

Training Programme in Spiritual Direction

Aylesford Tutors



Marie Mann – Course Director

After an early career as an Architect, I completed a diploma in Spirituality and Psychology at St Anselm, Cliftonville, then trained in 2004 as a Spiritual Director at the Franciscan International Study Centre. I continued to work at the Franciscan Centre training Spiritual Directors, a role I continued when working as Faith Formation Advisor for Southwark Archdiocese. I have an MA in Leadership in Catholic Education.



Angela Black – Course Administrator and Tutor

Following a career as a physiotherapist in the NHS, I trained as a Spiritual Director at the Franciscan International Study Centre in 2015 and then completed further training as a supervisor for spiritual directors. I have completed an MA in Christian Spirituality (September 2022).



Jim Simmons – Course Tutor

Jim is a Registered Practitioner Psychologist and Counsellor with the UK Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc). He is also a Spiritual Director/Companioner having completed training in Chicago and Canterbury. He acts as a supervisor and facilitator to individuals, groups/ communities and leadership teams. He has worked extensively in Africa and Asia and in the UK.

Visiting Lecturers



Canon Luke Smith: studied for the priesthood at St John's Seminary Wonersh, and was ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark in 1995; serving in the parishes of Addiscombe, Sevenoaks, Margate with Cliftonville and Maidstone. In 2017 he was appointed Spiritual Director at St John's Seminary Wonersh and following its recent closure he was appointed as Episcopal Vicar for Priestly Life and Director of Ongoing Formation of Clergy. He holds an honours degree in Theology and an MA in Christian Spirituality; he has been involved in spiritual direction for much of his priestly life and has been called upon to lead various retreats and Days of Recollection.



Rev Canon Susanne Carlsson visiting lecturer in *Ignatian Spiritual Direction*

Susanne, is the Spiritual Adviser for Rochester Diocese. She lives in Chatham where she runs a small retreat house, Attic Retreats. She has been involved in spirituality and specifically Ignatian spirituality for the last 20 years. Susanne recently completed a Doctorate in Practical Theology researching 'What is distinctive about Ignatian religious life and how can it be lived in the Anglican Church'.



Louise Carter is an active member of the Hythe, Kent RC parish and Mission Formation Director for L'Arche UK - which comprises 11 faith communities where people with and without learning disabilities share life together. Louise also works with faith-based ecumenical groups and Roman Catholic clergy and laity in deaneries and parishes in the areas of leadership in a faith context, discernment and organisational development. She is a practicing spiritual director and also accompanies those working in a faith context on an individual basis to support their wellbeing and practice through reflection on their vocation and ministry.

Louise's work is underpinned by various studies including an MA in Pastoral Studies from Heythrop College, University of London, studies at the Kinharvie Institute, Glasgow, the Gestalt Centre, London, the Franciscan Ecumenical Spiritual Direction training course and St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre, North Wales.

Married with 2 grandchildren, she is an enthusiastic (if slightly dodgy!) alto in the Kent University Choral Society, Canterbury.