

Christ Church Cathedral Announcement

The Rev'd Bertrand Olivier



The Corporation of Christ Church Cathedral is pleased to announce that, upon recommendation from the search committee, the Bishop has appointed the Rev'd Bertrand Olivier as the next Incumbent of Christ Church Cathedral and Dean of Montreal.

Bertrand comes to us most recently having been the Vicar of All Hallows by the Tower, the oldest church in the City of London – the financial centre of the capital, where he served for over twelve years. His role there included ministering to the gathered Sunday congregation, the business community and many tourists visiting the church, as well as developing other areas of outreach and education.

He was a governor of St Dunstan's College, an independent school educating children from the age of 2 to 18, and was trustee of a number of charitable and trustee boards. He was chair of the steering committee of JustShare, a coalition of church and NGOs seeking to raise issues of global economic justice in the City through debates and discussions.

He was also an elected member of the General Synod of the Church of England, where he was active on the Human Sexuality group, campaigning for the Church of England to be fully inclusive.

Prior to his time at All Hallows, Bertrand served as Vicar of St Barnabas in Southfields, a suburban parish in South West London, where there was significant growth in his time, including the Sunday school which had 120 children on its books by the time he left. He was also Area Dean of Wandsworth, overseeing the ministry of twelve parishes. He was ordained in 1996 in Southwark Cathedral and served his title post at St John's, Larcom Street, in inner City London.

Bertrand was brought up as a Roman Catholic, and joined the Church of England initially through music, having become organist of a south London church in the mid 80s when he moved to London. After his call for ordination was confirmed by the Church, he trained for ordination at the South East Institute for Theological Education.

He is a member of the Iona Community, an ecumenical community of lay and ordained men and women and is passionate about the need for the church to be inclusive as well as involved in issues of justice and peace. He believes in the power of liturgy to challenge, transform and heal.

Before ordination, Bertrand held a career in Public Relations in London, working on international clients for two large PR Consultancies before founding his own Healthcare Communications consultancy.

He was called to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ in a Damascus road experience which changed his life, at age 29. 'As I heard the call, it was as if everything was suddenly falling into place', he says. 'The successful PR career which had been my lifelong aspiration suddenly meant very little. Focusing my life on God, the building of community and working for peace and justice in the world became paramount'. The ideals and values that Jesus embodied all those years ago are still so valid in our 21st Century technologically self-referential world, and this is what he still strives to do today.

Bertrand was born in Dunkerque (France) and educated in France, although he acquired a deep love for all things English from an early age. He moved to London to finish his secondary schooling at the French Lycee, while living with an English family. He returned to Paris to attend Business School, during which he took part in a six-month exchange in London. After completing his military service in the French Navy, he returned to London in order to find work in PR, his then career of choice.

As well as being an out of practice organist, Bertrand discovered a love for Marathon running nine years ago, and has since completed thirteen marathons, raising £130,000 (about \$ 205,000 CAD) for charity in the process. He also recently took up sourdough bread baking, and enjoys cooking and entertaining, as well as travelling, theatre and the arts.

In recent years, he had started to feel a stronger pull to minister in his French mother tongue as well as his working language of 31 years, English. 'This amazing opportunity to serve the Cathedral community in Montreal will bring together my years of experience in different ministerial contexts in London, but also integrate the anglo- and franco-phone sides of my personality. The inclusive and warm nature of CCC has made a profound impression on me already, and I very much look forward to worshipping and journeying with them and live out the reality of being a bilingual faithful Anglican in Montreal.'

Bertrand is in a civil partnership with Paul, and they are both very much looking forward to this very exciting new chapter in their life.

We look forward to welcoming Bertrand and Paul to Montreal and we invite you to warmly welcome them as they begin this next chapter in our ministry together at Christ Church Cathedral.