

Mental Health strand, speakers' profiles 2016

Keynote speaker

Louise Carter is the national formation officer for the L'Arche communities in the UK. A trained teacher, Louise was a Roman Catholic lay port chaplain and regional co-ordinator for Apostleship of the Sea for six years, covering the ports of Devon and Cornwall in the Southwest of England.

She launched the work of AoS in the region by responding directly to seafarers and their needs and also raising awareness of seafarers and the work of the Church, building a wide network of relationships with lay people and clergy. As a trustee of AoS for the past 5 years she currently chairs the key sub-committee responsible for formation and development of chaplains and volunteer ship visitors.

Louise is Formation Director for the L'Arche communities of the UK, following several years as Regional Leader supervising the L'Arche communities across southern UK. Key occupations here are a research and development project focused on strengthening all dimensions of leadership both within the communities and across national structures. She is also Vice-Chair of the newly formed Diocese of Southwark Spirituality Commission.

Louise holds a MA in Pastoral Studies from Heythrop College, University of London. She is a keen walker and traveller and is actively involved in her parish as well as volunteering with the local homeless outreach project initiated by Churches Together.

Toni Brodelle is working with asylum seekers and we are very fortunate that she is available to come to meet us. She hopes to bring an asylum seeker with her who has recently been granted permission to reside in the UK.

Revd Neil Bunker is the Mental health Liaison Officer for the City of Westminster, appointed by the Bishop of London, working both as a Parish Priest and in innovative and challenging situations of mental health care. This is a welcome return of Neil to the conference.

Judith Gilbert is a full-time NHS chaplain working in mental health in Northamptonshire. She has been in NHS chaplaincy for over twelve years and prior to that was a higher education chaplain for many years. Helping others to express their spirituality has been a continuing theme throughout that time. She looks forward to sharing her experiences of using Godly Play with adults, both patients and staff, in a hospital setting.

Susan Pinfold-Brown is an Associate Specialist and Contract Manager at the Association for Dementia Studies (ADS), based at the University of Worcester. ADS are dedicated to working to deliver evidence based practical ways to enable those living with dementia to have the best possible quality of life. Susan is part of the ADS education team developing and delivering training programmes in person centred dementia care.