



RIDLEY HALL
CAMBRIDGE



NEWS FROM RIDLEY SUMMER 2022



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A Nudge on the Tiller (Not Revolution) MICHAEL VOLLAND back cover

REMEMBERING HARRY CHAPMAN

Harry Chapman worked for Ridley Hall from 1906 to 1950 as Porter and Gardener. During these years, he lived with his family in the Porter's Lodge, now the Reception and office of Grove Books.

Harry was famous for growing geraniums, a fact that the artist has preserved for posterity! In the painting we can see the croquet lawn and G staircase through the window behind him.

The portrait will be rehung in Reception, in the room in which it was painted; Harry's home during 44 years of faithful service to the Hall.



The Principal, the Revd Dr Michael Volland, in Ridley Hall's reception office holding a portrait of Harry Chapman by Alice West, sister of former Chaplain, the Revd F. H. West.

Principal's welcome



The Revd Dr Michael Volland

On the south side of Durham Cathedral there is a small memorial garden in which is placed a large stone commemorating the life of a high-ranking military officer.

In the centre of the stone is a single word, Faithful. I have often thought about what a marvellous thing it would be to have one's life summarised by this word; faithful.

As we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, I suggest that, faithful, is the word which most accurately describes her life and reign. Her Majesty's commitment to Her people and to fulfilling the duties of the Sovereign's role are rooted in and sustained by a deep and lifelong faith in Jesus Christ; the one in whom we perceive most clearly the true meaning of faithfulness.

Her Majesty's Christian commitment and the faithfulness that flows from it, are an example to the community at Ridley Hall. At the heart of our endeavour of forming leaders for God's Church is a focus on enabling students to grow

in Christlike character. In attending to this task, we strive to cultivate habits of worship, prayer and devotion that will sustain those we send out over years of ministry and mission. We long for those formed at Ridley and sent out into the harvest field to be faithful; faithful to God and to their people, and, like Her Majesty, faithful over the long haul.

"We long for those formed at Ridley and sent out into the harvest field to be faithful."

In this edition of the magazine, you will read about some of the faithful ministry that is rooted in the work God is doing at Ridley Hall. There is much to be encouraged about and we invite you to join us in giving thanks to God for this. You will also find our Ember list, where you can read about those being sent out from Ridley in 2022. Please join us in praying that these ministries will be characterised by a great love and commitment to Jesus Christ so that at the end of the age, when the Great Shepherd returns, we, with them, might hear those long-anticipated words, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

REVD DR MICHAEL VOLLAND

Principal

AN INVITATION TO READERS

Enclosed with this magazine is a post-card. Please prayerfully consider who in your church may be exploring a call to go deeper into youth ministry, children's & family ministry or sports ministry, and pass it on to them — it could change their life and your church's mission.

FOLLOW YOUR CALLING



YOUTH

CHILDREN

SPORTS



Middle East calling

BY CALUM BURKE

I studied at Ridley between 2018 and 2021. I'm thankful to have studied at Ridley, and for the ways it has refined my calling.

Before coming to Ridley, I knew God was calling me to work in inter-religious contexts, especially among Muslims. This vocation was further developed at the end of my first year when I was given the opportunity to undertake a placement at St George's Baghdad.

During my time in Iraq, I found myself and my sense of vocation deeply changed, and I felt God was calling me to a long-term relationship with the Middle East. This led to my bishop and training incumbent releasing some of my time to travel to the region. This has given me some fantastic opportunities and experiences, including a recent retreat in Cairo with Christian and Muslim leaders from around the world.

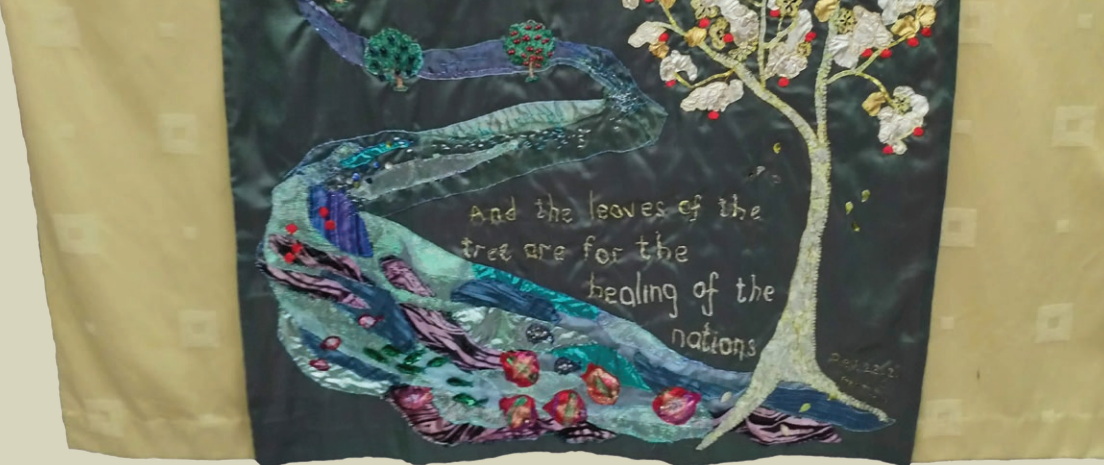
Despite the positives, my trips have also shown me the increasing pressure Christians in the Middle East face. An

Iraqi church leader recently told me, "When there is so much death and suffering, you have to become numb to survive". This narrative is common; when political instability happens, Christians often face more pressure. This has led to some asking the question, how many Christians will there be left in the Middle East in the years to come?

How many Christians will there be left in the Middle East in the years to come?

Iraq is an example of why this question is being asked. Since the 2003 Coalition invasion, the Christian community has shrunk from 1.5 million to under 200,000. As Christians in the West, we must remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East, who often express their feeling of abandonment. If my time in the region has taught me anything, it's that we in the West have so much to learn from the Church in the Middle East, the lands that gave us the entirety of our biblical story. I pray as Jesus taught us, that we have ears to hear.





Altar frontal in the chapel at Birmingham Women's & Children's NHS Foundation Trust, created by Tina Hamilton and a team of praying women

Curing and Healing

The Revd Dr Sally Nash is a Practice Tutor with Ridley Online, our flexible course designed for youth and children's workers and volunteers.

With my recently broken shoulder, I have been revisiting some of my thoughts and learning over the years. I am also continuing to read about disability to nuance my thinking about this. My latest reading is Amy Kenny's wonderfully titled book *My body is not a prayer request*. She explains the difference between curing and healing thus:

Curing is a physical process; it's individual, usually (fairly) rapid, and concentrates on eliminating disease. Healing is a sociocultural process. It focuses on restoring interpersonal, social and spiritual dimensions. It's lengthy and ongoing because it's a process of becoming whole (p.9).

*"Curing is a physical process;
healing is a sociocultural process"*

What I discovered this week at the physio's is that my cure will not be quick, I can expect twinges for up to two years! I wonder if the definition of curing needs tweaking as sometimes there is no cure for some of our diseases, just some amelioration of symptoms, and healing is the only possibility. Other times you think there should be a cure but the lack of a clear diagnosis means treatment is not possible or is experimental. What Amy talks about is the presumptuousness and inappropriateness of those

who think she wants or needs a cure and who feel free to make all sorts of assumptions and presumptions about her and her theology.

While I am hoping that my shoulder is cured, it will largely happen because of the amazing power of my body to mend itself in this particular instance, the regenerative capacity of our bodies is amazing although I am of the age where I more often think of the degenerative elements of it. However, whatever happens with my shoulder, I am experiencing healing, becoming more whole as I reflect on the different lessons I have been learning.

The picture above is one of the altar frontals made by praying women for the chapel at my husband Paul's work; it evokes hope in me each time I see it.



"Curing and Healing" was first published on Sally & Paul's blog which you can find at: markerpostsandshelters.wordpress.com

My body is not a prayer request by Amy Kenny is published by Brazos Press (Grand Rapids, 2022).

Talking Jesus

WITH RACHAEL HEFFER

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I'm Rachael Heffer, and I'm Head of Mission for the Evangelical Alliance (EA), overseeing our UK mission team to encourage and equip EA's members and partners in their mission and evangelism and develop a greater confidence to make Jesus known around the UK.

What's your connection with Ridley?

My contact with Ridley started around 2014 when I was a Youth Adviser for the Diocese of Ely, and a number of us with a passion for Christian youth ministry gathered regularly to look at how we could best resource, train, and equip all those investing in young people across our region. This led to various ecumenical projects, creating youth ministry training tools and forming a network of youth leaders who met regularly for support and training.

What's the most recent project at Ridley you have been involved with?

Since moving to the EA my relationship with Ridley has continued mainly around input into the Ridley Awards. There is much shared heart between us around training and equipping churches in developing a culture of evangelism, encouraging effective and brave individual Christian witness, and seeing people trained and equipped to step out into new ministries such as sports ministry and chaplaincy, meeting people with the good news where they are at.



I was delighted to recently record a Ridley podcast unpacking some of the Talking Jesus research, digesting some of the headline findings and dissecting how this can further inform our ministry and bring confidence to the UK church in this season.

Can you say a little more about the Talking Jesus research?

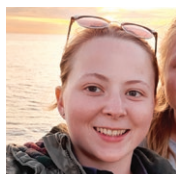
The research maps the current landscape of faith and evangelism across the UK. Many across Christian media have already been sharing the encouraging findings that 45% of the UK population believe in the resurrection, 20% of the UK population believe that Jesus is God, and that one in three non-Christians, after a conversation with a Christian, want to know more about Jesus Christ — up from one in five in 2015. We hope that this wave of encouragement and challenge will help to spur the church and individuals on to greater confidence and boldness in sharing the gospel with their friends and communities.

Download the full report at talkingjesus.org
For further information about the report or
to share more widely within in your networks,
email Rachael on r.heffer@eauk.org

EMBER LIST 2022

We invite you to pray for our 2022 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, and those training for ordination in the Church of England.



VICTORIA ALLEN

RLM Specialism: Sports ministry

Before Ridley: Sports Minister

I'm grateful for the sense of community; the friendships that were made. The banter that was

had in lectures and the common room and the time to encounter God on the grounds in Ridley and around the surrounding areas.



SIMON BAILEY

RLM Specialism: Sports ministry

Before Ridley: National Chaplain to Horse Racing UK

The last three years have been spent studying alongside a great group

of students and it has been thoroughly enjoyable to be in the RLM group. My role in racing continues but I look forward to seeing what God has planned for the group in the coming years.



ANYA BANNIKOVA

RLM Specialism: Youth ministry

Before Ridley: Youth Worker

"Who knows? Have patience. Go where you must go, and hope!"
— Gandalf



FREYA BRADLEY AND JOSH

Formerly: Full-time ministry

Curacy: St Mary's Islington (London)

Ridley has been my home and my community and given me the gift

of time and space where I have developed a new relationship with prayer and work. I've been so happy here and am incredibly grateful to my peers and the staff that have made it so special.



CHARLES COWPER

Formerly: Parish Assistant

Next: Maths Teacher with Teach First, and marriage!

I will always be thankful for what

the Lord has revealed to me here in Ridley — the things about myself, about Himself, and those around me. I have been among the best people through the changes and chances of the last few years.



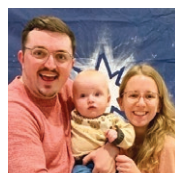
JEROME DANIELS AND BETHAN & MARCUS

Formerly: Barista

Curacy: St James in the City (Liverpool)

It has been a joy to be here at

Ridley. This is a special place for learning in the classroom, but also at mealtimes and in small conversations. Looking forward to taking what I've learnt and seeing the fruit it bears in ministry to come. Buzzin!



JACK DRIVER-SZEKELY AND JÚLIA & EZÉKIEL

Formerly: Midweek Pastor

Curacy: St George the Martyr, Holborn (London), and Tutor in Christian Theology at St Mellitus

One of the gifts of full-time training is the precious gift of time. Here at Ridley, I have not only been able to read the Church Dogmatics and work on my PhD through the University of Aberdeen on Barth and Generation Z but also form new friendships!



SHARON EJINKONYE

Formerly: Ministry Experience Scheme

Curacy: Grays Thurrock Team Ministry (Chelmsford)

Ridley has been such a wonderful

experience and it has stretched me in all kinds of ways. Whilst I am currently wrestling with the essays that need to get done, I know that I will miss the gift of studying here and the rhythm of life.



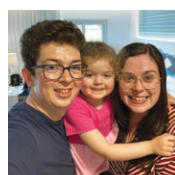
BETHIA FISHER

RLM Specialism: Youth ministry

Before Ridley: Student

I've really enjoyed the friendships formed with people in my year. I've learnt so much from them, and am

so grateful for the support and fellowship from the whole Ridley community.



ALAN GAULT AND BETH & ZERUBBABEL

Formerly: Youth Worker

Curacy: St Luke's Blackburn (Blackburn)

I really enjoyed studying theology

having come from ministry practice but without much theological input!



CHRISTIE GILFEATHER AND RYAN

Formerly: Support Worker (Homelessness)

Curacy: Welwyn Team (St Albans)
Being at Ridley for longer than is usual — a whole five years! — has been a gift. I have loved studying and being in community with others. The time has been challenging and formative, and I feel well equipped for what my curacy will hold.



RYAN GILFEATHER AND CHRISTIE

Formerly: Student and Pastoral Assistant

Curacy: Welwyn Team (St Albans)
Five years of theological study and research has been a gift and privilege. Shaping my heart and mind, it has prepared me to proclaim the gospel afresh to the new generation and lovingly serve God's people.



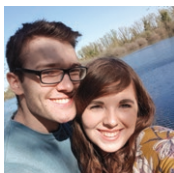
BRYONY GREEN-WOOD AND ROBERT & ISAAC

RLM Specialism: Youth ministry

Before Ridley: Receptionist

I am really grateful for all the friends I've made at Ridley and look forward

to continuing to do life with each other.



ELLA HARRIS AND TOBY

Formerly: Archaeology and Anthropology Student

Curacy: Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry (Chelmsford)

I thank God for these three years

at Ridley, an incredible gift, an anchoring community through the pandemic and an energetic well of life this past year. I will value my learning, growing and above all my friendships for many years to come.



KATY HIRST

Formerly: Charity Director

Curacy: St Luke's West Kilburn (London)

I've loved being at Ridley! Being part of the community and the

opportunity to go deep into theology — both in class and in common room conversations are things I have most appreciated about my time here. I'll miss Ridley but am excited about curacy!



LUCINDA HOWARD AND GAVIN; SAMUEL & HOPE

Formerly: Primary School Teacher

Curacy: St Andrews, Stapleford (Ely)

Formation for ministry at Ridley has been enriching but also stretching

and challenging — thank God we get to train with and are taught by a great group of people! I'll carry their support, guidance and inspiration into my curacy post.



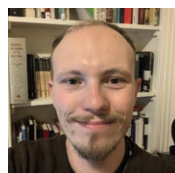
THEODORA JEJE

Formerly: Professional Actor

Curacy: St Barnabas Pimlico Road (London)

God blessed me with incredible friendships that supported me

through a challenging time (training as a mature student and living through the Pandemic!). I'm going as a self-supporting curate seeking, with God, what it means to be an Artist-Priest.



STEVE JULLIEN

Formerly: EFL Teacher

Curacy: Christ Church, Brixton Road and Holy Trinity with St Matthew, Southwark (Southwark)

It's been an amazing journey

praying, studying, eating, playing table tennis and running a half marathon with friends at Ridley! The creativity of the community has set me up really well for pioneer ministry in curacy.



CRAIG LARNER AND SARAH

Formerly: 20–30s Pastor

Next: A year out of ministry, hopefully including some travelling!

I've really enjoyed my (brief) time

at Ridley and I've felt incredibly welcomed into the community, so thank you to everyone that's made it such a positive experience.



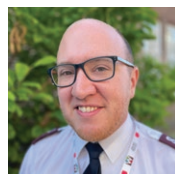
SALLY MCCUBBIN

Formerly: Schools Officer at a museum

Curacy: St Margaret's Old Catton (Norfolk)

The last two years have been quite a whirlwind! Being part of this

community has been a privilege and given me lifelong friends. It has given me the time to absorb the calling to priesthood and a firm foundation for the path to which God is calling me.



CALLUM MCKENNA

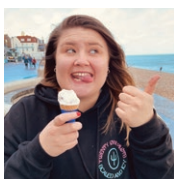
Flexible Study Course: MA in Theology, Ministry & Mission

Before Ridley: Salvation Army Officer

Studying around the dynamics

of full-time ministry has been an

incredibly formative experience for my head, heart and hands and I'm forever grateful for the ecumenical warmth, passion for mission and academic rigour I've encountered at Ridley.



LIZZIE MOESBAUER

RLM Specialism: Youth ministry

Before Ridley: Youth Worker

Ridley was the best experience because of the people, I'm really looking forward to keep doing youth ministry and get married next summer!



DAVE MOLLER

RLM Specialism: Sports

Before Ridley: Sports Minister

I think the exciting opportunity to explore sports ministry from an accredited standpoint has been truly inspiring to see how it is being more widely recognised and being able to share that!



BEV AND DAVE MONCK

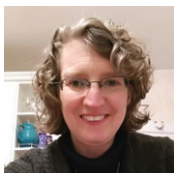
AND NATHAN, ELIJAH, ISAAC, JOEL & SIMEON

Formerly: Teacher / Youth Worker

Curacy: St Paul's, Ireland Wood (Leeds)

We have enjoyed training together.

Bev has enjoyed being in community, chatting to people and getting stuck in to theology. Dave has enjoyed making friends, meaty debates and being stretched in his faith. We're looking forward to working together.



HEIDI MUNN

Ridley Online Specialism: Children's & family ministry

Before Ridley: Church Volunteer

Ridley Online was great to do alongside my other responsibilities.

I learnt lots about church history and key skills, e.g. how to better read and teach the Bible and to care for myself and others. I also met some wonderful tutors and fellow students.



SAMUEL NORTH

Ridley Online Specialism: Youth ministry

Before Ridley: Carpenter

Ridley has been a challenging but amazing opportunity of self-development. I now feel so much more confident in my theology and understanding of the Bible, which in turn has developed my youth work and my own faith.



JORDAN PALMER AND

HANNAH; JESSE, JUDE & MABEL

Formerly: Youth Worker

Curacy: United Benefice of Heybridge, Langford and Maldon (Chelmsford)

Being at Ridley Hall has led me to meet friends who will help sustain me for life. I look forward to ministering in my curacy knowing that Ridley has

given me a firm grounding for my spiritual formation which I can continue to draw upon!



SIMON PHIPPS AND

JOANNE; MALAKAI & ZACHARY

Formerly: Marketing

Curacy: Bradley, Fixby, Cowcliffe (Leeds)

We have loved our adventure at Ridley; particularly the rhythm of

prayer and the friendships that will endure after our studies. We are excited about the adventure of curacy and finding out all God is doing in Huddersfield and how we can get involved.



JOSH RICHARDS AND

FREYA

Formerly: Consultant and Policy Advisor

Curacy: St Mary's Islington (London)

I will always be grateful to have

trained at Ridley, with this group of people, and in these times (even with a pandemic!). I leave knowing more about myself, more assured of God's provision, and with a deeper love for Christ's Church.



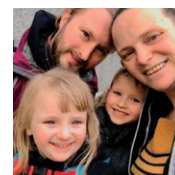
SARAH RITTMAN

RLM Specialism: Children's & family ministry

Before Ridley: Children & families minister

I have loved my three years at

Ridley, making great friends and going on an incredible learning journey. I was licensed last October as a children and families LLM and will continue to minister in Haslingfield alongside my job as a teacher.



SIMON RULTON AND

KATHERINE; HENRY & MARY

Formerly: Child Protection Admin

Curacy: Tong, Holme Wood & Laisterdyke (Leeds)

I have loved my time at Ridley. My

time here will have a lasting impact on my ministry, thanks to the challenges and the joys of being part of this community. The friendships I have formed here will help to sustain me for many years.



JAMES SHELTON

Formerly: Marketing & Communications

Curacy: Earsham and Harleston Benefices (Norwich)

Thank you to the many people who

make Ridley Hall all that it is — and to those I met on placement at Cambourne Church & Cambridge Utd FC. I'm looking forward to learning more in curacy — a rural setting featuring an old convent and a pilgrim way!



ETHAN SMITH

RLM Specialism: Youth ministry
Before Ridley: Student

I've loved studying at Ridley whilst learning more about the ministry God has called me to.

It's also been great making lifelong friends with staff and students who have supported me through the highs and lows that I have faced during my time here.



EMMA WILKINSON

Formerly: Student
Curacy: The Parish of Gillingham, Heaton and Manningham (Leeds)

Training at Ridley has been a real blessing! I've loved forming deep

friendships, being on B Staircase and growing in faith and love of God! I'm excited to be moving back to the North and to be joining in with what God is already doing there.

THE REFRESHMENT PROGRAMME 2021-22

Throughout the year the Ridley community is enriched by sabbatical guests living and working amongst us, bringing with them a wide variety of ministry experience.

We asked guests who stayed with us over the past three terms: What did you most appreciate about your time spent at Ridley?

"Engaging with the staff and the ordinands, hearing their stories and talking about church and theology. It was inspiring to be surrounded by people hungry to serve the Lord. It was also affirming to me how passionate I am about the many topics covered in lectures."

Ryan Adams, Michaelmas Term

"The warm welcome I received from the students and the staff. They made me extremely welcome and part of the life of the college."

David Green, Lent Term

"The time away from my usual context. The beauty of the campus and of Cambridge. The opportunity to hear what God is doing in the Church outside of my little bubble. I have received clarity about my vocation and next steps. I was also encouraged by the kindness and enthusiasm of the Ridley staff/faculty/students."

Angie Ward, Easter Term



Scott Martin, Refreshment Programme guest

"My experience in Ridley's Refreshment Program has been truly inspiring. I came to Ridley to reflect, regroup and grow in Christian faith after retiring from a 25-year career in investment management with PIMCO in Southern California in the U.S.

"Ridley has proven to be a welcoming community of Anglican faith, worship and learning that has exceeded my expectations. The program here is highly flexible and in my case has included just the right mix of unstructured quiet, personal time and more formal periods of theological and Biblical instruction. I've audited classes taught by the Cambridge Theological Federation, enjoyed one-on-one tutoring and thoughtful conversations with Ridley scholars and joined in the daily life and devotions of Ridley ordinands.

"All of these activities have been rewarding and stimulating. I will never forget my time here — I've loved every minute of it!"

Scott Martin, Easter Term

VOCATION SPOTLIGHT: Following the call to be an artist–priest

If someone had told me three years ago that I would be training for ordained ministry in the Church of England and that training would finish with a self-supporting curacy, I would have looked at them with bemusement.

Yet, what I would have readily dismissed is now the reality and the next chapter of my story.

Before coming to Ridley, I worked as a professional actor in the theatre. I did all kinds of things which I loved. It is also the only work where I truly feel God's pleasure and delight in me in a tangible way. It was one of the many ways I knew that being an actor was my voca-



Theodora exiting the Senate House as a Trinity Hall graduate. Photograph by Lloyd Mann, University of Cambridge.

tion. I imagined giving it up when I came forward for ordination training, even though laying down my vocation as an artist never felt right.

So I will now be a self-supporting curate, which means the Diocese does not financially support me. I am responsible for finding my work and my housing needs. I will complete my curacy at Saint Barnabas Church Pimlico Road part-time.

Sharing this news with others was often received with surprise, followed by a look of pity, sadness or disappointment. It made me feel I had failed in some way. After all, isn't the goal to be trained to be a parish priest and only a parish priest?

The simple answer is no.

Going forward, part of my work will be to work out what it means to be an artist–priest. This road is less travelled, and very few people warn you about the fear when you're trailblazing, especially with very few in front.

So I'm going back to work in the theatre, but I will begin by working backstage in the wardrobe department (among many things, I have an interest in costume). I am called to come alongside and be amid theatre workers and those in the arts. These include company managers, stage managers, lighting crews, cleaners and those who serve you ice cream at intervals. It also includes those in the spotlight (literally!) — the actors who give themselves six days a week, performing ten shows a week. I am called to those who won't come to church because of bad experiences or their working hours exclude them. These are the people I say to God "Here I am, send me".

THEODORA JEJEY

Final-year ordinand

“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets”

Why we should follow Jesus’ example in preaching from the Old Testament

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and announced, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:16–21)

On the road to Emmaus, on that first Easter morning, Jesus opened up the Old Testament for the disciples in an exegetical tour de force, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets” (Luke 24:27). It is only against the rich backdrop of the Old Testament and the long and winding odyssey of the people of Israel that we can see Jesus clearly.

So why, then, is the Old Testament so often deprived of the attention it deserves from the pulpit? The reasons for this neglect no doubt abound.

Arguably, one explanation is that we approach the Old Testament with the wrong set of lenses, in a way that fails to inspire the preacher, let alone the congregation. We tend to encounter the Old Testament as if it was a tangled mess of disconnected instructions, disjointed stories, and disembodied ideas, to be quarried and hewn into a disengaged sermon. But human beings are, by their very nature, storytelling creatures, and the deepest hunger of the human heart is to find a story in which we can find ourselves — in fact, in which we can, at long last, be found.

At its heart, the Old Testament invites us to inhabit its story. In other words,



THE REVd DR OLGA FABRIKANT-BURKE
Tutor in Old Testament from Sept 2022

the main purpose of the Old Testament is not so much information as it is formation — in fact, counter-formation.

The first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch or the Torah, reorient our minds and hearts away from idols and towards God. The fiery Prophets tirelessly confront us with a different perception of the world and convert our imaginations. The vivid narratives bid us to imagine ourselves as characters within them, and our own lives of discipleship acquire richer and more vibrant hues as a result. The Psalms provide us with a grammar for worship as we make our way through “all the changes and chances of this mortal life.” Wisdom literature cultivates our ethical judgement and equips us to grapple with the complexities of human life.

From Genesis to Malachi, the Old Testament relentlessly confronts us with its transformative story, shaping and moulding us to become God’s people. As preachers, we are called to proclaim and explain this story, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets.”

Creative writing as vocation

Many of our staff here at Ridley Hall have talents beyond those which they use in their day-to-day work. Andrew Chamberlain, our Director of Development has been a published author and writing coach for the past 20 years.

He hosts a podcast, “The Creative Writer’s Toolbelt”, and is organising and speaking at the 2022 British Christian Writer’s Conference, to be hosted at Ridley Hall on Saturday 3rd September. We talked to Andy about his vocation as a writer.



Do you see creative writing as a vocation?

Definitely—to write is to express a God-given creativity; in this sense it’s like a musician or a painter expressing the vocational talents that God has given them.

What kind of books do you write?

I write both fiction and non-fiction books. My favourite fiction genre is Science Fiction, but I also enjoy writing about the art of creative writing. I’ve published a reference book which brings together the best advice from my podcast for creative writers.

In your fiction writing, does your faith impact your choice of subject-matter?

My faith impacts the way I deal with the subject matter I want to write about. So, for example, in my science fiction I will address the same themes and issues that other writers like to tackle, but I’ll do it from a Christian worldview. This doesn’t have to be overt, but the influence is there; so for example I don’t write from a hopeless, dystopian perspective as some writers do, rather my stories have a background of purpose and hope for the characters.

Are there any authors that you have drawn particular inspiration from?

I’ve learnt a lot from the writer Stephen King and the editor Sol Stein. I also enjoy the science fiction writing of Iain M Banks.

Tell us more about the British Christian Writer’s Conference.

BCWC is a day conference for Christian writers, for which we have three objectives: to provide information, insights and useful tips on the craft of writing; to create a forum for networking and fellowship, and to provide a source of encouragement and spiritual support to Christian writers.

“Insights and encouragement for your calling as a writer”, the 2022 British Christian Writer’s Conference, runs from 9.15am to 4.30pm on 3rd September at Ridley Hall. For more information and booking, visit:

www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/bcwc

Download The Creative Writer’s Toolbelt podcast and handbook at:

www.andrewjchamberlain.com

ON THE ROAD: Staff speaking engagements

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



GAIL AND IAN ADAMS led the Beloved Life 'Breathe Deep' retreat at Ammerdown Centre in August 2021.



IAN ADAMS contributed to parish events in Northstowe and Ilminster on the themes "Breathe Deep" and "Poems and Practices" respectively. He also led Launde Abbey's pre-Advent retreat "Some Small Heaven" and Church Mission Society's 2022 All Staff Day on the theme "With Jesus. With Each Other. To the Edges." In May he gave a keynote lecture "Shining Like The Sun: the edge as place of encounter and transformation" and led a workshop "Light Source of Light" at the Continuing the Journey conference at Swanwick.



ANDREW CHAMBERLAIN was organiser and speaker at the first British Christian Writers conference hosted at Ridley Hall in September 2021. In June he preached on "Rejoicing in heaven: on being lost and diligently sought by God" (Luke 15: 1–10) at the United Nations Church in Cambridge.



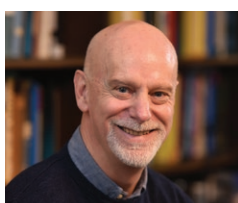
SARAH DUNLOP spoke at the Theological Education Conference in July 2021 on "The language and processes of theologically reflective learning amongst church goers".



ROB MCDONALD spoke at the 2022 Faith in Business Conference on "A Theology of Investment". He also spent a day with the Community of St Anselm in Lambeth Palace talking with the community about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit.



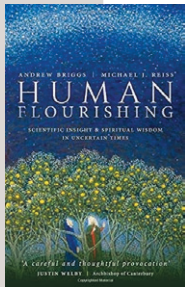
MICHAEL VOLLAND preached on Stanley Spencer's "Christ in the Wilderness" at St Catharine's College, Cambridge in February and delivered the Parker Sermon for 2022 at St Cuthbert's, Thetford and All Saints, Mattishall on Sunday 22 May 2022. He also gave the keynote address at the celebration to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Cambridge Theological Federation.



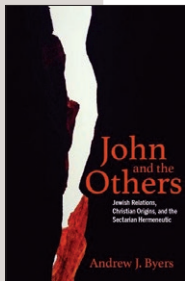
PAUL WESTON has preached at Choral Evensong at Clare College and Magdalene College on the topics of "Where is God when it hurts?" and "What is Faith?" respectively. In November he gave a doctoral seminar at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School on "Lesslie Newbigin's Contribution to Missiology". In Cambridge he also led a study morning at St Bene't's Church entitled "'So I send You': Making sense of mission today" and taught a morning on the subject of Preaching at St Martin's Church.

GETTING THE WORD OUT: Ridleyian publications

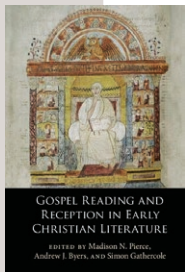
Recent and forthcoming publications from Ridley staff, students and alumni



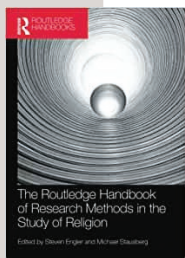
Andrew Briggs and Michael J. Reiss, *Human Flourishing: Scientific insight and spiritual wisdom in uncertain times* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021)



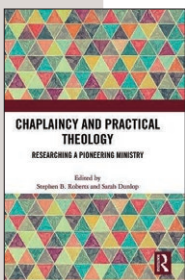
Andrew J. Byers, *John and the Others: Jewish Relations, Christian Origins, and the Sectarian Hermeneutic* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2021)



Andrew J. Byers and Madison N. Pierce, "Gospel Reading and Reception in Early Christian Literature" in M. Pierce, A. Byers, & S. Gathercole (eds.), *Gospel Reading and Reception in Early Christian Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), pp. 1–11



Andrew J. Byers, "Johannine Readings of the Johannine Gospel: Reception Theology and Practice in John's Epistles" in M. Pierce, A. Byers, & S. Gathercole (eds.), *Gospel Reading and Reception in Early Christian Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), pp. 190–214



Andrew J. Byers, "Gospel Reception and the Elusive 'Final Word'", on FifteenEightyFour, Cambridge University Press Academic Blog, 22 March 2022

Andrew J. Byers, Review of *The Identity of John the Evangelist: Revision and Reinterpretation in Early Christian Sources* by Dean Furlong, *The Journal of Theological Studies*, February 2022

Andrew Dunlop, "Using the 'four voices of theology' in group theological reflection", *Journal of Practical Theology* (Vol. 14, 2021, Iss. 4): 294–308

Sarah Dunlop, "Photo Elicitation" in S. Engler and M. Stausberg (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion*, 2nd edition (London: Routledge: 2022), pp. 565–77.

Sarah Dunlop and Stephen Roberts (eds.), *Chaplaincy and Practical Theology: Researching a Pioneering Ministry*, (London: Routledge, 2022)

Ryan Gilfeather, "A bitter culture war in the fourth century shows we may not be as divided as we think" on The Conversation website, August 12, 2021

Andrew Goddard and Andrew Atherstone, *"Drink this, all of you": Individual cups at holy communion* (Cambridge: Grove Books, 2022)

Graham Kings, *Nourishing Mission: Theological Settings* (Leiden: Brill, 2022)

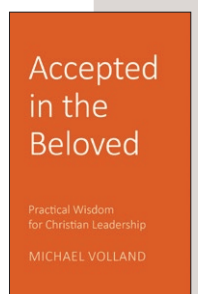
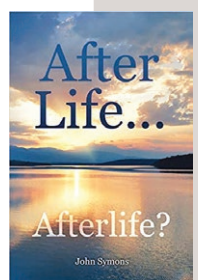
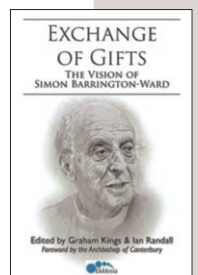
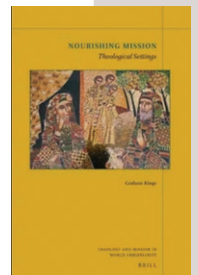
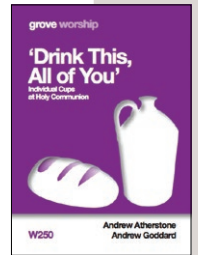
Graham Kings and **Ian Randall** (eds), *Exchange of Gifts: The Vision of Simon Barrington-Ward* (Edinburgh: Ekklesia Publishing, 2022)

Andrew Parker and Mark Fleming, "Chaplaincy and Scottish women's football: sport, gender, and pastoral care", *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (2022)

John Symons, *After Life... Afterlife?* (London: Shephard-Walwyn Publishers, 2021)

Michael Volland, *Accepted in the Beloved: Practical Wisdom for Christian Leadership* (Cambridge: Ridley Hall, 2022)

Paul Weston, *"With Universal Intent": Lesslie Newbigin and the grammar of mission* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, forthcoming)



Are you a Ridleyian with a publication in the pipeline for the coming year? Email the editor Dona McCullagh on dam45@cam.ac.uk so that we can feature it in next year's magazine.

A Nudge on the Tiller (Not Revolution)

In this extract from his newly published short book, Ridley Principal Michael Volland encourages readers to consider our motivations and the long-term ramifications before taking the plunge into revolutionary organisational change.

Very occasionally it is obvious that radical change is needed in a church or institution. The community has become stuck or drifted so far off course that nothing short of a revolution will release new energy and refocus people's hearts, minds and behaviours on the main thing.

Revolutions are dramatic and exciting and the idea of rapid, radical change is seductive, particularly when, as a leader, the alternative looks like a slow death for you and your people.

But revolutions are also chaotic and bloody and often come at great cost to both instigators and communities. Revolutions may force change but, sooner or later, those involved must face the inescapable task of rebuilding something worthwhile and lasting from the rubble. This involves the hard work of drawing alongside others and working out, often at length, what shape life together in the 'new' era is going to take. There will be negotiation and compromise. Healing must be part of the

process. It may take months and even years. Revolution is never a quick fix. If radical change via revolution is called for, those involved must proceed with wisdom, care and patience. If you are of a revolutionary disposition, I encourage you to think about whether you are genuinely prepared to put in the real work after the excitement has died down and the rebuilding begins.

When you are the leader, for the most part, it is not revolution that is required, but a regular nudge on the tiller of each sphere of work. Since you will have multiple fronts open at any one time, generally you won't have the capacity for revolution. Initiating necessary changes, guiding and supporting others and generally encouraging the community to keep moving towards God's hopeful future involves a regular, considered nudge and a lot of patience. This also means that you are more likely to retain people's trust and move at a pace they can cope with.

May you receive the wisdom each day to understand how best to nudge the tiller.

To request a free digital copy of *Accepted in the Beloved*, go to:
www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/accepted

*Accepted
in the
Beloved*

Practical Wisdom
for Christian Leadership

MICHAEL VOLLAND