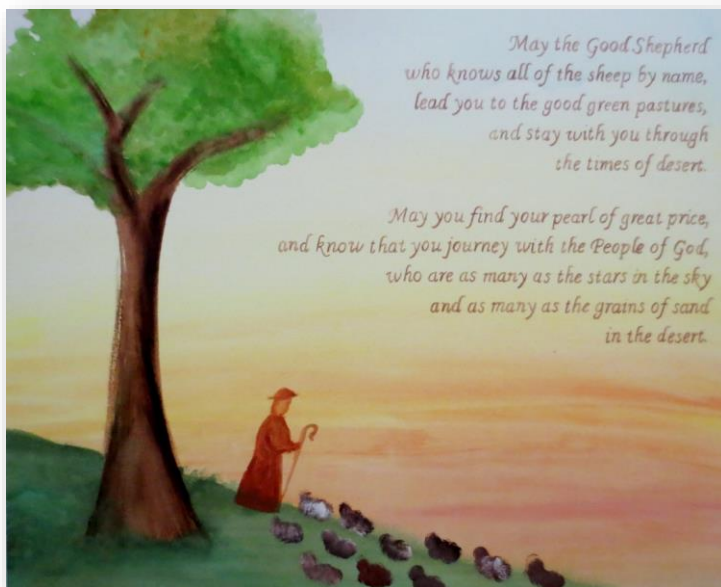




Trustees' Handbook 2023



*A Christian movement centred on childhood spirituality
providing training to transform thinking and practice for the whole of life*

Trustees' Handbook 2023

What is Godly Play?

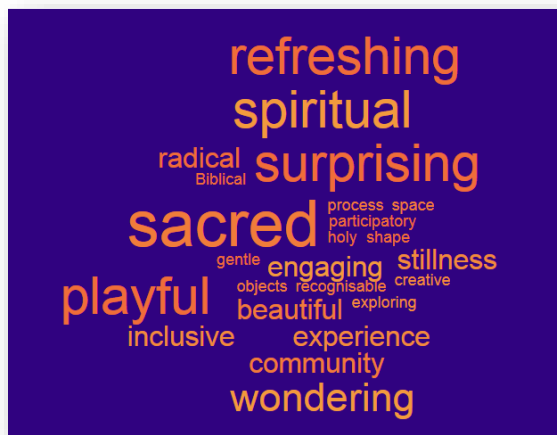
Godly Play has its roots in studies of children's spirituality and the implications this has for life-long learning. It is a non-coercive way to encourage children to move into larger dimensions of belief and faith, through wondering questions and open-ended response time.

It offers a way of putting respect for childhood spirituality into practice, providing a method and framework for rethinking the way children's spirituality is supported.

It is a way of preparing children to join in the worship and life of their communities as they develop a deeper understanding of stories, symbols, language and rites.

It is one of several variations of the Montessori tradition of religious education and was developed in the United States by Dr Jerome Berryman. <https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/the-foundation/our-founder>.

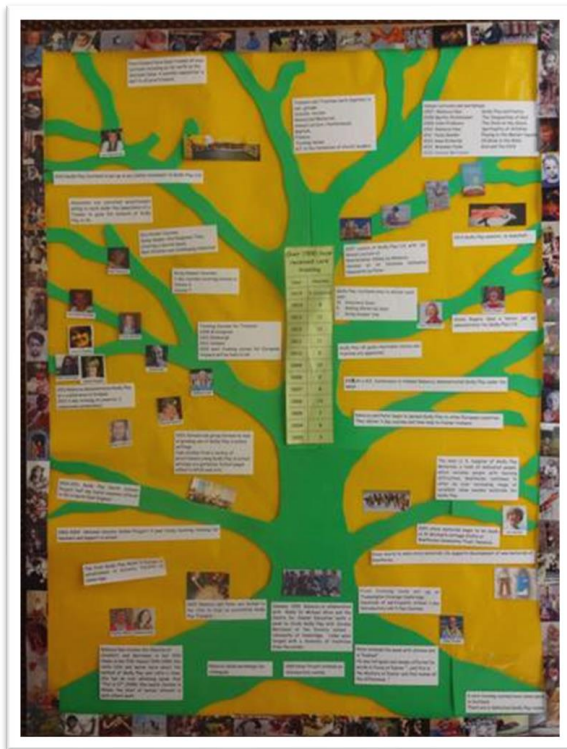
Godly Play is now being used with a wide range of age groups, including adults, in a diversity of settings across the UK and other European countries.



A History of Godly Play in the UK

In the early 1990s Rebecca Nye was an academic researching the psychology of children's spirituality. She was surprised and concerned to find that very few doing research from a Christian education viewpoint had taken the spiritual life of children seriously. Her PhD research (1994-8) resulted in the book *The Spirit of the Child*, written with David Hay. She encountered the work of Cavalletti and Berryman while undertaking postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge.

On a visit to the USA to talk about her own research in 1998 Rebecca pursued her interest in Berryman's ideas, and asked a friend to take her to see 'a Godly Play room' and hear about Godly Play as a method. She remembers being overwhelmed, knowing that 'this was it.' Later that year, she and Jerome met at an international research seminar in Wales, and a mutual interest in each other's work quickly developed.



By 1999 Rebecca had begun to introduce Godly Play to colleagues in the UK. Peter Privett was in one of those first workshops - and she arranged for Jerome Berryman to come to London in May 1999 to offer 'proper' demonstrations. Collaborating with the Centre for Jewish Education, Rebecca used her base at the Divinity School, University of Cambridge to host a week-long 'study Godly Play with Jerome' in January 2001. The first European Godly Play (GP) room was created in Cambridge, to which hundreds came for one day 'introductions' - from across the UK and beyond. This was also when St Michael's

Workshop at Bowthorpe began to make Godly Play materials in the UK.

<https://shop.stmichaelsworkshop.com/it>

Peter and Rebecca were invited to the USA to train as accredited trainers in 2002 and have been training people in the Godly Play method ever since. They began to take Godly Play into other European countries, initially to Germany and then later to Finland and Holland. Godly Play has spread from the UK to Spain, Ireland, Belgium, Latvia, Belarus, China, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

The Godly Play UK Trust was officially launched at Westminster Abbey on 6 December 2006.



What is Godly Play UK?

Godly Play UK was registered as a charity on 16 Nov 2006. The Trust was set up to support people in delivering a spiritual pedagogy that challenges adults to take children's spirituality seriously.

The Trust provides training, advice and support for those who use the Godly Play method with children, young people and adults. Godly Play UK considers itself to be a movement for spiritual development and enrichment, rather than a purveyor of products or resources. It is not a church strategy or growth plan, even though it has the capacity to create growth. It is focused on people and their spirituality and flourishing.

Mission Statement

A Christian movement centred on childhood spirituality – providing training to transform thinking and practice for the whole of life.

Vision

Godly Play UK's vision is for childhood spirituality to be taken seriously.

Aims

Godly Play UK aims to make Godly Play available to people who work with children and with other groups where questions about the value, meaning and purpose of life might arise. The Trust works indirectly with those who might benefit from its services by supporting those who work directly with children and other groups.

It is hoped that these aims will result in:

- ❖ more people having completed an accredited three-day Godly Play UK training course, such that their understanding of Godly Play's principles and capacity to implement its methods can inspire and transform the communities in which they work;
- ❖ the spread of an increasingly open, non-coercive pedagogical style in which the value of sacred space and play are recognised as keys to spiritual engagement. Thus Godly Play's influence will become evident in other methods and practices, as well as become the method and practice of choice;
- ❖ wider public understanding of childhood spirituality as an instinctive and profound capacity, that includes a natural, innate sense of God's mystery and presence;
- ❖ reframing the task of Christian spiritual nurture and accompaniment, acknowledging that adults and children are not empty vessels to be filled with knowledge, and that Godly Play provides a way for people to use Christian language to make meaning in their lives.

The trustees review the aims at least annually.

The Trust works to achieve its aims by:

- ❖ working with others to achieve the greatest impact, predominantly through training adults to understand and work with the spirituality of childhood;

- ❖ influencing church, educational and social practice and raising awareness of the importance of taking the spirituality of childhood seriously;
- ❖ attending to the spiritual nourishment of all by applying Godly Play process and principles to the work of the organisation, its courses, events and support for trustees, trainers, administrators, advocates and practitioners.

The Trust's Charitable Object (the legal bit, taken from the founding trust deed)

The objects of the Trust are to advance the Christian faith in particular but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing by means of a method Christian education and spiritual direction using religious language and symbol to help people become more aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the trustees may from time to time think fit and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the Trust.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the charitable objects¹ (as at Dec 2014)

The Godly Play method is about enabling exploration of innate spirituality. The core activities of the Trust are:

- ❖ Offering a programme of education in the method to members of the public via its website, training courses, network of trainers.
- ❖ Promoting awareness of children's spirituality via an annual conference.

Godly Play UK gathers feedback from evaluation forms in order to gauge the public benefit from its activities. These continue to be overwhelmingly positive.

In carrying out its activities, the Trust has numerous articles on its website, for which it makes no charge. The trustees do not believe the cost of attending a core training to be excessive – but to minimise costs to participants, they have experimented with providing a non-residential option on most courses. Courses continue to be popular and geographically spread.

Grant-making policy

Godly Play UK makes 10% of annual profits available to subsidise the cost of attending one of its training courses.

- Conditions: applications are encouraged from places with significant deprivation statistics or people of demonstrably limited financial means. Joint funding with other bodies to cover accommodation and travel is preferable.
- Restrictions: Ideally two applicants from a setting are preferable for mutual support, therefore a subsidy may be considered.
- Priorities: Areas/denominations where Godly Play is not yet established. Applicants who have a thought-out strategy to disseminate Godly Play.
- Procedure: Application in writing to Chair, who should seek approval from Trustees before awarding grant.

¹ Taken from the Annual Report for the period Jan 2013 to Dec 2014

- Checks: Applicants should provide details of at least one referee, who can support the application.
- Monitoring: A progress report will be sought 6 months following the course.
- Non-personalised details of grant awards will be noted in the Trustees' Annual Report.

The majority of Godly Play activity is carried out by volunteers. Trainers, although remunerated for facilitating courses, give their ongoing support (through email, telephone and network meetings) voluntarily.

Since the Covid pandemic, the trainers have worked hard to establish new methods of training to suit the restricted circumstances in which the world found itself, and a Godly Play Introductions and Experiences can now be found as online opportunities. The Introduction is a 4 x 90 minutes online course, and the Experience is simply that, an experience of Godly Play, lasting 90 minutes.

Being a Trustee for Godly Play UK

What is a trustee?²

Trustees have an important contribution to make to Godly Play UK. Legally, the Trustees are responsible, accountable and liable for the actions of Godly Play UK, and are there to ensure that Godly Play UK operates effectively, with a clear mission and strategy. The role is mainly about governance. However, as Godly Play UK is a small organisation, Trustees may become involved both in the planning, decision-making and monitoring of work (governance), and also in actually doing some or most of the work (management).

It is important that all Trustees are committed to the aims of Godly Play UK and able to give sufficient time to their roles.

As a minimum, Trustees are expected to:

- attend trustee meetings (approximately twice a year)
- read papers before each meeting
- make a contribution during meetings
- make decisions in the best interests of the charity
- ensure that the minutes of meetings accurately reflect discussions and decisions
- make sure that they know enough about Godly Play UK to make informed decisions on its behalf
- ensure that paid staff and volunteers are properly managed and supported, and that Godly Play UK is being efficiently run and is financially sound.

In addition, individual Trustees may also be able to make a particular contribution to Godly Play UK using their professional knowledge, network of contacts, or particular skills and experience.

² More details regarding all of these points are available in the Charity Trustee's Handbook – well worth reading if you are a new trustee!
Key Guides: The Charity Trustee's Handbook by Mike Eastwood 2nd edition ISBN 978 1 906294 65 6

What are a Trustee's responsibilities?

Trustees accept *personal responsibility* for the activities of Godly Play UK. This personal responsibility is shared between all the Trustees. As detailed in the *Charity Trustee's Handbook*, trustees are expected to know and understand their role.

- Trustees must avoid conflicts of interest and must act solely in the interests of their charity, irrespective of how they were appointed.
- Trustees must act with care and are expected to act reasonably. A duty of care is about using reasonable care and skill in your work as a trustee, to ensure that Godly Play UK is well run and efficient, calling on specialist advice when needed. Duty of prudence is about acting reasonably and honestly to make sure that Godly Play UK will remain solvent, and that you use charitable funds and assets reasonably and only in the furtherance of Godly Play UK's objects.
- Trustees have a responsibility to take particular care about finances. They must be satisfied that Godly Play UK is in control of its planning (budgets) and monitoring, that forecasts are reasonable and that progress is assessed regularly. They need to guard against fraud and ensure that safeguards are in place regarding matters such as handling cash. *A trustee can become personally liable for the debts of their charity.*
- Trustees must ensure that legal requirements are met. The most important requirement is to ensure that Godly Play UK works entirely towards fulfilling its objectives and works in accordance with its constitution.

Having said all of this, it is easy to be intimidated by responsibilities and possible liabilities. As the *Charity Trustee's Handbook* urges, it is important to keep a balanced view. Trustees should use their responsibilities and liabilities to remind themselves and their fellow trustees to act carefully, lawfully and in accordance with Godly Play UK's constitution. A trustee's best defence, and best protection, is to act sensibly and reasonably, with due care.

Can I be paid for my trusteeship?

The answer is generally no. Trustees give their time willingly and not for personal gain. This is one reason why paid members of staff cannot generally be trustees, although they can attend trustee meetings, if the Trustee Body wishes. However, staff members can only speak and advise; they cannot vote. This rule also applies to current beneficiaries of charities, who receive benefits with a financial value from the charity.

Trustees can claim for travel expenses and reasonable childcare costs incurred by attending trustee meetings and carrying out other trustee . They can also claim the cost of training courses and conferences connected with their trusteeship. Loss of earnings while attending trustee business cannot be claimed.

The Charities Act 2006 has made it easier to make some payments to trustees, but the advice is to tread carefully in this area. More information can be obtained from *Trustees Expenses and Payments (CC11)* document available online (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trustee-expenses-and-payments-cc11>).

How long will I be a trustee for?

Generally speaking, a trustee commits for a minimum of three years in order to get up to speed with Godly Play UK, what it does, how it does it, its financial arrangements and their particular group of

trustee functions. However, it is also important to have continuity of trusteeship, in order generate a sense of purpose and organisational cohesion, so Trustees consider together ongoing membership and commitment on a regular basis.

Before being proposed and appointed as a Trustee for Godly Play UK, interested people are invited to sit in on one or two meetings.

Godly Play UK aims to maintain a balance between experience and fresh ideas. We do not currently set a maximum term of service, but rather seek to ensure that all Trustees remain motivated and committed to their role, and that individuals only remain Trustee as long as they feel they are making a positive and willing contribution to something that they think is worthwhile. No one should do it for ever!

Trustees do the following ...

1. Give direction

Trustees work to ensure that Godly Play UK has a clear sense of direction and purpose and help put Godly Play UK's mission statement into practice.

Commented [AR1]: practice

2. Manage people

They are responsible for making the very best use of the people associated with the Trust, including staff, volunteers, trainers and advocates.

3. Manage finances

Trustees ensure that they are satisfied that bills and salaries are being paid on time, money received is banked promptly, that there are procedures for handling cash and signing cheques, that surplus money is invested wisely, that annual budgets show what money Godly Play UK expects to spend and receive, that progress is monitored against budgets and revised where necessary, that annual accounts are produced on time and in the correct format, and that Godly Play UK doesn't make any financial commitments it cannot meet. The financial responsibilities are key to the role of a Trustee.

4. Manage resources

Trustees are expected to manage the human resources (staff and volunteers) and financial resources (money) at their disposal. This may include reviewing applications for new trainers and helping with the appraisal of existing trainers and admin staff.

5. Manage Godly Play UK's reputation

Godly Play UK's good name and reputation are key to its success. Trustees have a role in ensuring communication within Godly Play UK is good, that Godly Play UK's successes are celebrated and that Godly Play UK provides a good service to people who use it.

6. Manage themselves

Trustees need to manage themselves well. This includes holding regular and effective meetings, feeling committed to Godly Play UK and working together, having a full complement of Trustees, with each understanding their role and making a positive contribution, having a balance of different skills and experiences, and ensuring each Trustee receives enough information to make good, informed decisions.

7. Obey the law

Trustees must ensure that Godly Play UK obeys the law – including charity law, employment law, health and safety law, child protection and safeguarding legislation, equal opportunities law, data protection rules, and regulations relating to insurance and protecting the public.

8. Be accountable

Some forms of accountability (such as producing annual accounts and reports) are compulsory. Others, such as being accountable to the users of Godly Play UK, are good practice.

9. Maintain independence

Trustees must make decisions solely in the best interests of Godly Play UK, irrespective of how they were nominated. The Trustees also need to make sure that Godly Play UK has a good spread of income and does not become overly dependent on any single funder.

An overview of key discussions and priority areas for the trustees

1. Defining what Godly Play is, and what Godly Play UK is about

In the USA, Godly Play was originally conceived as an imaginative approach to Christian education. It is clearly rooted in, and applicable to Christian contexts. However, in the UK, this method and its philosophy have also found connections with, and applications in, other faith traditions and in secular settings.

Godly Play UK has identified that Godly Play offers an approach to the spiritual direction/accompaniment of children (and others), rather than a programme of education. Nevertheless, in certain contexts it can be worth emphasising that Godly Play provides a type of curriculum that can be used to support the philosophy of spiritual accompaniment it espouses and seeks to spread.

2. Deciding who Godly Play UK's natural partners are

Awareness of Godly Play is continuing to broaden, and it is now more widely accepted as a tool for nurturing children's spirituality. However, communication with the wider church and other target organisations still needs to be developed and maintained. Issues around how to do this, especially in the face of other initiatives crop up regularly in minutes from meetings right back to the inception of Godly Play UK!

There is a desire to work with others, rather than in competition and Godly Play UK has worked with many of the major denominations in England and Wales, as well as with theological colleges and training institutions and with schools.

Godly Play UK is associated with the European network of Godly Play, and particularly the network of European trainers. Godly Play UK is also associated with the Godly Play Foundation in the United States.

3. Celebrating success

Celebrating success is important in lots of ways. Not only does it build excitement and commitment within Godly Play UK, it is also important for planning and funding purposes – funders are far more likely to support successful organisations! Godly Play UK is very good at offering inspiring and educational training – the year-on-year increasing demand for the three-day courses are a particular success story, as is the Annual Conference.

Trustees need to be able to talk knowledgeably and enthusiastically to outsiders about key successes. Ideally all Trustees should be able to describe Godly Play UK's five major successes in the last five years, explaining what is so significant about them and what they enabled Godly Play UK to do next. It would be helpful for this to be timetabled for a future meeting.

As Godly Play UK grows we need to note and celebrate success. A regular 'Successes' item on the Agenda for each trustee meeting might be a way forward.

However, we need to remain aware that there are some continuing negative perceptions of Godly Play as middle class, expensive and high maintenance. Trustees need to be equipped to address these positively when they arise.

4. Managing workload and organisational structure

There is a desire to ensure that Godly Play's spiritual values permeate the work that the whole organisation does. It is important that a balance is maintained between being more effective, efficient and successful and the less worldly counter-cultural values in Godly Play itself.

Godly Play UK relies on the goodwill of many people, some of whom are paid, but many of whom give generously of their time, including trustees and trainers. Currently, administration is paid for per hour on a freelance basis; trainers are paid for three-day courses they lead (but not extra work), and the accountant is paid. All other aspects of Godly Play UK's work are unpaid at present.

Keeping volunteers motivated, and ensuring that individuals are not taking on more than they are comfortable with, is a key issue for trustees. Realistic expectations need to be built into every aspect of engaging with Godly Play (whether remunerated or volunteers) so that people feel well managed.

A small number of Trainers provide oversight and support for the wider body of Trainers and engage closely with the Trustees.

Clarity of role is something that needs ongoing work in order to manage expectations at every level of engagement. The provision of spiritual support is also something which Trustees and Trainers are considering.

5. Determining a financial and fundraising policy

The Trustees delegate regular financial decision making to a small finance committee, of three trustees, who work closely with the Administrator who oversees course bookings, and the Trust's Bookkeeper. The Administrator and Bookkeeper work closely together to manage cashflow. The finance committee reports to each full trustee meeting. Yearly accounts are the subject of examination by an External Examiner, before they are submitted to the Charity Commission, together with the Trustees' Annual Report.

6. Improving internal communications and meetings

Internal communication and document storage and sharing are managed using *Basecamp*, an online project management facility.

The Covid-19 pandemic saw trustee and trainer meetings move online using Zoom. While this has resulted in a regrettable lack of face-to-face meetings, it has meant that participants are not required to invest in burdensome travel time, and it has reduced costs very considerably.

Agenda papers for trustee meetings are distributed a week in advance. All meetings are minuted with a list of action points generated.

7. Developing external communications

Godly Play UK offers a website, www.godlyplay.uk/ and a Facebook group, www.facebook.com/groups/GodlyPlayUK/?locale=en_GB

Associates of Godly Play UK receive a biannual Magazine and these publications are later added to the website.

8. Ensuring people get the best quality Godly Play materials

St Michael's Workshop, run by the Bowthorpe Community Trust in Norwich, currently produces Godly Play materials in the UK. The workshop is a facility where people with physical and learning disabilities are cared for and trained in woodworking and finishing skills. The Godly Play UK resources committee works closely with staff at the Workshop to oversee the development of resources.

Who's who

Trustees

❖ Mrs Gill Ambrose - Chair

Gill worked with Rebecca Nye and a wonderful group of volunteers in 2001 to turn an unused old building into a Godly Playroom. In the following few years, the room was visited by hundreds of trainees as the Godly Play training strategy evolved. Gill trained and worked as a teacher before becoming a diocesan children's adviser and finally an editor. She is a former member of the Church of England's General Synod, and was a Consultant to its Liturgical Commission. For some years she was the Editor of *ROOTS Adult and All Age*, an ecumenical worship and preaching resource; she edited the *Together for a Season* series (Church House Publishing) and *Praxis News of Worship*. On retirement from paid employment, she took up the role of Chair for Godly Play UK. She is also a primary school governor and a parish worship leader.

❖ Dr Anne Richards

Anne Richards is National Public Policy Adviser (popular culture, contemporary spirituality and apologetics) in the Faith and Public Life department of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. She is part of the National Public Policy Team and is based at Lambeth Palace. She is the convener of the ecumenical Mission Theology Advisory Group. She is a prolific writer on theological issues, including those to do with children, and is a co-editor of *Through the Eyes of a Child* (CHP 2009 with Peter Privett) and *Children in the Bible* (SPCK 2013). She is married to Professor Chris Corrigan and has two sons.

❖ Dr Danielle Redhead

Danielle's interest is in the use of Godly Play in schools and with very young children. She helps run a Godly Play programme at St Mark's Church in Cambridge, and leads a Godly Play toddler group in Cambridge. She has worked with schools, on behalf of the Church Schools of Cambridge, to help improve RE provision through the use of Godly Play. She initially trained as a pharmacist, and holds a PGCE, MEd, and PhD from the University of Cambridge. Prior to working as a secondary science teacher, she created the Cambridge Neuroscience network and undertook cognitive brain research.

❖ Mrs Vicky Parry

Vicky Parry was asked to join the Trustees in May 2017. She met Rebecca Nye when their sons were choristers at Ely Cathedral. Vicky worked as a teacher before retraining as a Management Accountant working in property management and as the CEO of a company offering support in the community to adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental ill-health. In 2008 she became a school Bursar; a role with responsibilities for Finance, Human Resources, Health and Safety, Compliance and as Clerk to the Governors. It is these skills which she brings to the role as a Trustee, now that she has retired.

❖ The Rev'd Mary Hawes

Mary was until recently the Church of England's National Going for Growth (Children and Youth) Adviser. Mary is advocate for the Church's ministry with, for and by children up to the age of 18 and young people, including implementing 'Going4Growth', the Education Division's strategy document. SIN this role, she resourced and advised the Church at National and Diocesan level in its ministry with children and young people. The work involved developing creative partnerships with Christian, government and secular agencies. She is also a priest in the parish of St Mary's Teddington, in London.

❖ The Rev'd Dr Adrian Chatfield

Adrian is a parish priest and theological educator with 46 years' experience in the Caribbean, the UK and in Southern Africa. As a spiritual director and mentor, he is particularly interested in human co-creativity with God, and the place of play as an expression of the beauty of God and as a key narrative tool containing rich redemptive possibilities.

❖ Mrs Rosemary Privett

Rosemary trained as a primary school teacher in the 70's. After a short period of time bringing up a family, she returned to work, spending some time teaching in special education. This included ground-breaking work as an integration support teacher, facilitating projects between special and mainstream settings. After 13 years as a primary school headteacher she moved to work as part of the Education Team of Chelmsford Diocese, as a school's advisor. She is also a registered SIAMS (Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspector and had been a primary school governor. She regularly sits on the floor as a Godly Play practitioner with the Sunday Club in her local church!

❖ The Rev'd Rob Rogers

Rob started life as an engineering apprentice and trained as a teacher of Design and Technology in 1977. He went on to become a Head of Department in two Coventry secondary schools, leaving in 1987 to train for the ordained ministry at St John's College, Nottingham. In 1998 he studied for a Masters degree in Religious Education at Warwick University and returned full time to the world of education, working for the Special Needs support service of Warwickshire County Council in a number of roles. He retired from his work with Warwickshire in 2017 and founded his own education, training and counselling company. Rob regularly takes services at a local church. He is a registered counsellor – working on a voluntary basis with a local agency – and is also a panel member for Adoption Central England. He is married to Sheila – our administrator – and is an enthusiastic grandparent.

Founder members of GPUK

❖ The Rev'd Peter Privett

Peter was for some time the International Regional Training Consultant for the UK, Europe and beyond. He spent some time as a parish priest before becoming the Children's Work Adviser for Hereford Diocese. Since 2020, he has been Lead Trainer for Godly Play UK. He is Assistant Priest at St Andrew's Church and is especially passionate about children's spirituality. Peter is also a textile artist, a set designer and an actor (in his spare time!)

❖ Dr Rebecca Nye

Rebecca was instrumental in bringing Godly Play to Europe. Her research on children's spirituality (e.g. *The Spirit of the Child*, Hay and Nye 1998/2006) brought her into contact with Jerome Berryman and

Godly Play, and led her to introducing Godly Play to the UK. She established the first Godly Play room and directed a 2 year project on Godly Play and Children's Spirituality at the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies, University of Cambridge. She is currently a Lecturer for the Open University. Rebecca's background is in developmental psychology (co-author of *Psychology for Christian Ministry*, Watts, Nye and Savage 2002), so her interest in Godly Play is part of a wider interest in faith development, approaches to religious education and pedagogy and the spirituality of teachers. Rebecca enjoys offering post-graduate supervision in these areas, giving talks and most of all enthusing others about Godly Play's potential for their contexts (aka training!). She has experience of using Godly Play with pre-schoolers, children in parish and school settings, theological students and bishops!

Trainers in Attendance at Trustee Meetings

A number of trainers generally attend Trustee meetings.

UK Administrator and Secretary to the Trustees

❖ Sheila Rogers

Sheila Rogers is the Administrator for Godly Play UK and is the main contact for courses, bookings and general enquiries. She trained as a teacher in religious studies, and also in working with children with learning, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Sheila began working for Godly Play in February 2007.

Associates of Godly Play UK

Associates of Godly Play UK offer an annual subscription of £30 to the work of the Trust. Associates receive a biannual online magazine and discounts on materials made by St Michael's Workshop, Bowthorpe. Members' subscriptions are used to support continued research into the work of Godly Play UK, and to develop and promote Godly Play throughout the UK, especially funding introductory days in areas of national deprivation.

Trainers (2023)

Trainers are experienced Godly Play practitioners who have attended a 6-day 'training for trainers' course. All members of the UK College of Godly Play Trainers sign a Mutual Agreement with Godly Play UK for a fixed term.

Mary Cooper

Sian Hancock

Susie Steel

Cass Meurig

Alison Summerskill

Diana Williams

Peter Privett

Eona Bell

Andrea Harrison

Jeanny Wang

Judy Yeomans

Liesl Baldwin

Brenton Prigge

Natalie Jones

Richard Knott

Mine Yildirim



Lead Trainers (2023)

From January 2023 a group of four trainers have become the Lead Trainer Group, overseeing the day-to-day and development work of the trainer body. They are currently Sian Hancock, Andrea Harrison, Peter Privett and Alison Summerskill.