

I come from a village called Alford in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Our village was full of my clan Gordon relatives and it was my paternal grandmother, a strong and deeply practical woman who had the greatest influence on me in my early years. My dad was the proprietor of the family business, a General Store, and it was there that I worked, in the grocery and drapery departments, at weekends and holidays.

I went to Glasgow University to study Medicine in 1975 and met David while we were both students. We married the year I graduated (1980). We lived in Glasgow, Wolverhampton, Bristol, Inverness and Kingscote (a small village in the Cotswolds) as our careers progressed. During these years I trained and qualified as a Psychiatrist and further specialised in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, becoming a Consultant in 1991.

Our daughter, Hannah was born in Inverness in 1994, such a joy!

I was brought up in the Church of Scotland but felt I had truly found my spiritual home during the time I attended the Anglican village church in Kingscote.

We moved to New Zealand in 2002 as part of a midlife OE. We all have pivotal points in our lives and it was at such a time, when faced with adversity that I experienced a deepening faith which ultimately led me to the process of discernment for the priesthood. It was when I was worshipping at All Saints Ponsonby that my journey began. I have never felt so scrutinized in my life. I attended Diocesan Training Programme for 3 years to 2016 and completed my Theology Degree (Otago) in the same year.

Three years Post Ordination Training followed when I was based at St Andrew's Kohimarama.

I love to learn and have deepened my understanding of God through the natural world, contemplative practice, *Lectio Divina* and the preparation of sermons. Last year I finally 'stepped out of the boat', gave up my job at Waitemata DHB and committed fully to the priesthood.

Relationship is at the heart of faith and I believe what I have to offer is the capacity to be present in times of sorrow and joy by the grace of God.

I believe I can gather community and share a sense of the sacred. To preside at the Eucharist is the greatest gift of priesthood in my eyes, as it is when we explicitly meet the risen Christ and experience the mystery of faith. I desire that others encounter the wonder of it all and would humbly wish to continue to serve as one of God's children.

David Whyte says, "Good poetry is made with the lightest touch". I like to live in the spirit of this phrase.

Kay Brightley