



The Reverend Canon Bill Christianson FNI

The Revd Canon Bill Christianson FNI was born in South Africa in 1947. In 1970 -72 he trained for the ordained ministry and was ordained deacon in December 1972, and priest in February 1973.

He served a curacy at Pietermaritzburg Cathedral from 1972 to 1975. During which time he was commissioned by the Archbishop of Cape Town to investigate the churches work amongst young people in Southern Africa.

From 1976 to 1982 he was The Missions to Seafarers chaplain in Gravesend and from 1981 he was also Senior Chaplain to the Port of London. From 1982 to 1991 he worked as Port chaplain and parish priest in Richards Bay, Zululand. There, he established a full-time ministry, and a seafarers centre in the developing port.

In 1991 he was appointed Port chaplain in Hull and moved to London to take up the post of Ministry Secretary, at The MtS Head Quarters in 1993. In 1990 he became a Guild Chaplain at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, and was made an Honorary Canon of Bloemfontein Cathedral in 1993.

In May 2009 he was awarded an Honorary Canonry of the Anglican Church of the Province of Canada - The first overseas recipient of such an award, thus making him a "double barrelled" Canon.

Bill was appointed the Secretary General of The Mission to Seafarers on 1 January 2001.

In 2002 he was appointed the honorary chaplain to The Worshipful Company of Innholders, a Freeman in 2005 and a Liveryman in 2007. He relinquished his Chaplaincy on being invited to join the Court in 2013 and installed Master in October 2018.

He is Honorary Chaplain of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights and a Freeman of The Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers.

He retired from full time ministry, in June 2009 and received several awards for his contribution to the Maritime Industry. The Thomas Gray Silver Medal from the Marine Society and Sea Cadets. The Merchant Navy Medal. An Honorary Master Mariner in South Africa and London, An Honorary Member of The International Institute of Marine Surveyors, and a younger brother of Trinity House.