

Michael Stokes

Pioneer Curate.



**ALL SAINTS
KINGSTON**

Michael Stokes joined All Saints Kingston as the Pioneer curate in June 2025. Here he shares a little of his story which has brought him to minister in the All Saints Community.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me,
I am sending you" - John 20:21

I grew up in a naval family moving around a lot when I was a child, between London, Plymouth, Scotland, and Portsmouth, I had had six homes before the age of 13. I went to a naval boarding school, and it was there where I was introduced to a community of Christians and first felt the loving support of the church. After seven years I moved to London for an apprenticeship in the Civil Service, intending only to stay until I figured out what I actually wanted to do with my life, it took me nine years to leave! Over that time, I did some amazing and fun jobs, focusing largely on delivering Brexit.

However, when Covid-19 hit, like many people I began to question what I wanted to do with my life, and I felt drawn back to a calling I sensed when I was much younger. I began to discern with my vicar in Bermondsey and slowly began the formal processes.

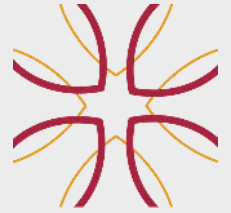
Alongside this I entered the Community of St. Anselm, a religious community based at Lambeth Palace. In this ecumenical space my faith grew both deeper and broader as I lived, loved, and served my brothers and sisters. This connection remains part of my spiritual life and regular engagement with religious communities is part of my own sustaining practice.

At the end of two years in the community and formal discernment I was recommended to start training and so left London to move to the village of Cuddesdon, just outside of Oxford.



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At college I worked towards a degree in theology, preparing me to begin my curacy in Kingston. I have also spent time out in Canada, where being on placement in a different country has allowed me to share in the joy of Christ in a different culture and historical backdrop.

In my role as pioneer curate, I am tasked especially with looking outside the traditional church setting and seeing where God is working in our community. This will involve the Growing Faith through Music mission, where we are growing our Junior Choir, and engaging with local schools through Lifting Young Voices. However, I am also seeking to see what God is doing beyond our walls and so I hope to spend much of my ministry in and with the communities which make up Kingston. And I will need the help of the whole community to help me find and see these areas where God is already undertaking their mission.

Outside of church you can often find me with a book in hand, or playing boardgames with friends. I also look forward to getting back running once I have healed from a dance related injury!

It is exciting for me to join All Saints Kingston and I look forward to getting to those in the congregation and the wider community. I encourage you to say hello and come visit the church if it is new to you.

*Almighty God, we pray that you may bless
the work you have begun in us,
May the church you called to go out, be
quick and unburdened in its desire to
spread your good news,
May the people who you created, be joyous
and creative in the ways they love others,
And may the light you have given to each
of us, shine into the world as a sign of your
eternal love for us all.*

Amen

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