
OneSpirit warmly welcomes you
to gather in sacred witness for the
Ordination & Graduation
of the Sylvan Class of 2025
Saturday 19 July 2025 · 2–4pm
Uffculme Centre, 52 Queensbridge Rd, Birmingham B13 8QY

Journey Through the Pages

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Founded in 1996, OneSpirit is a heart-led educational charity committed to spiritual development, deep listening, and sacred service. Our training invites open-hearted individuals into a rich, transformative exploration of life's thresholds, drawing on the wisdom of diverse traditions, spiritual practices, and personal experience.

Our Spiritual Development & Interfaith Ministry training holds the universal truths found across cultures, wisdoms, and spiritual lineages, fostering a path of service rooted in compassion, presence, and deep respect for all of life. At the heart of our work is the belief that when we come to know ourselves more fully, we are better able to accompany others with care, empathy, and understanding.

Each class brings its own unique flavour to the work, and the Sylvan Class of 2025 has journeyed deeply, through biography, community, ceremony, and sacred inquiry, into what it means to serve with integrity and love. Their path has been one of courage, creativity, and connection.

As we gather for this meaningful ceremony, we honour not only the individual journeys that have brought each ordinand to this threshold, but also the community that has formed around them.

This is a time of celebration,
reverence, and shared commitment
to a more compassionate world.

Welcome. We're so glad you're here.

With warmth,
Staff & Faculty
of OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation



Those Holding This Work

This ordination ceremony is held in deep gratitude for the many hearts and hands who have supported the Sylvan Class of 2025. What follows is a glimpse into the team that has accompanied this journey with care, presence, and purpose.

With reverence & steady guidance, the Faculty for the Sylvan Class:
Dawn Russell – Core Tutor
Una Devine – Group Tutor

With presence, care, & deep listening, the Faculty Team:
Rev. Annie Heppenstall – Core Tutor
Rev. Monica Douglas – Group Tutor
Rev. Sarah MacDonald – Group Tutor

With vision & commitment, the Board of Trustees:
Dr. Rev. Joanna Dymetra Petts – Chair of Trustees
Joshua Barber – OneSpirit Trustee
Rev. Malaika – OneSpirit Trustee
Marco Fernandez – OneSpirit Trustee
Rev. Tabi Eleanor Haller-Jorden – OneSpirit Trustee
Rev. Tricia McLeod – OneSpirit Trustee
Sonia Thompson – OneSpirit Trustee

With devotion behind the scenes, the Staff Team:
Alan Briscoe – Executive Director
Abi Aiyegbayo – Finance Consultant
Danielle Wilson – Finance Officer
Kailee Smart – Communications & Marketing Lead
Kim Jackson – Programmes & Events Manager
Lavinia Jones – Community Development Lead
Rev. Lindsay Reynolds – Administration
Maddy Walcott – Learning Design Specialist



With You, As You Continue Forward

Dear friends,

What a moment this is.

After all the growing, deepening, wrestling, wondering, unlearning, and reimagining... here you are. On the edge of something new. And as you step into your role as an ordained interfaith minister, I just want to say – from my heart to yours – welcome. Welcome to this beautiful, evolving, sometimes messy, always meaningful community that is OneSpirit.

It's a real joy to celebrate with you. And though this may be the end of your formal training, it's just the beginning of something richer. Your voice, your presence, your way of being – they matter. And they're needed.

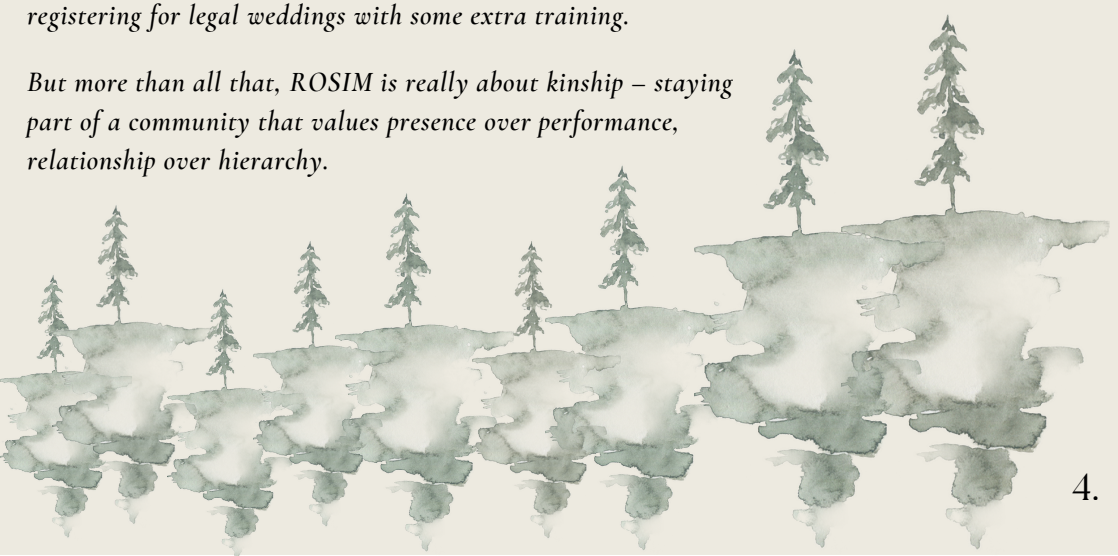
So, what happens now? Well, we'd love you to stay close.

Staying connected – ROSIM

There's an open invitation to join our professional network, the Register of OneSpirit Interfaith Ministers (ROSIM). It's a way of staying in touch – not just with the organisation, but with each other. You get a profile on our website (so people can find you), discounts on continuing development opportunities, and a place to share your offerings and your questions.

If you're in Scotland, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, there's also the possibility of registering for legal weddings with some extra training.

But more than all that, ROSIM is really about kinship – staying part of a community that values presence over performance, relationship over hierarchy.



With You, As You Continue Forward

Ways to offer your gifts

If you feel drawn, there are a few other ways you might want to get involved too. For example:

- *The Board of Trustees – a small, committed group helping shape the future of OneSpirit. If you've got energy for leadership and a heart for service, we'd love to hear from you.*
- *The Ethics & Standards Committee – a minister-led circle exploring how we hold ourselves accountable to high standards of care and integrity. There's room here for thoughtful voices who want to help shape how we evolve.*
- *The OneSpirit Connects newsletter – this is our regular way of sharing updates, inspiration and opportunities across the OneSpirit web. You're already part of this just by being here, and if you're a ROSIM member you can use it to share your own work too.*

All of this is offered lightly. There's no pressure, no 'shoulds'.

Just possibilities, and a sense that your journey is still unfolding – and you don't have to do it alone. Thank you for all the heart you've brought so far. Thank you for being part of this community. And thank you, in advance, for whatever comes next.

With love and congratulations,
Alan
Executive Director, OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation



The Journey of Our Day
Order of Service – Sylvan Ordination 2025

Musical Prelude
Robert Norton on piano (Musician & long-term friend)

Welcome to OneSpirit's Sylvan Class Ordination
Welcome & Announcements, Kim Jackson (Programme & Events Manager)

Ordinands and Team Procession
The congregation is invited to join in with the chant (see lyrics page).

Prayer of Invocation
Rev. Annie Heppenstall (Faculty, Core Tutor, Aspen, Birch & Cherry Tree Class)

OneSpirit's Purpose and Essence
Dawn Russell (Faculty, Sylvan Class of 2025 Co-Tutor)

An Invitation to the Community
Una Devine (Faculty, Sylvan Class of 2025 Co-Tutor)

Introducing Aspen Class
Rev. Annie Heppenstall (Faculty, Core Tutor, Aspen, Birch & Cherry Tree Class)

Aspen Offering to Sylvan
Ordinands from Aspen Class of 2025

Introducing Sylvan Class
Dawn Russell & Una Devine (Faculty, Sylvan Class of 2025 Co-Tutors)

Sylvan Class of 2025 Ordinands Offering



The Journey of Our Day
Order of Service – Sylvan Ordination 2025

Statements of Commitment and Agreement
Rev. Sarah MacDonald (Faculty, Aspen and Birch Group Tutor) & Rev. Tricia McLeod (Trustee)

Preparation for Ordination
Dawn Russell & Una Devine (Faculty, Sylvan Class of 2025 Co-Tutors)

Ordination of Sylvan Class
Ordinands & Faculty, with piano accompaniment by Robert Norton (Musician & long-term friend); Dawn Russell, Una Devine, Rev. Monica Douglas, Rev. Sarah MacDonald, Rev. Annie Heppenstall (Faculty) & Rev. Lindsay Reynolds, Kim Jackson (Staff)

Post Ordination Integration/Receiving
Manickam Yogeswaran (Classical & Carnatic South Indian Musician; long-term friend)

Welcome to New Ministers: Message of Celebration and Blessing
Dr Rev. Joanna Dymetra Petts (Chair of Trustees)

Sylvan OneSpirit Ministers Roll Call and Congratulations
Rev. Monica Douglas (Faculty, Aspen & Birch Group Tutor) & Josh Barber (Trustee)

Newly Ordained Ministers Offer a Blessing

Closing and Thank You
Dawn Russell & Una Devine (Faculty, Sylvan Class of 2025 Co-Tutors)

Closing Chant
The congregation is invited to join in with the chant.



Welcoming Chant,

“Dance Lightly”

Dance lightly on the Earth

Breathe deeply of the air.

Lie softly on the water

Touch gently to the fire.

Closing Chant,

“We Are The Power In Everyone”

We are the power in everyone.

We are the Dance of the moon and the sun.

We are the hope that will never hide.

We are the turning of the tide.



Everything You See

Everything you see has its roots
in the unseen world
The forms may change, yet the
essence remains the same.
Every wonderful sight will vanish,
every sweet word will fade,
But do not be disheartened,
The source they come from is
eternal, growing, Branching out,
giving new life and new joy.
Why do you weep?
The source is within you
And this whole world is springing
up from it.

Translated from Persian by Andrew Harvey, original written by Rumi.



Ordained & Becoming

With deep joy and reverence, we present the ordained Sylvan Class of 2025:



Reverend Abigail Miranda



Reverend Caren Owen



Reverend Darlesca Lucas



Rev. Donna J Ward

We gathered our stories, from birth to beyond, and laid them gently at the altar of becoming. Here, we honour the path from knowing to serving.

Ordained & Becoming

With deep joy and reverence, we present the ordained Sylvan Class of 2025:



Eileen Riley



Reverend Marie Vetli Hjorth



Reverend Nancy Houghton Brajtbord



Interfaith Minister Oliver Mitchell

We gathered our stories, from birth to beyond, and laid them gently at the altar of becoming. Here, we honour the path from knowing to serving.

Ordained & Becoming

With deep joy and reverence, we present the ordained Sylvan Class of 2025:



Reverend Midnight

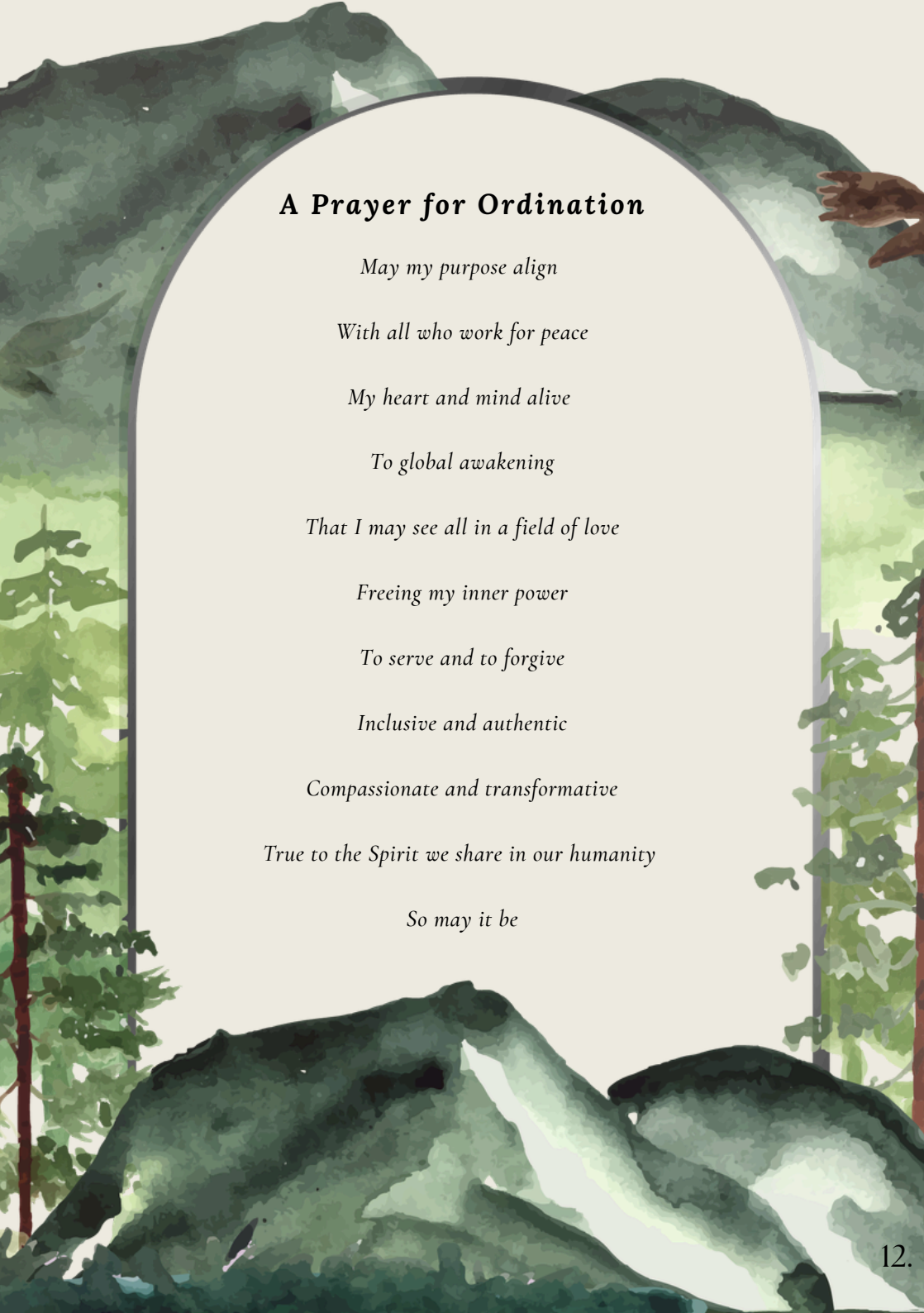


Reverend Tonyia Dowling



Reverend Veronica Ferguson

We gathered our stories, from birth to beyond, and laid them gently at the altar of becoming. Here, we honour the path from knowing to serving.



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

When the Cherry Tree Blossoms

If something stirred in you today, a quiet curiosity, a longing for deeper connection, or a gentle sense of calling, know that there's a path ready to meet you, just as you are.

The Cherry Tree Pathway is the newest version of OneSpirit's two-year online training in Interfaith Ministry and Spiritual Development. Rooted in nearly 30 years of experience, it leads to ordination, and invites a deeper, more authentic way of living and serving.

This path is for those drawn to meaning, service, and soul. Through guided reflection, ceremony, and compassionate practice, you'll shape a ministry that reflects who you truly are.



Lovingly guided by Rev. Annie Heppenstall, with Rev. Sarah MacDonald and Rev. Monica Douglas, the training offers a steady, heart-led space to grow at your own pace, with optional retreats and community connection.

Our training begins on the 8th of October 2025, with enrolment closing on the 30th of September.

Themes include:

- *Deep Listening (BACP-informed accompaniment)*
- *Loving Relationship (empathy & nonviolence)*
- *Ceremony (honouring life's thresholds)*
- *Spiritual Frameworks (across traditions)*
- *Sacred Journeys (into service & self)*

Join us for one of our final Intro Days, where you'll get a real feel for the soul of this training. This isn't just an information session, it's an invitation to something deeper.

- *Thursday, 11th September (7:00–8:30pm) UK time, held lovingly on Zoom.*

If something in you is stirring, curious, hopeful, ready, we'd be honoured to welcome you.

With Gratitude for this Woven Circle

This moment has been shaped by many hearts and hands. With deep gratitude, we honour all who support the life of OneSpirit, and especially those who have given their time and love so generously today. Your presence, your care, and your spirit mean more than words can say.

Our Board of Trustees, holding vision & care for our unfolding: Dr Rev. Joanna, Joshua, Marco, Rev. Malaika, Rev. Tricia, Sonia, Rev. Tabi Eleanor

Our Executive Director, with steady presence and leadership: Alan

Our Sylvan Class Faculty, accompanying that year's journey with care: Dawn & Una

Our Guest Speakers & all who inspired our students & faculty throughout Sylvan's journey

Our Faculty, tending the growth of our learning community: Rev. Annie, Rev. Monica & Rev. Sarah

Our Staff Team, supporting & nurturing our community behind the scenes: Abi, Danielle, Kailee, Kim, Lavinia, Rev. Lindsay, Maddy

Our Musicians, who have graced many ordinations: Manickam & Robert

Our Venue, for holding us: thank you for sheltering this sacred gathering.

Our Supervisors, within & beyond OneSpirit, for compassionate holding of this work.

Our Minister Community, near & far, those who could not join us today, those who gave time to support our ceremony, & all who serve in our big world with love.

Our Students, at every stage, those being ordained today, those recently ordained, those preparing to join us, and those learning quietly from afar, you bring the light.

Our Founder, who planted the first seeds of this vision: Rev. Miranda

Our Dear Nicola Coombe, for her guidance, vision & heart in shaping the path of OneSpirit

Our Elders, whose wisdom nourish our work: Rev. Peter & Dr. Robert

Our Sister School, connected across the ocean: One Spirit Learning Alliance, New York

With Our Deepest Thanks

Thank you for being here with us today, whether in person or in spirit, to honour this special and sacred day. This ceremony marks more than a moment in time. It reflects the quiet courage, deep listening, and steady unfolding of each person who said yes to this path. Your presence, your witness, has helped shape the sacredness of this day.

To the family, friends, mentors, and companions who have supported these ordinands along the way, thank you. The ripples of your love and encouragement are woven into every vow spoken, every heart held, and every step taken.

To those joining us from afar, or holding this moment in your own quiet way, please know: you are part of this circle too. OneSpirit is a living, breathing community, rooted in connection, shaped by all who pass through it.

And to you, our students, ministers, tutors, guests, and friends, thank you for being part of this evolving work. Your presence helps keep alive a vision of ministry that is inclusive, soulful, and deeply human.

Finally, to our dear Sylvan Class: thank you for the grace, courage, and heart you've brought to this journey. It's been a joy and an honour to witness your unfolding. Sylvan, for all you've offered, and all you are becoming.

Inspired or moved by today? We'd love to hear from you: https://bit.ly/ReviewOneSpirit

Captured a moment? Each year, we gather the photos and messages from family and friends, near and far, to share with our students as a lasting memory of this special day. Be sure to tag us so we can pass them along and help make this day unforgettable.

Use the tag #OneSpiritOrdination

Instagram: @BringItToTheAltar
Facebook: @OneSpiritOrg

"There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground; there are a thousand ways to go home again."

— Rumi





With heartfelt thanks for joining us to celebrate and honour the

Ordination & Graduation

of the Sylvan Class of 2025