated spending time with Westcott and Westminster students. I learnt so much from attachments outside of Ridley. I have seen in myself a desire to bring more joy, justice and inclusivity to the Church.



STEVEN COPSEY AND

MICHAELA AND KAIUS, FORREST, JULES & NEVE

Formerly: Assistant Pastor

Curacy: Holy Trinity Brompton and Christ Church Kenilworth, South

Africa (London/Cape Town)
I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to study, getting to spend time with both those preparing for ordained ministry and those well experienced. I have especially enjoyed beginning a journey exploring the biblical languages and hope that will continue as I explore the Bible more.



PETER DALE AND RACHEL,

SIMEON & FELIX

Formerly: Homelessness Charity Director

Curacy: St. Francis Mackworth (Derby)

We love Ridley and we will look back fondly on our time here. It has been a place of deep faith, deep

learning, and deep friendships! We're now excited to move to Derby and join in with what God is doing there.



JEN DORLING AND MARK, FREYA & JUDE

RLM Specialism: Youth Ministry
Before Ridley: Youth Specialist

My Ridley journey has been such a blessing. I am grateful for the lifelong friendships, the creative styles of worship and the many Christ-centred discussions. I could not have done it without my beautiful family and friends cheering me on.



TIMOTHY FAIRHEAD AND JOANNA

Formerly: Prep School Music Teacher
Curacy: TBC

It has been a pleasure to learn from everyone during my time at Ridley, and I'm excited at how it has prepared us for what God has in store in the years to come. We're particularly grateful to all who have prayed with and for us as we started married life together at Ridley!



ALASTAIR GLEDHILL

Formerly: Church Ministry Worker
Curacy: Holy Trinity Norwich (Diocese of Norwich)

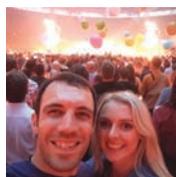
Ridley has given me lots of time for reading and for consolidating personal patterns of spiritual enrichment. I am looking forward to parish ministry, making known the saving grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.



SARAH HALL AND PHIL

Formerly: Community Midwife
Curacy: St. Augustine's, Ipswich (St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich)

I have loved my time at Ridley, living, worshipping, and having fun in this community has been such a gift to me. I have made many friends, who will help to sustain me through ministry. I am looking forward to my curacy in an area I already know well, including the coffee shops!



BEN HAUGHTON-SCALES AND LIVVI

Formerly: Charity Fundraiser
Curacy: Gleneagles Anglican Church, Wellingborough (Peterborough)

I arrived at Ridley Hall as a single man with no formal theological training and am leaving with a theology degree and a wife! My three years

here have been transformative spiritually, vocationally and relationally, and I'm so grateful to have learnt more of God's love and what it means to follow Jesus.



LIVVI HAUGHTON-SCALES AND BEN

Formerly: Partner Success Consultant at Receipt Bank, London
Curacy: Gleneagles Anglican Church, Wellingborough (Peterborough)

It has been a joy and privilege to be at Ridley. It has been wonderful to be part of such a warm and loving community and to learn from so many wise and gifted people. I will always cherish the three years I spent here.



EMAN HENEIN AND EMIL MEKHAIL, GLORI, GRACE & JOTHAM

RO Specialism: Youth Ministry
Before Ridley: Teaching Assistant

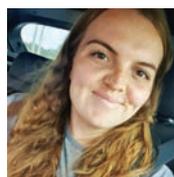
I had a wonderful time at Ridley — I had a passion for working with young people, but I didn't have the experience. However I now have experience and Ridley equipped me to serve these young people. I appreciate the support and encouragement I had at Ridley.



CHLOE HOLLINGWORTH

RO Specialism: Youth Ministry
Before Ridley: Unemployed

My time during Ridley online was enjoyable. The staff were amazing and helpful. The information is a lot to digest but it deepened my understanding of the Bible and its teachings.



LYDIA HOLLOWAY

RLM Specialism: Sports Ministry
Before Ridley: Sports Minister

Studying at Ridley has been both rewarding and challenging — I'm extremely grateful for the pastoral and academic support from lecturers and peers along the way. I've loved networking and building friendships for life. I've also loved learning more about the ministry God is calling me to!



ANNA-CLAIRE KIBBIN

RO Specialism: Youth Ministry
Before Ridley: Student

Ridley Online has been an amazing experience, starting during lockdown we were able to make incredible connections. Learning together and sharing experiences, I'm sure these relationships will continue to blossom. I have learnt so many extra skills I hope to keep on practising wherever life takes me.



VICTORIA LAWRENCE

Formerly: Youth & Children's Worker
Curacy: St. Swithin's and St. Faith's, Lincoln (Diocese of Lincoln)

I'm immensely grateful for the many things Ridley has taught me over my three years here and for the people I met whilst on placement at Christ the Redeemer and CUWFC. Whilst at Ridley I have made some lasting friendships that I know will sustain me throughout my life.



ELIZABETH LEE

RLM Specialism: Youth Ministry
Before Ridley: Support Worker

I have loved being at Ridley and am going to miss coming along a great deal, but I take with me so many great memories and a toolbox of knowledge and skills that will forever be because of the amazing staff here. Thank you so much.



HAYLEY LEWIS

RLM Specialism: Youth Ministry
Before Ridley: Administrator

Here's to whatever God might have in store for me next on this journey that is life. "Adventure is out there!" – Charles Muntz, *Up*



RHYS MCLAREN

RLM Specialism: Youth Ministry
Before Ridley: Student

I'm proud to know that Ridley has been a key part in my journey of faith and ministry, wherever it leads. I won't forget the never-ending encouragement and support.



HELEN NEVILLE

Formerly: Assistant Church Leader
Curacy: Abbots Langley (St. Albans)

I've loved being part of the community here at Ridley, it has been a real blessing. I am grateful for all the things I've learned, and friendships formed, both here and at my placement church St. Andrew's Histon & Impington.



LEO OROBOR AND ULLY-LANGE, ANNEKA & GABRIELLE

Formerly: Community Mission Worker
Curacy: Yaxley (Ely)

Training at Ridley was an adventurous fun challenge that enriched my Christian faith. My family and I are grateful for the incredible support from H Staircase, fellow students, staff, and the whole Ridley community.

I will cherish the good friendships I have made both old and new.



EDEN PARRIS AND BETH, ORIANA & SERENA

Formerly: Worship Pastor
Curacy: St. John's with St. Mary's, Mansfield (Southwell and Nottingham)

I found Ridley to be a supportive environment. I appreciated my pastoral tutor's care and input, and how Ridley supported my desire to do a specific research degree. I'm looking forward to serving in church revitalisation, and I'm grateful for how the Holy Spirit has used Ridley to prepare me!



ANDREW PHILLIPS

Before Ridley Online: Planning Team Leader

I started at Ridley shortly after being confirmed as a Christian in my mid-30s. I wanted to find out more detail of my new-found faith and not just rely on what I had been told. Now that I am getting to the end of my course, I am looking to continue my part-time theological education at Ridley.



MATT RALPH AND LYDIA, POPPY & NATHANIEL

Formerly: IT Consultant
Curacy: Grays North (Chelmsford)

I really appreciated: learning Hebrew; taking a good long soak in the Old Testament; teaching some Greek and reading Greek NT with others; being prayed for; people's care for my family; making supportive friends for the long haul. Thanks all!



NICK ROMANS

Formerly: Wine Merchant
Curacy: St. Andrew's churches, Histon & Impington (Ely)

Much to give thanks for in my time here. For new and deepening friendships and the opportunity to serve among a humble, wise and generous community. Growth in dependence on God's faithfulness, and "I'm confident of this that he who began a good work in (us) will carry it on to completion..." (Phil. 1:6)



BEN SOMERVELL

Formerly: Theology Student
Curacy: Holy Trinity, Old Hill (Worcester)

During my training, I've found conversations with staff and fellow ordinands, all following similar

senses of calling to me, really helpful and insightful. I've also really enjoyed my placements. All of this has prepared me well for my upcoming curacy.



DAVID STUART

Before Ridley: *Writer & researcher*
Course: *Graduate Diploma*

My brief time at Ridley has been among the most enriching of my many years of academic study; finally I've had the opportunity to explore some of the questions that are really important in life. I have no idea what the future holds, but hopefully Ridley is just the start of my theological studies.



DAVID TISDALL AND NAOMI, JONATHAN & BEATRICE

Formerly: *Farm Animal Vet and Academic*

Curacy: *St Barnabas, Cambridge (Ely)*

The highlight of my time at Ridley has been those I have trained alongside. They make

me hopeful about the future of the Church. Looking to curacy, I am expectant to see God at work, and excited to get involved with what he is doing.



LAYA WATTERS

Formerly: *Ministry Experience Intern*
Curacy: *Holy Trinity Idle, St. Cuthbert's Wrose, St. John's Greengates, Bradford (Leeds)*

God has been incredibly generous to me through my time at Ridley. It has been such a blessing to build deep friendships and live life in all its fullness here. I'm really excited to be moving to the North and to join in with what God is doing in Bradford!



PETER WELBY AND JEN & SIMEON

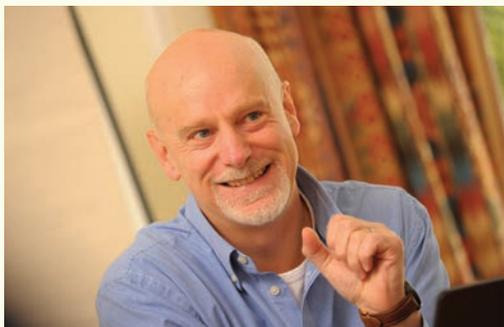
Formerly: *Political Consultant*

Curacy: *St. Mary Magdalen with St. Olave, St. Luke and St. John, Bermondsey (Southwark)*

Ridley has been a lovely place of friendship, prayer and enjoyment, and a place in which our family has grown. We'll miss it, but we're looking forward to getting on with what God called us here to prepare for.

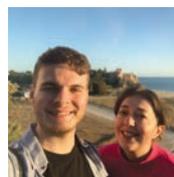
Well done, good and faithful servant!

This summer, after twenty years of service, Paul Weston retires from the teaching and tutorial team at Ridley Hall.



I first met Paul on a snowy afternoon in January 2004 when he interviewed me for a place at the college. I was struck by the joy and warmth with which I was welcomed. Subsequently, like generations of Ridleians, I was shaped by Paul's contagious enthusiasm for mission and evangelism (and for Lesslie Newbigin!). He has been a wise guide for hundreds of students, a superb colleague and friend and, most importantly, a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. The Newbigin Centre will continue to be located at Ridley Hall, even as we send Paul and Ginny into this next season of their lives with our love and prayers.

Michael Volland, Principal



CHARLES AND MIRIAM WHEELER

Formerly: *Church Administrator/GP*
Curacy: *St. George & St. Paul, Tiverton (Exeter)*

We have loved studying at Ridley, especially the rhythm of prayer, the engaging theological discussions and all the moments of joy and laughter. We're looking forward to serving in our new context in the South West.



CHRIS WHITTAKER AND CAT, ELIANA, AMELIA & JEM

Formerly: *Commercial Manager*
Curacy: *Christ Church Winchester (Diocese of Winchester)*

Ridley has been amazing!

Encouraging, challenging and stretching and loads of fun. I'm so grateful to have made fantastic friends for life, and the blessing of being on the best staircase is the cherry on the cake!



OLUFUNKE WILLIAMS

RO Specialism: *Youth Ministry*
Before Ridley: *Secondary School Teacher*

Being at Ridley touched my personal life journey, producing impactful emotional responses, and raising questions which suggested that there was more to the course than met the eye. It enabled me to see me as God sees me.



The staff and students of Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College

VOCATION SPOTLIGHT: Called to Uganda

Sarah and Simon trained (and met) at Ridley, in the early to mid-1990s. For the last twenty-five years they have served in the Bridgnorth Deanery in the Diocese of Hereford. Nearly two years ago they felt the call to serve with the Church Mission Society, and being in that moment between dependent children and the possibility of grandchildren, they felt free to follow that calling.

In March 2023 they moved to Gulu in Northern Uganda, where Sarah has become Principal of Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College, whilst Simon works in the Diocese in the fields of Discipleship and Economic Development. The certificate and diploma course at the college are validated by Uganda Christian University in Mukono, Kampala. Students arrive with experience of ministering in a sub parish and study for three years. They have to find their own fees for college and work hard not only academically but also in the fields to grow the food that the college kitchen department uses for the daily meals: maize and beans. It is a radically different life from the comforts of Ridley. Morning Prayer starts at 6.45am and the day ends with night prayer at 9pm. The course material is not so different – Biblical and Systematic Studies, and classes on preaching and pastoral care, alongside a contex-

tual course – African Traditional Religion and Community Development. “Having ministered in rural and market town parishes,” says Simon, “we are used to seeing the church as the beating heart of a local community, and are delighted to learn from local models of community building and development which are being encouraged here, in particular by Tear Fund.”

Simon has previously trained African clergy in Tanzania and Madagascar in the *Rooted in Jesus* discipleship course, which was developed with Tanzanian clergy and Alison Morgan (author of *The Wild Gospel*) to offer culturally appropriate discipleship training in this context. Plans are already in place to offer that training in Uganda, once the course materials are translated into Acholi.

“In the first six weeks,” Sarah reflects, “we have been reminded again of the faithfulness of God, as we have seen his provision for accommodation and work permits, a piece of land to grow our food, friends on the journey and for Simon the privilege of attending GAFCON in Kigali. We are out of our depth every day, but held up by the love and grace of God.”



Photo credit: CMS

Further details of Sarah and Simon’s work can be found on the CMS website:
www.churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/sarah-and-simon-cawdell-uganda

NOT RACE BUT GRACE: Mission in Malaysia

Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy, a multi-ethnic and multicultural country with a population of approximately 33 million in 2022. The citizens of Malaysia include *bumiputera* (indigenous people, predominantly Malays), Chinese, Indians and others. Despite being a multi-ethnic and multicultural country, the Malay majority dominates the Malaysian government, power and politics. Islam is declared the official religion in the Constitution, but there is freedom of religion for the other ethnic communities. In view of that, race and ethnicity in Malaysia are imbricated with religion: Malays with Islam, Indians with Hindu, Chinese with traditional religion, Taoism, Confucianism, ancestor worship and later Buddhism, and indigenous people with animism. In Article 152 of the Malaysian Constitution, the Malay language is declared as the national language of Malaysia in spite of the country's linguistic complexity.

Historically, Western missions coincided with the expansion of Western colonialism in Malaysia since the decline of the Malay-Muslim Sultanate of Melaka in the 15th century, when successive colonisers such as Portuguese (1511–1641), Dutch (1641–1786) and British (1786–1957) conquered not only Melaka but gradually the other states of Malaya. In 1874 the Pangkor Treaty (between British and Malay Sultans) protected the indigenous Malays from Christian missionary activities, not necessarily out of respect for Islam but for political reasons. For that reason, Christianity was often considered as the religion of peoples whose ancestors were,

or who were affiliated with, the colonisers such as the Chinese and Indian immigrant communities in West Malaysia.

Christianity was established in East Malaysia as a consequence of the Western missionary movement in the late 19th century. For instance, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) and the Church Missionary Society (CMS) were responsible for introducing Anglicanism to Borneo by sending missionaries from England and Australia. Although initially their primary purpose was to give pastoral care to the British expatriates and the Chinese immigrants, they gradually evangelised indigenous peoples.

Today approximately nine percent of people in Malaysia are Christians, represented by a wide range of denominations, such as the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and a range of independent Evangelical and Pentecostal/Charismatic movements. In retrospect, Christianity has helped preserve the cultural identity of some migrant groups; and now as a faith represented among most races in Malaysia, Christianity can be a force for national unity. Churches in Malaysia, under the umbrella of the Council of Churches of Malaysia and National Evangelical Christian Fellowship, are challenged to witness God's grace in a multicultural context in Malaysia.

DR JUDY BERINAI joined the Ridley Hall community for Easter term on the Refreshment Programme for her sabbatical. Originally from Sabah, Malaysia, Judy has taught at the Sabah Theological Seminary in Kota Kinabalu since 1991.



Ridley's Journey to Net Zero Continues

The Church of England, as agreed at General Synod, have set an ambitious but necessary goal for all parts of the Church to reach, by 2030, a position of net zero carbon. As defined in the *Church of England Routemap*, net zero carbon is “the reduction as far as possible of all in-scope carbon emissions and the removal of an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere for the remaining in-scope emissions by use of accredited offsetting schemes.”

As a Theological Education Institute with listed historic buildings at the heart of our site, this is no small challenge. Whilst Ridley Hall has long held the importance of hearing the call to care for God's earth close to its mission, whilst creating a sustainable place to learn—demonstrated recently by achieving the Silver Eco Church award—there is a lot more still to do!

What have we got planned?

We have created a Ridley Hall “Net Zero Working Group” to monitor progress, offer helpful thoughts and discussion, and share responsibility for any actions required. Membership of the working group includes staff across all departments, our Principal the Revd Dr Michael Volland, and our Student Environment representative. The group's priorities over the coming months are: **feasibility**, achieving some **quick wins**, and completing a robust **Ridley Hall Routemap** to 2030.

With the help of expert consultants, we are having our whole site surveyed, and the way we use it analysed, to measure our carbon footprint and allow



LUCY THOMPSON, Domestic Bursar

a detailed feasibility study to reveal the most effective methods to help us meet our 2030 target. We will be exploring all sustainable initiatives; from air source heat pumps and solar panels to improving our building insulation and introducing green policies amongst our staff.

In the first instance, we will be ensuring that as many of our lights as possible are using LED bulbs, to make an immediate impact on our energy efficiency. Whilst this is already the case in our shared teaching spaces, we will be rolling this out across all our student accommodation, with an aim of completing 50% of the site by the end of 2023.

Alongside this, our staff teams across all departments are committed to developing individual annual Green Pledges, beginning in September this year. Our pledges will share the ways in which each area of our site is operating in the most sustainable way possible, and commit to these becoming policy for the way forward.

It is important we continue to talk about the challenges and achievements of our journey to Carbon Net Zero. In sharing the progress we are making and the plans we have so far this year, we hope the conversation continues to grow beyond our community.

For more information visit www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change

ON THE ROAD: Staff speaking engagements

A snapshot of the past year's speaking engagements by Ridley staff



ANDY BYERS Last summer, Andy led a New Wine United seminar on “A Theology of Justice: Reimagining a biblical theme in our cultural moment”, and spoke on “The Gospel of John and Contemporary Culture” at the Cedarwood Festival. He has preached locally several times over the year, including on “How to Handle Rejection”, at Holy Trinity Cambridge. He has also been a guest lecturer for Spurgeons College, and delivered a number of academic papers including “The Genre of Mark’s Gospel is ‘Gospel’: Revisiting Literary Innovation in the Markan Incipit,” for the SBL conference in Denver in November.



ANDREW CHAMBERLAIN directed the annual British Christian Writer’s Conference in 2022, “Insights and encouragement for your calling as a writer”, leading a session on creating compelling themes and memorable characters that keep your readers coming back for more.



BECCA DEAN spoke in November 2022 at the National Youth Ministry Weekend on “Learning Styles: how understanding them can help all young people flourish” and co-led a seminar entitled “Gen Z to Gen A: a missional view”.



ANDREW DUNLOP At the 2022 Ecclesiology and Ethnography Conference, Andrew gave a paper entitled “Towards an espoused ecclesiology of the mixed ecology”. During his Lent Term study leave, Andrew visited Mauritius, and gave a variety of talks and sermons, including speaking on formation and theological reflection to the Fellowship of Vocations group in the Diocese of Mauritius and leading a three-day retreat for diocesan clergy at the Seminaire Inter-Iles, Beau Bassin on contextual mission and new forms of church.



SARAH DUNLOP In September 2022, Sarah gave a paper entitled “Finding Manna in the Desert: an analysis of how Anglican laity theologially reflect” at the Ecclesiology and Ethnography Network conference in Durham.



JO GRIFFITHS delivered a seminar on “Developing a compassionate heart in children” at the Hand in Hand children’s and family ministry conference held in Eastbourne in February 2023.



ROB MCDONALD delivered two teaching days to the Community of St Anselm, on “Introduction to Theology” and “The Trinity”. In May he also spoke on “The Coming of the Holy Spirit” at St. Mark’s Newnham, in their Resurrection and Beyond series.

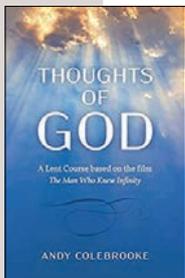
GETTING THE WORD OUT: Ridleian publications

Recent and forthcoming publications from Ridley staff, students and alumni



Richard Bauckham, *Son of Man: Early Jewish Literature*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, forthcoming, July 2023)

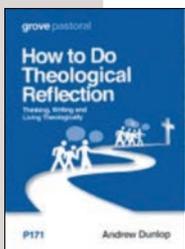
Richard Bauckham, “Christology”, in Matthew V. Novenson and R. Barry Matlock (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies* (Oxford, OUP: 2022), pp. 406–421



Andrew J. Byers, “Was Johannine Christianity Sectarian?” in *Didaktikos* 6:4 (2023): 33–35

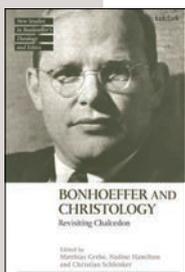
Andrew J. Byers, “Is the Johannine Community Hypothesis Still Viable?” in *Didaktikos* 6:3 (2023): 33–36

Andrew J. Byers (guest editor), Special Issue, “Reading John’s Gospel in the 21st Century: Contemporary Reception of a Controversial Text”, *Religions*

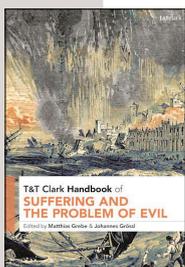


Andy Colebrooke, *Thoughts of God: A Lent Course based on the film The Man Who Knew Infinity* (Winchester, UK: Circle Books, 2022)

Andrew Dunlop, *How To Do Theological Reflection: Thinking, Writing and Living Theologically* (Cambridge: Grove Books, 2022)



Matthias Grebe, Mark Chapman, Friederike Nüssel and Frank-Dieter Fischbach (eds), *Towards Interchangeability: Reflections on Episcopacy in Theory and Practice* (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2022)



Matthias Grebe, Nadine Hamilton and Christian Schlenker (eds), *Bonhoeffer and Christology: Revisiting Chalcedon* (London: Bloomsbury, 2023)

Matthias Grebe and Johannes Grössl (eds), *T&T Clark Handbook of Suffering and the Problem of Evil* (London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming, July 2023)

Eleanor Jeans, *Securely Single: A course to help support and encourage single Christians* (www.securelysingle.co.uk)

Rhona Knight, *Unforced Rhythms of Grace: Rest, Recovery and Flourishing in Ministry* (Cambridge: Grove Books, 2023)

Rhona Knight, Sally Myers and **Sally Nash**, *Liberating Christian Learning: A handbook for leaders & facilitators* (independently published, 2023)

Andrew Parker, Nick J. Watson and Grant Jarvie (eds), *Sport, Physical Education, and Social Justice* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2022)

Andrew Parker and Nick Watson, “Sport, Religion and Beliefs”, in Lawrence A. Wenner (ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Sport and Society* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022), pp.154–70

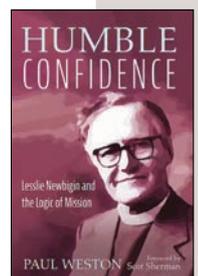
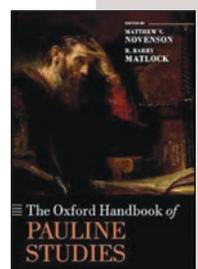
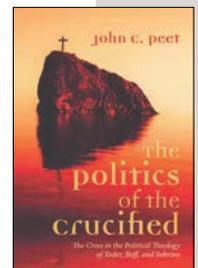
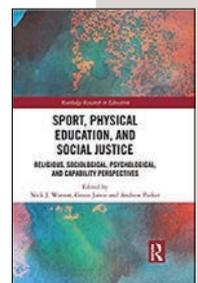
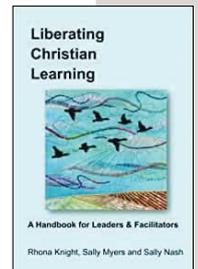
John C. Peet, *The Politics of the Crucified: The Cross in the Political Theology of Yoder, Boff, and Sobrino* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2021)

Ben Somervell, “Does evil imply God’s existence?”, in *Theology* 126.2 (March 2023): 111–120

Ben Somervell, “Anti-theism and Eschatology: Countering Nietzsche’s Claim that Christianity is too ‘other-worldly’”, in *The Evangelical Review of Theology & Politics*, vol. 11 (2023): 15–30

Michael B. Thompson, “Paul and Jesus”, in Matthew V. Novenson and R. Barry Matlock (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies* (Oxford, OUP: 2022), pp. 389–405

Paul Weston, *Humble Confidence: Lesslie Newbigin and the Logic of Mission* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2023)



Are you a Ridleian with a publication in the pipeline for the coming year? Email the editor on comms@ridley.cam.ac.uk so that we can feature it in next year’s magazine.

Suffering: pastoral and dogmatic dimensions

The Revd Dr Matthias Grebe (Ry. 2009–12) is Lecturer and Tutor in Theology at St Mellitus College, London, and Associate Vicar at St Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge.

In an episode of the GodPod podcast in 2022, I said that suffering, evil and sin represent a pastoral question. *In everyday life*, theodicy is never a theoretical question but a deeply practical one. These issues cannot be explained away; there is no rational “explanation” we can give a grieving parent who has just lost a child that will ever alleviate the pain. And it is clear that the question “Why do I suffer?” always trumps the philosophical trilemma of “Why is there suffering in the world if God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent?”

One pastoral response to personal suffering that we can find in the Bible is lament, a practice that I argue the Church needs to rediscover afresh for every generation. Nevertheless, there is still a time and place for the dogmatic approach, which considers the rational justification for belief in a loving God in light of the suffering and evil in the world. Whereas the implications of lament for our spiritual walk with God are more obvious, and might include surrender and relenting to God’s wisdom, the second approach shapes our understanding of who God is. We therefore shouldn’t conceptualise the dogmatic approach to suffering as any less “spiritual” or caring than the call to lament – it’s about *who* this God really is, and how he responds to our pain.

My current research focuses on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the “suffering God”. It asks whether it is possible to talk meaningfully and coherently about suffering within God (kenosis, self-limitation and self-giving) and anchor suffering within the Trinity without eternalising suffering.

If we take seriously that in Jesus Christ God has revealed himself most fully – “*he who has seen me has seen the Father*” – then we get a glimpse of who God is by looking at Jesus’ Passion. There is just no way around the cross! In Jesus, the Suffering Servant, we are confronted with a God who not only deals with our sin and suffering in a final sense, but who knows personally what it is to suffer. This is no far-off, academic, theoretical God; he not only provides an eternal end to suffering, but as the Emmanuel is with us in our own experience of it. Still, how do we make sense of this suffering God?

The *T&T Clark Handbook of Suffering and the Problem of Evil* offers some useful resources for scholars, laity and clergy to dig deeper into these questions. With 80 contributions, it is the most comprehensive title published on the topic, with chapters on biblical perspectives, historical figures, dogmatic themes, philosophical and ethical issues, and interreligious and interdisciplinary approaches by leading academics from around the world.

The *T&T Clark Handbook of Suffering and the Problem of Evil* is edited by Matthias Grebe and Johannes Grössl and is due to be published by Bloomsbury in July 2023.

