



Lay pioneer licensed with Readers

FOR Katie Moritz, being licensed alongside Readers was an important symbol.

Bishop Jonathan has commissioned her as a lay pioneer, with a brief to discover the best ways for her local community to take steps towards faith – and then to provide those pathways.

And the fact that she was licensed in our cathedral alongside Readers says something significant about that role. Readers, or licensed lay ministers, have led worship in the Church for more than 150 years, but lay pioneers are a relatively recent thing.

Katie trained while she was part of St John's Church, Locks Heath, where she discovered a need for a model

based on relaxation and hospitality. Now that she's been licensed to St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent, she'll have to research what might work best there.

"I'll need to look at the local context and do some mapping of the community," she said. "The plan is to volunteer with the Revitalise charity shop as the first stage.

"I did a two-year course in pioneering while I was at Locks Heath, and what emerged was a local community who were desperate for rest. I started 'Restival', which aimed to help women to find ways to relax.

"My husband Mike and I started a 'chiminea' group, based in our garden, and there was a book club,



Katie Moritz (left) with Chris Nicol and Vicky Evans, who were licensed by Bishop Jonathan this summer as Readers

and a group of women who enjoyed going to evening services. But it might look very different in Lee-on-the-Solent!"

Katie trained for two years on a pioneer course run in Oxford by the Church Mission Society (CMS). She

felt called to theological training, and appreciated the prophetic, creative style of the CMS course.

For more details of various types of lay ministry, including pioneering work, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/lay

the time meant you could meet in groups!

"Once we could meet in person, we did. And those regular Tuesday nights eating and learning together, developing friendship, and being involved with each other's lives have been very important to me. It has been really fruitful and a valuable insight into people's faith journeys.

"The final bit of teaching was about seeing ourselves in a public role, wearing a dog collar and how people might perceive you. It is slightly scary, but I think you have to inhabit the role of being a clergy person while still being genuine as yourself.

"I've had a bit of that experience of being public property as a teacher, and I think you have to accept that if you are walking down the road wearing a dog collar, some people will like that and some won't. But I know that Jesus will give me the strength to step out in his name."

Meanwhile, one of those ordained priest in the summer has confessed she used to laugh at Christians for being weird. The Rev Amanda Sim started coming to church because her son joined the cathedral choir. She was amazed at how beautiful she found the worship, despite her

ORDINATIONS AND LICENSINGS 2023

Deacons (June 24):

Will Alvarez (St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent), **Jenn Camirand** (St Alban's, West Leigh), **Jan Fuller** (St Luke's, Southsea), **Sue Jones** (Greatham, Empshott, Hawkley with Priors Dean; and Steep with Froxfield), **Buffy Langdown** (All Saints, Denmead) and **Jill Phipps** (Shedfield and Wickham)

Priests (June 24):

The Revs Emma Andersen (Harbour Church, Portsmouth), **Fran Carabott** (St Margaret's, Southsea), **Jill Kingston** (Bedhampton parish, moving to Leigh Park and Warren Park from January 2024), **Liz Quinn** (St George, Waterlooville), **Amanda Sim**

(Catherington and Clanfield) and **Beth Yeandle** (Crofton parish).

Readers and lay ministers (July 1):

Chris Nicol (Portsmouth Cathedral), **Vicky Evans** (St Andrew's, Hayling Island) and **Katie Moritz** (lay pioneer, St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent)

Deacons (September 30):

Karen Crowhurst (St Blasius, Shanklin), **Coleen Jackson** (Blendworth with Chalton with Idsworth), **Clare King** (Holy Trinity, Bembridge), **Nicola Pinnock** (St Catherine's, Ventnor), **Bevaly Rackett** (St Mary, Brading), **Richard Shurmer** (St Cuthbert, Copnor) and **Larry Stone** (Harbour Church)

lack of personal faith.

Her pivotal moment came when she experienced the presence of God during worship on Good Friday 2013. She and her son Christian were baptised and confirmed together in 2015.

She trained for ordination while still working as a dental hygienist. She gave up that job when she became a deacon in 2022 and started working at All Saints Church, Catherington, and St James, Clanfield.

"I remember before my ordination

last year feeling this sense of imposter syndrome, but the moment the bishop laid his hands on my head, I sensed God saying that he would equip me for this role," she said.

"And this year is the happiest I have ever been, as well as the most stressed and tired! I have learnt so much. My incumbent is different to me theologically and in personality, but we complement each other so well. He is fantastic at enabling me to do things.

"I do think I have a natural calling to funerals. I've taken more than



Top left: Buffy Langdown is ordained; above: those ordained as priests with Bishop Jonathan; right: the Rev Amanda Sim after her ordination as a priest

20, and it is privilege to minister to bereaved families in their hour of need. And baptisms are full of joy. I do now believe that I am doing what God has been equipping me to do for the whole of my life."

Amanda grew up in an agnostic family who ridiculed those of faith. But her son Christian was at Portsmouth Grammar School and expressed an interest in joining the cathedral choir in 2012.

Amanda then went to every service he sang at, which is why she was there to be blown away by the music on Good Friday 2013.

Christian became head chorister in 2017 and even preached in the pulpit at Portsmouth Cathedral – something Amanda is yet to do. Amanda also trained for ordination on the Portsmouth Pathway.

"The thing I'm really looking forward to about being a priest is presiding at the Eucharist," she said. "When you elevate the host, invoke the Holy Spirit and invite Jesus into the elements, you are holding people together in Christ.

"I'm also looking forward to leading wedding services, and continuing to be a deacon, to grow in formation



and to proclaim the gospel.

"And being back at the cathedral for ordination is not something I would have predicted all those years ago. This place and the choir are very important to me, because it's the way I came to faith. God's timing is perfect, so to be here exactly five years after Christian preached at the main Sunday Eucharist is an amazing thing."

See www.portsmouth.anglican.org/ ordinations for details about all those being ordained in 2023.