

How God calls us into new ministries



Kitty Price with Minstrel the dog

This summer we'll see candidates becoming brand new Readers and ordained clergy, as they respond to God's calling

HER father would be very proud. As a former Bishop of Portsmouth, Kenneth Stevenson would be thrilled that his daughter is joining our diocese's clergy ranks.

Kitty Price is one of 10 candidates being ordained deacon by Bishop Jonathan in our cathedral this summer. After 11 years of being a Reader, she now feels called to wear a clerical collar and be called 'the Reverend.'

She's actually the second of Bishop Kenneth's four children to be ordained. Her brother James is a vicar in Bristol. Her sister Elisabeth is head of a C of E Girls' Academy in London, and sister Alexandra is married to the rector of St John's, Merrow, in Guildford diocese – so they all have gravitated to roles in the Church of England. Her grandfather and great-grandfather were also both clergy – the latter was Bishop of Aarhus in the Danish Lutheran Church.

Kitty first felt called to ordination back in 1993 when studying theology at university. Around 10 years later, she was recommended

ORDINATIONS AND LICENSINGS 2025	
<p>Lay ministers (June 21): Sue Craft (serving at Holy Trinity and St Columba, Fareham), Samantha Piggot (St Cuthbert, Copnor), and Carolyn Shannon (St Francis, Leigh Park)</p>	<p>Priests (June 28): The Revs Emily Ashworth (Bedhampton), Lorraine Collins (St John's, Fareham), Tom Cooper (Buriton), Lizzie Davidson (Warblington-with-Emsworth), Rosie Greenlees (Bishop's Waltham and Upham), Sandra Haggan (St Faith, Havant), Polly Honeychurch (Cowplain), Charlotte Hudd (West Wight), Kevin Jones (St Simon's, Southsea), Jo Lorimer (Bedhampton), Sue Moss (Hart Plain), Jo-Anne Newton (Holy Trinity with St Columba, Fareham), Jo Nicholson (Ventnor and Bonchurch), Elizabeth Pearn (Portchester), Paul Pope (Alverstoke), Sr Teresa-Lucia Sutton-Becker (North End Team Ministry), Emma Taylor (Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard), and Erica Wilkie (Lee-on-Solent)</p>
<p>Deacons (June 28): Mary Ball (Bridgemary, Elson and Rowner), Nikki Bryant (St John's, Locks Heath), Nathan Hamilton (Ryde benefice), Jane Kendal (St John's, Fareham), Abbie Lynch (Newport and Carisbrooke with Gatcombe), Chris Nicol (St Mary and Holy Trinity, Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard), Kitty Price (St Simon, Southsea), Rachel Rider (Haven Church, Gosport), Jane Shyvers (West Wight), Josh Thomas (Harbour Church, Portsmouth)</p>	

for ordination and completed her Masters as part of the training, but didn't take things forward. She finally became a Reader, serving in our cathedral, in 2014.

Only now is she ready to take the step into ordained ministry. She's set to become curate at **St Simon's Church in Southsea**, after the ordination services on June 28. As well as the 10 deacons being

ordained, there will also be 18 people ordained as priest that day.

"Having a dad as a bishop was actually no pressure," she said. "There was certainly no pressure from inside the family to be ordained. In fact, my dad did try to talk me out of studying theology! Going for ordination now feels like the right time, and I think I'll be better for having done 18 years of

Backstage man steps into limelight

HE is used to being behind the scenes – but Nathan Hamilton will need to get used to being upfront.

Nathan trained as a theatre technician, and worked for a theatre and for churches as a sound engineer, as well as on stage management, lighting and livestreaming.

But when God called him into church leadership, he found himself leaving his PA desk and coming to the front for prayer. It was a symbolic step out of the shadows and into the spotlight.

He has been training at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford for the past three years, and will be ordained as a deacon in Portsmouth Cathedral in June. He'll serve as a curate in Ryde.

"I was working for Holy Trinity Brompton, and we happened to be on a student weekend away," he said.

"I was doing the sound desk, as normal, but there was an altar call for anyone who felt God was calling them into leadership. I found myself standing up and leaving the faders behind as I went forward for prayer.

"When you are actually employed by a church, you feel a

professional obligation to make sure everything happens the way it's supposed to.

"So to find yourself stepping forward like that is scary. I'm glad I didn't really think too much about it, just responded to the call.

"It will be odd to be upfront in a church as a curate. I've never been hugely comfortable with being so visible, but part of being ordained is about living your whole life as a witness."

Nathan's degree was in technical theatre, and then he worked for a theatre in Essex, and freelanced too. He started working for Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB)

Nathan Hamilton



at a point when his faith was beginning to drift. But his time there was a healing experience.

"I actually got to see a lot of people at HTB who were working really hard to communicate God's love to those people in front of them," he said. "It felt like a safe place, where I felt I could take a step forward in faith.

"One of the things about living in London and working in the theatre industry is that people are quite image-conscious. And in Oxford, it is quite academic.

"So when we visited the Isle of Wight, it was refreshing and freeing not to feel judged, but to be welcomed as the person you actually are.

"There was a definite sense of peace about being in that place and with those people."

Nathan and his wife Alys have recently had their first child, Betsy, who will shortly be celebrating her first birthday. Alys is currently still on maternity leave.

teaching. I've loved my time as a Reader, but it will be good to be able to exercise a clerical ministry, to lead weddings and to be involved with the sacraments. I will miss being part of the cathedral, but I'm really looking forward to working with the Rev Jackie Twine and her team at St Simon's."

Kitty grew up with a father who was a university lecturer, parish priest, and then Bishop of Portsmouth from 1995-2009. She first felt called to ordination at Leeds University, when she had a sense that she should be standing next to the celebrant behind the altar. "It came as quite a shock," she said. "There was no way I was wanting to be ordained, but there it was."

After the family moved to Portsmouth, she married David Price – sub-organist and Master of Choristers at our cathedral – in

1998. She felt called to help his work, and has supported many gap-year choral scholars and choristers over the years. Kitty started teaching RE at a school in Surrey in 2006 and then transferred to Portsmouth High School, where she has been ever since.

"I never wanted to be teaching RE, or in an independent school, or in an all-girls school, but that's what I've ended up doing for many years – and love it!" she said. "This shows how you can never predict where life, work and ministry take you. The call to ordained ministry still hadn't gone away, even though it hadn't worked out twice. I didn't want to give up teaching or leave the cathedral at that point, so I became a Lay Reader."

Kitty has led worship and preached in our cathedral ever since. She was also asked to do some teaching

on the Portsmouth Pathway, our in-house training course for trainee Readers and ordinands. She taught some Church history and spirituality, but mostly taught ethics.

"I loved teaching on the Pathway, because it was a way of doing something fresh," she said. "It was the greatest privilege to encourage these fledgling Readers and trainee clergy to flourish and to think about different approaches to ethical issues. I even got to quote my father, especially when it came to Church history. I could say what a large contribution he played in the creation of the Porvoo agreement that brought together Anglican and Lutheran Churches in Europe.

"But people kept saying I should be ordained. I was being asked to take weddings and baptisms but I couldn't. In the end, I thought, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!