

# Drummer to be curate at new church

**FOUR years ago, Ben Bryant was a professional drummer, playing at concert halls, arenas and stadiums across the UK.**

Now he's one of a number of people being ordained deacon in our cathedral on July 2. He will serve his curacy at the brand new Church of England church being created in Portsmouth city centre – Harbour Church - and St Alban's, Copnor.

Ben was born and raised in Manchester. His parents were both music teachers and Ben soon discovered that he had inherited their love and gift of music too.

"I played the drums and percussion instruments and when I was 15 years old I decided all I wanted to be was a musician," Ben said.

"This led to me to study at Chetham's School of Music and then move to London to study at the Royal Academy of Music, during which I took part in the BBC Young Musician competition, reaching the final in 2002.

"I then began a career as a freelance musician. I spent the 10 years before training drumming in concert halls, arenas and even stadiums as a professional drummer."

At this time, Ben started attending Holy Trinity Church, Brompton where he met his now wife, Martha. They married and then decided to take five months out to travel the world together and it was while they were staying in Italy that Ben first felt God calling him to ordination.

"Martha and I were in Italy in a small house in the middle of the countryside, and were thinking a lot about the future, but the thought of ordination really came out of nowhere," he said. "I just simply thought, maybe God wants me to get ordained.

"I put it out of my mind because I knew that it was a huge decision, and if it was really what

## ORDINATIONS: July 2016

**To be ordained deacon (July 2, 11am): Ben Bryant** (Harbour Church and St Alban's, Copnor), **Adam Denley** (St Jude's, Southsea), **Edwina Fennemore** (St Alban's, West Leigh), **Katy Garner** (East Meon, Langrish, West Meon & Warnford) and **Mark James** (Christ Church, Portsdown)

**To be licensed as curate (July 2, 11am): Emmanuel Nazir Masih** (St James, Milton)

**To be ordained lay minister (July 2, 11am): Victoria Morgan and David Morgan** (both St Faith's, Havant)

**To be ordained priest (July 2, 6pm): The Revs Andrew Goy** (Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn), **Chris Richardson** (Alverstoke), **Darcy Chesterfield-Terry** (St Mary's, Fratton), and **Amy Webb** (Botley, Curdridge and Durlley)

God wanted me to do he would keep the thought in my mind and reveal more to me of what it all meant."

About a year later Ben's vicar approached him and asked him if he had considered ordination. Ben tested out his sense of calling, which led him to undertake a two-year Bible study course and to get more involved in the ministry and mission of his church.

Ben said: "The following

years of discernment were really about me thinking, can I do this, and is this really the one thing God is calling me into? The turning point for me was realising that this was not only what I felt God calling me to but that it was what I wanted to do too.

"I've developed a great love for the Church and such a sense of privilege in being involved in people's journey of faith."

Ben trained at St Mellitus



**Ben Bryant, Martha and their children Jonah and Rae**

College, London, and will be moving to Portsmouth with Martha and their two children Jonah, three, and Rae, who will be one in July.

He will be serving at Harbour Church, which is a church plant from St Peter's, Brighton. Around 30 members of its congregation are moving to Portsmouth to live, work and worship in the city.

The new church will be based in retail premises in Commercial Road. Congregation members will open a cafe, above which will be a hall big enough for Sunday worship, and rooms for community activities and

children's work.

The first Sunday services will take place there in September. Worshippers will meet there over the summer to pray with each other and get to know each other.

"I'm so excited to become part of the diocese, learn about ministry in Portsmouth, meet lots of people and see how I can serve the Church," Ben said.

"Martha used to run a children's ministry and will be working part time at Harbour Church so this is really something we are fully in together."

For more details, see: [www.harbourchurchportsmouth.org](http://www.harbourchurchportsmouth.org).

## Lay assistants commissioned to serve

**SHE began the course two years ago – but serious illness meant Madeline Goodman had to put it on hold.**

She has now been commissioned as a lay pastoral assistant for St Mary's Brighton, alongside 15 others who will serve across the Isle of Wight. They'll offer pastoral visiting and help out within services.

It's all part of the Isle of Wight Plan which aims to remodel mission and ministry on the island. The scheme to train dozens of new lay pastoral assistants aims to model collaborative ministry.

Madeline started the course in June 2014, but after only three sessions she contracted an infection in her foot, which spread across her whole body. She returned to the course when it was run a second time last year, and was commissioned in the Spring.



**The new lay pastoral assistants after their commissioning**

"I was already doing some things like assisting with the chalice and organising rotas, and my background involves working with the elderly," she said. "I felt that God was calling me into this work, and I knew we needed more people to use their gifts within the church, not just the vicar.

"I started the course, and when the illness came I was in hospital for a while. But it was a good time, as it gave me

time for reflection and to grow closer to God. I was able to go back on the course, and we were all commissioned.

"Now I take people Communion at home, which is special, and lead services at the local care home once a month. Our previous vicar Helen used to do that, and she encouraged me to lead it. I organise chalice assistants in church, and help arrange services.

"We've started Café

Church every other month, in the village hall, which I've also got involved with. It replaces the main Sunday service on the third of the month, and we have 50 or so people there. It's part of our mission and outreach to the community."

Others on the most recent course were Helen Drinkwater (All Saints, Ryde), David Bennison and John Terry (Wootton), Cheryl Vaughan and Ann Robotham (Gurnard), Suzanne Cook (Totland), Andrew Pellow (St Alban's, Ventnor), Adrian Kerr, Dorothy Russell and Jenny Sherwin (East Cowes), Caroline Pugh, Mary Jackson and Hilary Spink (Seaview) and Sven Tester (Chale).

For details of the next lay pastoral assistants' course, please contact the Ven Peter Sutton on 01983-884432 or [peter.sutton@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:peter.sutton@portsmouth.anglican.org)