



Meet our Board of Trustees



Bishop Martin Gainsborough – the Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, the Bishop of Kingston, joined the College's Board of Trustees as its new Chair in 2023.

Dr Gainsborough grew up in Kidbrooke, South-East London and lodged in Richmond while studying at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Previously Dr Gainsborough was Chaplain to the Bishop of Bristol, The Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, a role he held since 2019. He is also a Residentiary Canon of Bristol Cathedral and shared in the governance of the Cathedral with responsibility for social justice and ensuring common mission between the Cathedral and Diocese.

As a member of the Bishop of Bristol's Senior Team, he led on estates' evangelism, the environment and racial justice – all issues at the heart of the Diocese of Southwark's mission. Dr Gainsborough was responsible for tabling the General Synod amendment which saw the Church of England adopt a more ambitious 'net zero' target.

"One of the things St Augustine's does incredibly well is meeting people where they are, whatever their educational background".

Since being appointed as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the College, I've seen firsthand how we support the needs of our students.

The College encourages and helps students to rise to the challenges that lie ahead of them; whether that's how to craft a good essay, how to take notes on a text, or more applied aspects of ministerial formation."

Chair: 2023-2027



Alan Gregory has been Principal of St Augustine's College of Theology since 2014.

Among contemporary clergy, including those who've recently graduated from St Augustine's, I am statistically unusual in that, since I was ordained at 23, I've never had a 'real' job outside the Church. I've always been involved in some way in the business of theological education, whether I was working in a parish, studying for a Ph.D, or teaching in residential or non-residential colleges. After finishing my curacy in the Guildford Diocese, I taught Christian Doctrine at the

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late and too little lamented Salisbury and Wells Theological College before heading off to the USA for the next 25 years. There, I took up a research fellowship at Emory University and worked in an Atlanta parish as assistant rector and, later, as interim rector in Athens, Georgia.

In 1995, Suzy and I, with three children, a dog, two cats, and a parrot, moved to Texas where I spent 15 years as Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at the Seminary of the South West in Austin, where I also served as Academic Dean. Returning to the UK in 2011, I worked for three years in a parish in Northumberland and as Continuing Ministerial Development officer for the Newcastle Diocese. St Augustine's College of Theology (or SEITE, as it then was) appointed me as Principal in 2014. This was and remains a great joy. About a month after I started, I attended my first residential week in Canterbury.

At the end of each day, the staff talked over what had happened and I realised that I had never met college tutors so observant and so concerned about individual students and their formation. I've tried to live up to that level of commitment, because, in my experience, it's rare. The Principal's role combines institutional leadership, administration, pastoral care, and teaching, and the job is only possible because of the shared efforts of the staff as a whole. As Principal, I have considerable responsibility for external relations, working with dioceses, the board and stakeholders. In recent years, there has been a quantum leap in the need for marketing and presenting a public face that catches the imagination and shows students how they will receive a quality education as well as personal formation in whatever pathway they've chosen.

Ex-officio



Andrew Strawson is a retired Health and Safety professional, who has been on the on the Board of Trustees for St Augustine's College of Theology since 2013 as Company Secretary. In 2013, through the Southwark Reader Network, I saw an advertisement for Company Secretary for St Augustine's (or SEITE, as it then was). I rang for a chat, and the next thing I knew I'd been elected. My strengths as an administrator, and knowledge of charity law Charity meant that it was

quite a natural role for me.

As company secretary, my basic role is to ensure we are operating legally, participating in decision-making and keeping an overview to ensure the decisions we make are appropriate. I was very involved with rewriting the articles of association for the charitable company following the move and rebrand from SEITE to St Augustine's College of Theology in 2015. 3
1.9.22 I'm not an education expert, particularly, though I have been involved in it through providing course training during my health and safety career. But I have had an interest in theological education for a long time.

I believe it's important that not only clergy, but also lay people, are given the support and training they need to fulfil their roles better. So once I found more about St Augustine's I was very attracted to it. I've long thought that people should get out of their comfort zone when training, so I think the mix of people who study there is one of the College's strengths. In fact, I'd like to see more students from other denominations studying there, to further strengthen and enhance the broad diversity that our students value so much. They benefit so much from experiencing other ways of expressing faith than their own church tradition. Being non-

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residential, too, is important. In our modern world, that style of training is very much what the church needs. I think it would be very interesting to further explore other roles where St Augustine's could provide theological input, for example training for leaders of youth and other church groups, and those involved in pastoral roles within the community. The theological aspect of that training would be so valuable.

Company Secretary: 2023-2026

Responsibilities: Tattersall Bursary Committee



John Moss has been on the on the Board of Trustees for St Augustine's College of Theology since 2015.

I am a lifelong member of the Church of England, and my faith has underpinned my life from the beginning. My family were practising Anglicans, and my uncle was a vicar in Gloucestershire for most of his career, and I was blessed with godparents who were serious Christian

people.

As a boy, I was an altar server, and became church organist for a couple of years before university. Most of my life has been spent in Christian foundation educational institutions, from my Church of England primary school to Canterbury Christ Church University, where I retired as Dean of the Faculty of Education in 2018. After an English degree and PhD at the University of Oxford, I did a PGCE and taught at a Roman Catholic school in Oxford.

Whilst I was there, the school amalgamated with a Church of England school for a while, so I lived through the interesting process of working out how we could bring two faith communities together, and, in particular, what that meant for teaching RE.

That interfaith connection is a big part of my life, as my wife is Roman Catholic, so we've had the challenge of living as an interfaith family, and are members of the Association of Interfaith Families. Before taking up a post which spanned the English and Education departments at Canterbury Christ Church University, another church foundation institution, I taught at a Catholic school in Hove, which was an interesting experience in religious terms. The Head was a very liberal catholic, and there was a strong sense of a vibrant RC community with creative ideas.

I first joined the Board as the University's link with the College, as they were at the time going through the transition from SEITE to St Augustine's. At the same time, the contract for ordination training was moving from a group of universities to Durham. I came in as trustee at the end of that process and was looking for ways to find a continued link between Christ Church and St Augustine's.

One of the things we experience in the school side of church education is a difficulty in finding school leaders who have a clear understanding of what a church school is. I knew the DDE in Canterbury, and was involved in early work in setting up the Church of England Federation for Educational Leadership. When I retired from the University, I was asked to continue as trustee in my own right, and I'm able to bring my HE experience to bear – spending time observing teaching, meeting students, and working with tutors on HE teaching practice. I'm also trustee with oversight of safeguarding and risk register.

Updated 11.11.25

Term: 2023-2025

Responsibilities: safeguarding



Stanley Njoka is the Head of Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care for the Surrey and Sussex NHS Trust. Stanley was appointed on the board of trustees in July 2022 Stanley has held chaplaincy positions in numerous hospitals as well as parish and wider diocesan responsibilities.

Originally from Kenya, his heritage combined with his years abroad have inspired him to value the qualities of diversity, compassion, hospitality, and inclusion in all areas of life, whether within or outside the Church.

Term 2022-2026