

Telling Encounters: Biographies

Revd Professor June Boyce-Tillman is Professor Emerita of Applied Music at the University of Winchester and an Extraordinary Professor of North West University, South Africa. She is a prolific writer on music and spirituality, a composer, hymn writer and performer.

Revd Donald Eadie In my teenage I was a dreamer wanting to change the world, I learned something of the reality of human violence and suffering in recent history in particular in Kenya. Working in a factory warehouse reshaped my world view and the core of my vocation. In 1960 I attended the European Ecumenical Youth Assembly in Lausanne, Switzerland. In ageing I am increasingly aware of the heart and pulse within all humanity. For nearly 30 years I have lived with a serious degenerative disease requiring three spinal operations. Life is expanding and not contracting. I am still learning to manage pain.

Revd Jonathan Evens is Associate Vicar for HeartEdge at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Through HeartEdge, a network of churches, he encourages congregations to engage with culture, compassion and commerce. Before being ordained Jonathan worked in the Civil Service forming partnerships to support disabled people in finding or retaining work. He is co-author of 'The Secret Chord,' an impassioned study of the role of music in cultural life written through the prism of Christian belief. He writes regularly on the Arts for a range of publications and blogs at <https://joninbetween.blogspot.com>

Dr Naomi Lawson Jacobs (they/them) is an autistic, disabled researcher, writer and trainer, whose PhD on disabled people's experiences of churches was published in 2019. They are now co-writing a book on disability, churches and social justice. Naomi has been on the planning team of the St Martin-in-the-Fields/Inclusive Church disability conference for several years, and is currently working for HeartEdge. Naomi likes cats, stories, superheroes, and walks on wheelchair-accessible paths in the country. They sometimes go to church and they always like being out on the edge, where wild new things take root.

Revd Dr Hannah Lewis was a child of the vicarage, Deafened in childhood and acquired BSL as a teenager. After studying Theology at Cambridge and a PhD at Birmingham she was ordained in 1997. She has served in a wide variety of paid and unpaid roles in Lichfield and Liverpool dioceses. Hannah is currently a pioneer minister with the Deaf Community in Liverpool Diocese, and Tutor and disability advocate for All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry. She published her PhD as *Deaf Liberation Theology* (Ashgate 2007). She works nationally and internationally doing theology in BSL with Deaf people and growing Deaf church leaders.

Fiona MacMillan (she/her) chairs the Disability Advisory Group at St Martin-in-the-Fields, is a trustee of Inclusive Church, and leads the planning team for their annual partnership conference, now in its 9th year. After ten years managing innovative health projects Fiona studied at the School for Social Entrepreneurs, becoming one its first fellows. She combines these experiences in her writing and work on disability, lived experience and questions of social justice. Fiona coedited the booklets *Calling from the Edge* and *Something Worth Sharing*. She is a member of the Nazareth Community.

Revd Nigel Pietroni Having served in parishes in Wakefield, Norfolk and Stoke on Trent, Nigel left full time ministry in the church of England in 2018. He is married to Christopher, and is passionate about encouraging churches and faith communities to become inclusive and welcoming to all. Alongside teaching Public Narrative as a key leadership practice around the country, he is also a Civil Funeral Celebrant.

Christopher Pietroni is Professor of Leadership Practice & Director of the Birmingham Leadership Institute, University of Birmingham. Its aim is to ensure the most up to date leadership thinking and the most skilled leadership development is made available across sectors. Married to Nigel, faith has been a core part of Christopher's life and career which began as Parliamentary Officer for Church Action on Poverty.

Emily Richardson (she/her) can most often be found online. She tweets (a LOT!) and is passionate about communicating across all forms of digital media, which has proved to be quite helpful since March. She is a member of the Moot community, a contemplative community in the City of London, as well as All Saints Fulham, where she works in the Parish Office (or rather, remotely from her sofa!) as communications co-ordinator. She tweets as @emjric.

Revd Dr Jane Wallman-Girdlestone is a priest, poet, painter and academic in The Church in Wales. Jane is a Fellow at the University of Aberdeen and a specialist in disability theology using radical activism, art, poetry and liberation theology. She has taught in theological education for a number of years. She is a Thalidomide Survivor living with Progressive MS, a powered chair user and has a guide dog called Obi Wan Kenobi.

Revd Dr Sam Wells is Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, and a widely known preacher, pastor, writer, broadcaster, and theologian. He has served as a Church of England parish priest for 21 years. He also spent 7 years in North Carolina, where he was Dean of Duke University Chapel. Sam is also Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King's College London. He has published 36 books, including studies in Christian ethics and explorations of liturgy, preaching, faith and mission. His most recent book is *With* (Juxta 2020)