

CLERGY ONGOING FORMATION TEAM



E: aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk

FR AARON SPINELLI

Director of Clergy Ongoing Formation (OGF)

Fr Aaron Spinelli hails from the parish of Our Lady of Ransom in Eastbourne. He was ordained to the priesthood on 30 August 2008, following his formation at the Venerable English College in Rome. During his priestly ministry, Fr Aaron has served in several parishes in the Diocese, including Guildford; Redhill, Reigate and Merstham; and Horsham. He was Parish Priest at St John's, Horsham, for eight years, until September 2023, when he commenced his current ministry as Parish Priest at Our Lady, Help of Christians, West Byfleet.

In September 2025, Bishop Richard Moth appointed Fr Aaron Director for Ongoing Formation. Additionally, he serves as the Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies. He is also a member of the diocesan Council of Priests. He is a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and serves as secretary and trustee of the Roman Association.

Fr Aaron's academic background includes degrees in Law, Philosophy, and Theology, and a Licence in Spiritual Theology.



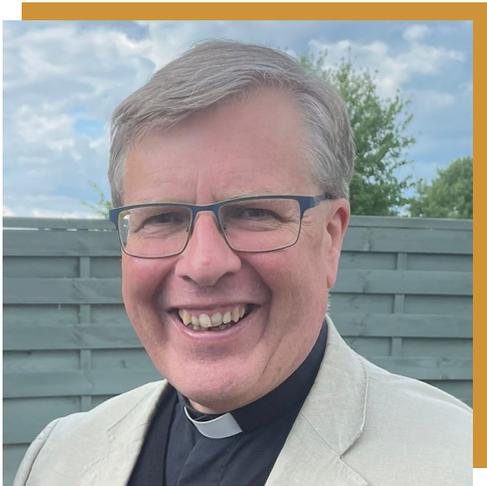
E: nick.stjohn@abdiocese.org.uk

DEACON NICK ST JOHN

Clergy Support Programme Manager

I joined the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton in the role of Clergy Support Programme Manager in October 2022. I live and minister as a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, and work 2.5 days per week for Arundel & Brighton, managing our programme of OGF activity. A lot of time during my first two years was spent in setting up and managing clergy mentoring and supervision, a key priority identified by clergy. More recently, I took on another role, with 1.5 days per week supporting the roll-out of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, and all the clergy formation necessary for this.

My background is in leadership and management education and learning. Initially this involved managing teams in large organisations, and later running a consultancy and executive coaching business. It has been a great blessing for me to support faith formation, leadership, and team building in parishes before coming to Arundel & Brighton, and I still get involved in this. I greatly relish using this experience in working to support our clergy become formed in Jesus Christ our Lord, and to help them build missionary disciples in their parish communities.



E: mark.woods@abdiocese.org.uk

DEACON MARK WOODS

I was ordained at St Michael's, Worthing, in 2005. I had been a solicitor but when ordained I was working for CAFOD, and then subsequently with the Diocese as Communications Officer. In all of these roles, ongoing learning was a necessary part of my work life. Equally, as deacons, ongoing formation should also be part of our ministry. As with priesthood, the diaconate can be challenging life with many demands, and pressures, especially balancing family life, work and diaconal ministry. We are also asked to be able to adapt to big changes in parish life and changes in wider society.

The Directory for the Formation of Permanent Deacons in England and Wales says "While the initial programme of formation... is directed at giving the candidate the necessary skills and knowledge with which a deacon may commence his diaconal ministry, it cannot provide all the education, formation and skills that he will require during a lifetime of the exercise of his pastoral calling as a minister of word, altar and charity." I look forward helping the ongoing formation team of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton provide appropriate diaconal formation for my fellow deacons.