ONESPIRIT INTERFAITH FOUNDATION

CLASS OF 2024

ORDINATION AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

SATURDAY 20 JULY 2024

GLASTONBURY TOWN HALL

2PM TO 4PM



ONESPIRIT INTERFAITH FOUNDATION

Founded in 1996 in London, OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation is a leading beacon of transformative education, dedicated to nurturing the spiritual growth of open-hearted adults across the United Kingdom. As a heart-centred educational charity, we offer comprehensive training programmes that cover Interfaith Ministry, spiritual accompaniment, sacred activism, rituals, and an exploration of the world's diverse faith paths. Our mission is to awaken inclusive global spirituality by empowering individuals to serve across varied communities, irrespective of faith or belief systems.

At the heart of OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation lies the universal truth found within all worldly traditions, championing values like respect, reconciliation, forgiveness, and fellowship. We believe in celebrating our differences as enrichments and strive to overcome the "*us*" versus "*them*" mentality by focusing on the interconnectedness of all beings. Our efforts reach across sectors like education, health, the arts, business, and politics to foster a more inclusive and compassionate global community.

Our curriculum offers a balanced approach to learning that honours both intellect and emotion, facilitating actions that extend to all of creation. Recognising the divine within each individual who joins our community, we have, over the past 25 years, trained and ordained over 900 individuals. This has resulted in a community of compassionate, spiritually awakened leaders who embody our values and extend warmth and understanding to every facet of creation.

As we approach the OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation Ordination Ceremony for 2024, we warmly invite you to celebrate the ordination of our newest ministers. This event is a testament to our collective journey towards empathy, compassion, and connection. Our newest ministers exemplify a commitment to their spiritual journeys and service to others, embodying the transformative power of love and connection.

This occasion will be a profound space to acknowledge our diverse paths and to cultivate a welcoming and compassionate atmosphere for all.

We encourage you to join this special ceremony, as we come together to honour our bonds and rededicate ourselves to a world marked by greater compassion, inclusivity, and mutual understanding.

Staff & Faculty of OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

OneSpirit
Interfaith Foundation

WHO WE ARE

operations team

Alan Briscoe - Executive Director
Abi Aiyegbayo - Finance Consultant
Ava Dècage - Communications & Learning Design Assistant
Kim Jackson - Operations Manager
Lavinia Jones - Community Development Lead
Lindsay Reynolds - Administration
Kailee Smart - Communications & Marketing Lead
Maddy Walcott - Learning Design Specialist
Danielle Wilson - Finance Officer

faculty for the class of ordinands

Nicola Coombe & Monica Douglas

faculty team

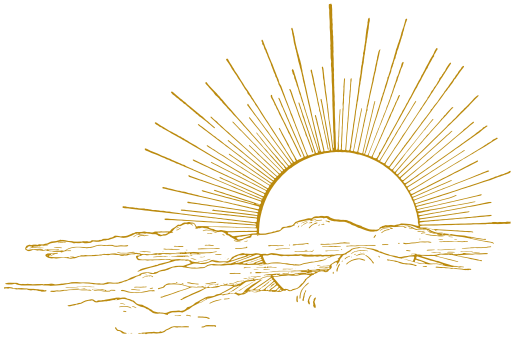
Una Devine - Group Tutor
Linda Dunbar - Group Tutor
Annie Heppenstall - Core Tutor
Sarah MacDonald - Group Tutor
Christopher Marcus - Guest Tutor
Dawn Russell - Core Tutor



board of trustees

Yashodha Balraj
Anthony Downer (in attunement)
Marco Fernandez
Tabi Eleanor Haller-Jorden
Rev. Malaika
Dr Rev Joanna Dymetra Petts
Sonia Thompson

LETTER FROM ALAN



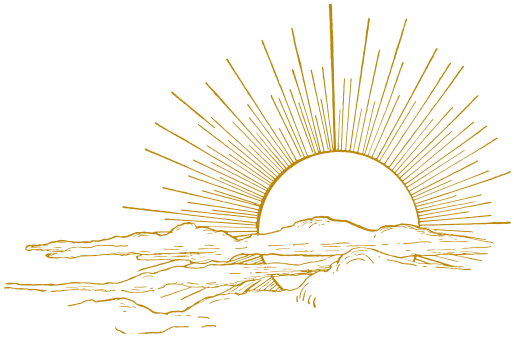
It is my true privilege and great joy as the Executive Director of OneSpirit to extend my heartfelt congratulations on your remarkable achievement as you take this final step into becoming ordained interfaith ministers. It fills my heart with joy to warmly welcome you as esteemed graduates into our OneSpirit community, and we are truly delighted to have you join our ever-growing family.

As you embark on this next chapter of your continuously unfolding spiritual journey, know that our entire community is by your side, eager to offer support and encouragement. We hold absolute confidence that your deep listening, compassion, commitment to unity, and unique gifts will inspire those around you. As cherished members of our community, a wealth of opportunities awaits you now and in the future, enriching both your personal and our collective journey.

Register of OneSpirit Interfaith Ministers (ROSIM):
As a newly ordained minister, we cordially invite you to join the professional Register of OneSpirit Interfaith Ministers (ROSIM), which facilitates a continued connection with the OneSpirit community. By joining ROSIM, you maintain a strong bond with fellow ministers and benefit from a platform to share your insights, thoughts, and experiences.

Membership in ROSIM includes numerous benefits, including the creation of a personal minister profile on our website, increasing your visibility to those in search of your specialised services. Additionally, you will be granted exclusive access to discounted fees for our Continuing Personal & Professional Development (CPPD) courses, facilitated by our highly skilled tutors, to aid in your ongoing development. For members residing in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland, after completing supplementary training, there is also the option to apply for inclusion on the legal wedding registers.

Joining ROSIM means becoming part of a supportive network that uplifts interfaith ministry. It's an opportunity to contribute to the global stature of interfaith ministry, join a support network of your peers, and access tailored resources, including discounted insurance. Your engagement with ROSIM is a step towards promoting the essential role of interfaith ministry in meeting the diverse spiritual needs of our society, making it more credible and visible.



OneSpirit Board of Trustees:
OneSpirit is continuously seeking passionate individuals to join our board. Trustees work with the leadership team to set objectives and ensure our charitable purpose is fulfilled. We aim to enhance our board's diversity and capacity, valuing relationship-building and leadership skills from all backgrounds. Trustees undergo a six-month attunement period before being appointed for a four-year term. This unpaid role includes reimbursements for reasonable expenses, with meetings held quarterly via Zoom.

OneSpirit Ethics & Standards Committee:
The Ethics & Standards Committee advises on professional standards and ethical issues within our ministerial community. This minister-led committee, maintaining a degree of separation from the foundation, will draft their terms of reference, review the existing Code of Ethics, and evaluate membership requirements, possibly developing a Code of Practice. This initiative seeks to maintain high ethical standards and transparency within our community.

iConnect Newsletter:
As we further our mission to enrich OneSpirit as an educational charity, our newsletter, iConnect, serves as a pivotal channel to keep you updated with inspiring stories, the latest news, and exciting new projects. With your enrolment, you've joined a vibrant community of committed individuals. iConnect is not just a newsletter—it's a gateway to opportunities both from OneSpirit the organisation and the broader OneSpirit community. We are dedicated to supporting your ongoing development and connecting you with the myriad of opportunities that our organisation and our community have to offer. Members of ROSIM also benefit from the ability to advertise their offerings in the newsletter.

As you can see, there is always a wealth of opportunities available to you, each designed to support and enrich your journey further. Once again, congratulations on your outstanding achievement, and welcome to our supportive and loving community! We are truly honoured to have you with us on this journey.

With the warmest congratulations and blessings,
Alan Briscoe, Executive Director of OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude

- *Robert Norton on piano (Musician and long-term friend)*

Pre-ceremony Ordinands and Team Attunement

- *All trustees, staff and faculty to gather, together with ordinands*

Pre-ceremony Preparation for Congregation

- *Welcome, and Announcements - Monica Douglas (Tutor, Class of 2024), Kim Jackson (Operations Manager)*

Ordinands and Team Procession

- *Trustees, faculty, and staff, each accompanying an ordinand, walking as a pair*
- *Blowing of the Conch: Christopher Marcus (Associate Faculty)*
- *Procession with Song: "Here I Am" - The congregation is invited to sing.*

Welcome to OneSpirit's Ordination

- *Welcome Ordinands, Welcome All - Nicola Coombe & Monica Douglas (Class of 2024 Co-Tutors)*

Prayer of Invocation

- *Annie Heppenstall (Faculty, Core Tutor, First Year: Aspen Class)*

OneSpirit's Purpose and Essence

- *Dawn Russell (Faculty, Core Tutor, First Year: Rowan Class)*

Crossing the Threshold: "Here I Am"

- *Christopher Marcus (Associate Faculty, Former Faculty Core Tutor)*

Class of 2024 Ordinands Offering

Statements of Commitment and Agreement

- *Sarah MacDonald and Una Devine (Faculty Group Tutors for First Year Classes)*

"We are the ones we have been waiting for..."
- June Jordan, 1936-2002, from Poem for South African Women

Preparation for Ordination

- *Monica Douglas (Class of 2024 Co-tutor)*

Ordination and Blessing

- *Ordinands and Faculty, with piano accompaniment (Robert Norton)*

Post Ordination Integration/Receiving

- *Manickam Yogeswaran (Classical & Carnatic South Indian Musician; long-term friend)*

Welcome to New Ministers: Message of Celebration and Blessing

- *Nicola Coombe (Faculty, Core Tutor Class 2024)*

New OneSpirit Ministers Roll Call and Congratulations

- *Reverend Malaika (Deputy Chair of Trustees), Maddy Davies (Learning Specialist*

Towards Closing: Blessings

- *Reverend Malaika (Deputy Chair of Trustees)*

Closing Song in Circles of Greeting, First blessing from and to new ministers, including all gathered

- *"We Shall Be Known" (Ma-Muse)*

Closing Blessing

- *Monica Douglas, Nicola Coombe*

Closing Musical Accompaniment, as all move towards Refreshments

- *Robert Norton*

"We are the ones we have been waiting for..."
- June Jordan, 1936-2002, from Poem for South African Women

"Here I Am"

I, the Source of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who fear the dark within
My Light will find.
I have made the stars of night,
Just to make the darkness bright.
Who will bear My Light to them?
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS
Here I am…. (Life/ Love/Lord/God),
Is it I…..? (Life/ Love/ Lord/God)?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go…. (Life/ Love/ Lord/God), if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Source of snow and rain,
I will heed My people's pain.
I proclaim My Love of them,
They turn away.
I will melt their hearts of stone,
Till their hearts give love alone.
I will speak My Word to them,
Whom shall I send?

CHORUS

I, the Source of wind and fire,
I will quench their heart's desire.
All who live in joy or pain
My hand will serve
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give all Life to them,
Whom shall I send?

"We Shall Be Known"

We shall be known by the company we keep
We shall be known by the company we keep
By the ones who circle round to tend this fire.
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
The seeds of change and life from deep within the earth.
It is time now.
It is time now that we thrive.
It is time we lead ourselves into the wealth.
It is time now.
And what a time to be alive.
In this great turning, we shall learn to lead in Love.
In this great turning, we shall learn to lead in Love.

"We are the ones we have been waiting for..."
- June Jordan, 1936-2002, from Poem for South African Women

GRADUATE GALLERY



Rev. Anna Julia Agoston



Reverend Rebecca Chipping



Reverend Maxine Connolly



Reverend Kyriakos Fiakkas



Rev. Dr. Susan Goldsworthy OLY



Reverend Elden Homer



Rev. Georgina Langdale



Reverend Samantha Moyo

GRADUATE GALLERY



Reverend Bridgeen Rea Kaya



Reverend Jennifer Liston-Smith



Reverend Eva Mary Spevack



Reverend Nik Valentine



Reverend Carmel Walker



Elizabeth Ward, Rev.

"There is only one river.
There is only one sea.
And it flows through you,
and it flows through me.
There is only one people.
We are one and the same.
We are all one spirit.
We are all one name."

~ Peter Yarrow

ONESPIRIT PRAYER

A Prayer for Ordination:

~

May my purpose align

With all who work for peace

My heart and mind alive

To global awakening

That I may see all in a field of love

Freeing my inner power

To serve and to forgive

Inclusive and authentic

Compassionate and transformative

True to the Spirit we share in our humanity

So may it be

~



GRATITUDE

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who contributed to making this ceremony a reality. To all the family, friends, and guests gathered today, we offer a warm and heartfelt welcome. It brings us joy to share this special occasion with you and to celebrate the connections that bring us together.

Our Board of Trustees: *Yashodha Balraj, Anthony Downer (in attunement), Marco Fernandez, Tabi Eleanor Haller-Jorden, Rev. Malaika, Dr Rev. Joanna Petts, Sonia Thompson*

Our Executive Director: *Alan Briscoe*

Our Faculty for the Class of 2024: *Nicola Coombe (Core Tutor), Sheila Zietsman (Group Tutor for First Year), Monica Douglas (Group Tutor for Second Year)*

Our Whole Current Faculty: *Nicola Coombe, Annie Heppenstall and Dawn Russell (Core Tutors); Una Devine, Monica Douglas, Linda Dunbar and Sarah MacDonald (Group Tutors); and our Guest Tutor and long-standing former Faculty, Christopher Marcus*

Our Staff Team: *Abi Aiyegbayo (Finance Consultant), Ava Dècage (Communications & Learning Design Assistant), Kim Jackson (Operations Manager), Lavinia Jones (Community Development Lead), Lindsay Reynolds (Administration), Kailee Smart (Communications & Marketing Lead), Maddy Walcott (Learning Design Specialist), Danielle Wilson (Finance Officer)*

Our Founder: *Rev. Miranda Macpherson*

Our Elders: *Rev Diane Berke, Rev Peter Dewey and Dr Robert Holden*

Our Sister School: *One Spirit Learning Alliance in New York*

Our Supervisors: *Within & Beyond OneSpirit*

Our Minister Community: *All those who could not join us today, those who graciously donated their time volunteering and all of our ministers in the world*

Our Musicians: *Robert Norton and Manickam Yogeswaren, both having been part of our Ordinations for most of OneSpirit's journey*

Our Videographer: *Elmer Postle*

Our Venue: *We are honoured to hold our Ordination within the mystery of Glastonbury for the first time and within this venue itself*

We extend our warmest gratitude and appreciation to every individual who has generously contributed their time and effort as a volunteer today. Your support truly makes a difference, and we are grateful to have you as part of our community.

CURIOUS ABOUT INTERFAITH MINISTRY?

If you've been inspired by today's celebrations, and you've been curious about interfaith ministry, we warmly invite you to discover a path that may transform your inner world and how you engage with the world at large. OneSpirit is thrilled to introduce the Birch Pathway as part of our Spiritual Development and Ministry Training programme for 2024. This pathway is designed for those ready to dive deep into the heart of spiritual growth, awakening, and service.

The Birch Pathway will be our second offering of a fully online programme; nurturing dynamic self-reflection, cultivating empathic listening for personal and ministerial growth, exploring inclusive spiritual practices, and delving into the heart of community service. The two-year journey will be delivered entirely online; weaving together live weekly webinars, resources in our bespoke online classroom, and a dedicated student communications platform, all to nurture your development.

You will learn what it *really* means to *meet people where they are* in sacred service, whatever form this may take for you.

Birch Pathway Highlights:

- *Online Flexibility: Enriching webinars from the comfort of your own space.*
- *Comprehensive Curriculum: Explore six integrated strands that cover everything from worldviews and reflective practices to spiritual accompaniment and community service.*
- *Personal Growth: Cultivate deep self-awareness and empathic listening to navigate your spiritual path and ministry effectively.*

Pathway Benefits:

- *Connect with a community of spiritual seekers, learners, and leaders.*
- *Embark on a personally relevant training adaptable to the evolving global consciousness.*
- *Prepare for heartfelt ministry grounded in love and compassion.*

Important Details:

- *Introductory Sessions: Choose from October 15, 20, or 22, with a group session on October 27 2024.*
- *Regular Webinars: Attend every Tuesday, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM London time, starting in November 2024.*

You are cordially invited to join an '*Intro Day*' – a complimentary opportunity for you to meet us, establish connections, and get your questions answered. Our final two sessions for the year are scheduled for 3rd August and 10th September. For more details on these days and what our training programmes entail, please visit our website. Embark on the Birch Pathway for an enriching journey that will expand your knowledge and practice of love, acceptance, and empathy.



WWW.INTERFAITHFOUNDATION.ORG

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY & EVERYDAY!

As we conclude the 2024 ordination period, we're deeply grateful for everyone in the OneSpirit community. Your unique contributions, insights, and open hearts greatly enrich our shared journey. Celebrating and honouring our students with you today is truly unparalleled.

A heartfelt thank you for being an integral part of our family. We're thrilled to keep walking this path of love, awakening, and service together! In the spirit of community, we do have a tiny favour to ask...

We've officially launched our very own Google Business page! This means that anyone curious about OneSpirit or interested in knowing more about the beautiful journey of interfaith ministry will find us easily on Google. As you know, your thoughts and feedback are incredibly important to us. They don't just brighten our day; they also guide prospective members in understanding what our community and courses are all about.

By leaving a testimonial, you play a crucial part in welcoming others into our fold and providing a snapshot of the vibrant life within the interfaith community. Fancy sharing your experience of OneSpirit?

You can simply go to this link and let the world know: https://bit.ly/ReviewOneSpirit

Together, we can highlight the beautiful experiences of our shared life journey, fostering even deeper warmth and connection both within our community and throughout the world.

Share your Ordination Day photos with us via: #OneSpiritOrdination

Instagram: @BringItToTheAltar
Facebook: @OneSpiritOrg
Twitter: @OneSpiritOrg

ONESPIRIT INTERFAITH FOUNDATION'S

CLASS OF 2024

ORDINATION AND GRADUATION CEREMONY