Padre Mark Chester

Prior to becoming a priest in the Church of England, Reverend Mark Chester served as an Army Officer in the Royal Corps of Transport. His 13 years regular service included an in-service Politics degree at Lancaster University, specialising in Soviet Studies, and holding various command and training appointments in Germany, Cyprus and UK. His final tour of regimental service was as Adjutant to the Gurkha Transport Regiment in Hong Kong.

Following training for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, Padre Chester ministered in parishes in Plymouth, Birmingham and Camberley. He is currently Senior Chaplain Waterways leading a team of chaplains caring for the communities living and working on the 2000 miles of navigable rivers and canals in England and Wales.

As a reserve chaplain, Padre Chester has served with a variety of regular and reserve units. In 2011 he deployed on Op Herrick 14 with 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, also supporting elements of the 9/12 Lancers and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Prior to taking post as Chaplain (Reserves) at RMA Sandhurst he was Chaplain to the Royal Yeomanry.

In his personal life, he is married with two adult sons, one living in Latvia and the other working in the defence industry having previously been a regular officer in the Royal Military Police. Padre Chester is a horse rider with more enthusiasm than skill, particularly enjoying foreign trail rides in Transylvania, Jordan, Iceland and Camino de Santiago.