

## Diocesan Conference 2022 biographies for speakers and Bible study leaders



**SPEAKER: The Revd Canon Dr Michael Leyden** is Dean of Emmanuel Theological College where he also teaches at the interface of systematic theology and ethics, and an Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral. Prior to his current role he was a parish priest in post-industrial contexts in Liverpool and Chester Dioceses. Michael is married to Anna, a vicar in Chester Diocese and they have two school aged children. He is author of 'Faithful Living: Discipleship, Creed, and Ethics' (2019) and the forthcoming 'Living Eucharistically: Discipleship and Moral Formation' (expected 2023).

**SPEAKER: Dr Ruth Valerio** is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund. An environmentalist, theologian and social activist. Ruth holds a doctorate from King's College London and honorary doctorates from the Universities of Winchester and Chichester. She is Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral and her home church is part of the 24/7 Prayer Network. She enjoys living sustainably (practising what she preaches and inspiring others as she does so) in the South of England with her family. She is the author of 'L is for Lifestyle: Christian Living that doesn't cost the Earth', 'Just Living: Faith and Community in an age of Consumerism' and the children's book 'Planet Protectors: 52 ways to look after God's world'. She also wrote the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent book, entitled Saying Yes to Life. Ruth is a regular contributor on Radio 4 and the BBC World Service.



**SPEAKER: Rachel Gardner** has been working with young people for more than two decades and has authored several books, including *The Girl De-Construction Project*, *Cherished*, *Rise* and *The Dating Dilemma*. Her latest book *The Sex Thing* re-imagines ways for the church to engage emerging generations with a biblical sexual ethic. She is the founder of the Romance Academy (featured in the BBC three-part documentary *No Sex Please, We're Teenagers*); an Ambassador for Home For Good; on team at Youthscape and is the Youth Innovation Lead at St Luke's, a youth resourcing church on an estate in Blackburn led by her husband Jason. They have two children and a new puppy.

**SPEAKER: The Revd Canon Dr Anderson H M Jeremiah** is a Senior Lecturer of World Christianity at University of Lancaster and Visiting Professor of Anglican Studies at Episcopal Divinity School, New York. Anderson serves as the Canon Theologian of Blackburn Cathedral and member of the Faith and Order Commission for the Church of England. Anderson grew up in India and was ordained as a priest in the Church of South India (an Anglican Province). Anderson's research interests and publications focus on the 'lived facet' of world Christianity, and its theological and missional engagement with the wider society. Anderson is deeply passionate about social, racial, and environmental justice as a Gospel imperative and central to Christian Discipleship. As a public theologian, Anderson has published widely on themes including Political Theology, Liberation Hermeneutics and Radical Ecclesiology and Mission.



**SPEAKER: Dr Deborah Lewer.** Debbie is Senior Lecturer in History of Art at the University of Glasgow. She is a specialist in German art and in the complex relationship between visual art and theology. She is a Fellow of the Humboldt Foundation and a Visiting Scholar at Sarum College, Salisbury, where she teaches on the MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture. She works with ordinands and curates across the UK and is a contributor to the 'Visual Commentary on Scripture' project ([thevcs.org](http://thevcs.org).) Debbie is a regular speaker in churches while at festivals she leads retreats on art and faith in various settings. She has been the speaker for the Scottish Episcopal Church's clergy conference of her home Diocese of

Glasgow and Galloway and for the Diocese of Edinburgh. She believes that art history at its best is about sharpening our vision, expanding the imagination and opening up new perspectives on life. When not doing that, she can be found up Scottish hills.

**SPEAKER: Prof Richard Bauckham** (pronounced to rhyme with Morecambe) is a biblical scholar and theologian. After 15 years teaching at the University of Manchester he moved to St Andrews, where he was Professor of New Testament Studies until 2007. He retired in order to concentrate on research and writing and now lives in Cambridge. His published writing ranges across many areas of biblical studies and theology. Among his best known works are 'Jesus and the Eyewitnesses', 'The Bible and Ecology' and 'Gospel of Glory'. Recently he published his first poetry collection.





**MUSIC: The Revd Pete Gunstone** is an ordained priest in the Church of England. Formerly a professional musician specialising in organ, harpsichord and choir training. He has also served as a music director and worship pastor in a range of multi-cultural and inter-traditional contexts. He loves working in a broad range of worshipping traditions and is delighted to be Interim Precentor at Bradford Cathedral, concurrently with completing his curacy at Fountains Church Bradford.

**COMEDIAN: Andy Kind:** Andy Kind is a comedian, preacher and writer. He started doing Stand-up on January 23, 2005. By the September of that year, Andy had gone full-time as a comedian and has made a living from it ever since. He won Anything for Laughs in 2005 and in early 2019 hurdled over the 2000-gig barrier. Other stuff happened in between. Described by The Scotsman as ‘Terrific’ and by the Yorkshire Times as ‘Tossing out comic gems in an almost profligate manner’, Andy’s stand-up style is the joyful ranting of a redeemed alpha male. He has been featured on BBC1, ITV and Channel 4, while he’s had jokes featured on Dave’s One Night Stand and Live at the Apollo. Read more at [www.andykind.co.uk](http://www.andykind.co.uk)



**CHAPLAIN/BIBLE STUDY LEADER: The Revd Canon Andrew Cornes writes:** My three brothers were born in Jerusalem. I was born in somewhere much more romantic: Woking. Raised in Winchester, my Christian faith as a teenager was real but confused. I came to a clearer and more personal faith at university where I studied Modern Languages (French and Russian), and then Theology. I served a Curacy in York and was then Director of Training at a London church. At the same time, for 12 years, I led a Christian camp work for teenagers which operated in all three school holidays. Marrying in my mid-30s, we moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where I was the Rector of a church in the city centre near two universities. That was a hard time; I made many mistakes and ended up resigning. Returning to the UK, I was Vicar of the small Sussex town of Crowborough for 26 years. Now officially retired, I am on the staff of a church in the poorest and most multinational part of Eastbourne. I am a writer, and also involved in listening to, and offering support to, other clergy. I love our family – my wife and five children – the theatre, history, travel and good conversation.

**CHAPLAIN/BIBLE STUDY LEADER: The Revd Adam Thomas** is the Director of our Diocesan Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer at [Whalley Abbey](#) in the Ribble Valley. As we emerged from the pandemic work began to renew the site as what is now an increasingly popular place of refreshment and respite. Adam has overseen many changes in the past 18 months, including the establishment of a new monastic community, the first in nearly five centuries, alongside a regular cycle of prayer; open to all. Before appointment as Abbey Director, Adam was Curate at St Cuthbert's Church in Lytham on the Fylde Coast. Prior to ordination, one of Adam's roles was Lake District National Park Authority Development Programme Director and Head of Commercial Services.



**CHAPLAIN/BIBLE STUDY LEADER: The Rt Revd Helen-Ann Hartley** has recently (October!) been announced as Bishop of Newcastle having been Bishop of Ripon since February 2018. She will formally take up the role in early 2023. Prior to the Ripon role in the Diocese of Leeds, Helen-Ann was Bishop of Waikato on New Zealand's North Island, a position she held from 2014 until returning to ministry in the Church of England. Helen-Ann was ordained deacon and priest in the Diocese of Oxford and following a curacy in a multi-parish rural benefice, she taught New Testament studies in Oxford and in New Zealand, mostly in theological college contexts. She was born in Edinburgh, and grew up in the North-East of England, where she retains strong family connections. In her spare time (!) she enjoys running and is a devotee of her local parkrun (at Fountains Abbey)! Helen-Ann is married to Myles, who has recently finished his PhD in music, and is a freelance accompanist in organ and piano. They are very much staff when at home, to Ebba the cat!

