

# James Wakefield

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**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.**

- Micah 6:8

I grew up attending church and in my late teens I came to understand that Jesus died for me and that I was called to follow Him.

Samantha and I were married in 1996 and are blessed with three wonderful adult children and a daughter-in-law. My working life began as a barrister, and I later enjoyed an enriching career as Dean of a law school and in other leadership roles within the profession. Alongside family and church, cycling has been a passion; in 2024 I rode from Land's End to John O'Groats, which was a fun challenge.

I have been considering ordained ministry for a long time. In recent years, we have experienced significant bereavement. These have been painful times, yet they have also been seasons in which God has helped me reflect deeply on what He is calling me to in the years ahead. People both inside and outside the Church encouraged me to pursue ordained ministry, and I developed a strong conviction that God was saying it was time to step forward. For several years, I have been preaching and, together with Samantha, leading small groups. Serving in these ways has stirred a desire to do more and deepened my sense of calling.

I am excited about the opportunity to spend my time supporting and encouraging people in God's name. I hope to be present for those who attend church and those who do not. Throughout my life, I have been drawn toward roles that nurture others, and I count it a privilege to continue this in Christ's service and through the Spirit's power.

For anyone exploring their own vocation, I would encourage them to pray, to take up opportunities to serve, and to seek the guidance of those close to them.

As I head into ordained ministry, the Bible verses from Micah (see on previous page) and Titus (see below) remind me that everything flows from Jesus my Saviour, and that I am called to do His work in His way as I await His return.

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:11-13)