

The Revd Dr Paul Thompson was ordained in the Diocese of Llandaff in 1980 and, from then until 2009, worked as a parish priest in a variety of industrial, urban and suburban parishes within that diocese. From 1984 to 1990 he was vicar of Porth and Trealaw in the Rhondda Valley and during this time he also held the position of Deanery Youth Chaplain. Later, from 1990 to 1997, whilst vicar of Llanharan, he also held the position of Llandaff Diocesan Youth Chaplain. A position he continued to hold in a full time capacity until 2001. In 2009, after eight years as a vicar in North Cardiff, he accepted the position of Chaplain at the University of St Mark and St John in Plymouth, returning to Wales to be Diocesan Director of Vocations and Associate Priest at St Mark, Newport in the Diocese of Monmouth in 2014.

Research

He received his initial degree in Music (BMus) at Cardiff University in 1977 and went on to Theological College at The College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, reading for a Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (PGDipTheol) at Leeds University (1979). As a result of his work as Youth Chaplain, he became interested in the spirituality of young people, particularly in the light of the rise in popularity of 'New Age' and esoteric spiritualities. He began a research project, on the religious beliefs of young people in the light of the 'New Age' movement, which was completed in a dissertation accepted for the award of M.Phil by the University of Wales at Bangor University (2004). Later he continued this research by looking at the significant differences in spiritual belief and practice between various categories of young people. This research was completed in a dissertation accepted for the award of PhD by the University of Wales at Glyndwr University (2014).