



I am Priest in Charge of 5 parishes along the North Coast of the Diocese, starting at Crantock and ending with Mount Hawke with Mithian. I have been here for almost 6 years. Prior to this I served in the north of the county, to the east of Launceston, and I served my curacy in the Probus team, just outside Truro. I trained on the Southwest Ministry Training scheme and was ordained deacon in 2009.

Since leaving full time education in the 70's I worked for a variety of food manufacturing industries, in food technology associated roles. I trained as a microbiologist and spent the first few years working in laboratories testing ingredients used for cream cakes and chocolate biscuits, almost the best job in the world. I then moved on to testing beer, probably thought of by many as the best job in the world, and finally prior to entering the ordained ministry full time, I spent 23 years working in the meat industry in Cornwall. I was responsible for the teams across multiple sites that dealt with food legislation, safety, compliance and quality. My job meant that I needed to ensure the company met its many and diverse requirements to customers and to national and European legislation, and made money. This role brought me in contact daily with many people who looked to me for professional and personal support.

I have been married to Chris for 40 years and we have two married sons, both of whom live in Cornwall. Chris and I first came to church on the baptism of our first son, and the memory of that experience still lives with me and shapes my ministry. It was terrible. We felt like outcasts. Made to sit at the back, we were lost in a confusing service, and the fact that our child was not silent produced glares that could stun. However, aside from all this, I felt that there was something happening that was important; I still hold on to the fact, that in spite of all that the church does, God is still quite able to be God. I continued to go to a church where I felt ostracised and excluded - after all I was not confirmed and was not allowed to take communion - but still I went. God was working with and in me even before I understood or realised it.

The arrival of our second son and his baptism was not an improved affair, but still I stayed. Things changed with the arrival of a new incumbent. I was welcomed and included. I became the PCC secretary, a post I held for over 15 years, which is surprising as I live with dyslexia. I also helped in the Sunday School. This led me to look at how I could learn more about the faith of the church and, at that time in Cornwall, the only thing on offer was the Reader Training Scheme. I spoke to my incumbent who was more than happy for me to join the scheme. The selection process was almost non-existent. The Canon in charge just said, 'Well you are a good deal younger than most of our readers and my policy is to let the Holy Spirit lead. If you get through training, I believe that is sufficient selection.'

The training may not have been as structured as it is now, but it did leave me with a love for learning and for what is now called Practical Theology. I was licensed as a Reader, to Roche and Withel, in October 1995.

My first experience of church has profoundly influenced my view that we need to be inclusive – not exclusive; open and non-judgemental. We need always to remember that we are made in the image of God and not form God in our image. 'For God so loved the world,' not just the bits we like or agree with but all of it, and we need to find a way to learn to love as we are loved and to receive God's grace.

I am passionate about the gospel and a faith that lives within the community, not held by a building. I believe that the Bible is the living word of God, to be experienced afresh daily, and it is through this informing that Christians shape their lives and the world around them. I also believe that God has a sense of humour: after all, he chose me, a dyslexic, to study theology, a subject not known for its simple use of language! God also knows very well that I dislike meetings that flounder and meander, yet I feel called serve on General Synod, something that does bring its own frustrations and challenge. But we are called to listen to the still small voice and to obey. I have been in the past a member of the Evangelism, Safeguarding Committees and served as a member of the Executive for the Diocese for 5 years. I have also been a Street Pastor and on the Management Committee of one of the Foodbanks. I am currently involved with Churches Together at the Royal Cornwall Show; a member of the Clergy Wellbeing Group; an MDR facilitator; a member of the Creation Care Group; and a co-convenor of MOASIC in the Diocese.

I am committed to equality for everyone at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic status, mental health or sexuality. I believe that church should be a place where all are welcomed, that we should strive to build a church and a world where we live together in mutual trust and in respect for those whose lives and faith do not match ours, in the sure and certain knowledge that God loves us, even when we fail to love each other.