

## Parish Support

### New Bishop's Adviser for Associate Ministry

*The Revd Julian Poppleton acts as a champion of associate ministry in and beyond the diocese, advising the Bishop on all aspects of associate ministry. He encourages, supports and enables the ministry of our Associate Ministers, and is available for meetings and/ or telephone contact as required.*

Julian studied Geography at Durham, though many understandably thought it was Music! He ran his college chapel choir and has continued to be involved in choral music throughout his life, being fortunate to sing challenging and inspiring music in many beautiful settings and to diverse audiences. He is often to be found deputising for the Precentor in Winchester Cathedral and has long been associated with music in worship in Salisbury.

After teaching in Andover, Julian retrained to teach Religious Education, later studying for ordination (2002) at STETS whilst working at King Edward VI School, Southampton, There he would go on to pioneer the role of school chaplain. Without any of the traditional structures present (such as a chapel) this was very much an incarnational model, seeking to be a caring and approachable pastor to those of faith and of none; modelling and witnessing to a loving Christ in the community. Julian left King Edward's in 2020, in part to take up caring responsibilities, having been greatly blest, enriched and frequently humbled by the pupils and colleagues he sought to serve.

During the past Covid year Julian has been increasingly busy in the parish, being the nominated singer when the rules permitted and enjoying learning much through the challenges of livestreaming and online and open-air worship. Constructing a virtual carol service for the parish YouTube channel with twenty-plus individual singers contributing to become a choir certainly tested his skill set and editing endurance!

There has rarely been a more exciting time as the Church reimagines itself and how all the people of God can fulfil their vocation. Julian is thrilled to be involved in the developing scope and importance of Associate (also known as Self-Supported) Ministry in the Diocese and nationally. Membership of the National Network of SSM officers/ advisers for each Diocese has already given him valuable insight and hope for the future.

Having spent his lay and ordained life rooted in parish and cathedral worship and witness whilst working and serving in secular settings, Julian is looking forward to learning from those across the Diocese whose ministry isn't framed by the traditional models. He knows something of the tensions, frustration and difficulties that can arise by being on the edge of the 'norm' as well as the myriad privileged opportunities and unique voice it affords.

He is delighted that the understanding of lay and ordained ministry is evolving rapidly. Enabling all people to offer what they can and, indeed, who they are, to witness to Christ and to serve God's people is what associate ministers have long embodied. The Diocese is fortunate to have many innovative and faithful associates and a tradition of being open to new ways of thinking and living out the Gospel. With the excellent team of support officers and the archdeacons, Julian seeks to champion and support the distinctive ministry of associates as, together with our lay and ordained sisters and brothers, we seek to make the Kingdom a reality and the knowledge of God's love for all his creation tangible wherever we are called to serve.

Julian is married to Libby and Salisbury has been their home since starting their careers as teachers. Romance blossomed as they worked on leading the music for The Way of the Cross 1988. Raising their now adult children, Sam and Alice, anchored them especially in the Harnham community where Julian is Associate Priest. Their shared love of music has been a source of much

joy and a means to make many friends as well as engaging with many youngsters to explore church and Christian ideas.

Support Officers: Lynn Bowerman - Dorset, Tina Fox - Sarum, Teresa Michaux – Wilts, Jean Saddington - Sherborne.

Contact page [here](#).