## About the author



This is an extract from the Summer 2014 newsletter of <a href="Being Alongside">Being Alongside</a>:

It is a great honour to be appointed Chairman of any organisation, let alone one so inspiring as Being Alongside / APCMH. For those of you who have never heard of me I was born in 1954, brought up in the Cotswolds, educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. Such a gilded youth was squandered by a predeliction for marijuana which led to several psychotic episodes involving stays at The Priory and Springfield — whilst my peers were prospering I was running an organic bakery, then a drop-in centre for Hammersmith & Fulham MIND and latterly mini-cabbing.



An avid reader at an early age

I first came across the wonderful work of APCMH in Autumn 1995, meeting Jeremy Boutwood, Pam Freeman and John Vallatt at a Guild of Health seminar. Jeremy lent me his copy of Jean Vanier's *The Broken Body*. May I quote from my thank-you letter to him at that time ...

'It beats me how so very few people within the Church really want to know ... APCMH should be a vast concern with a cast of thousands! There is so much emotional / spiritual distress in our world that committed Christians could address ... If the Church fails you — God help you; which fortunately He does!'

Although never successful as a businessman I have managed to walk hundreds of miles across the United Kingdom , have journeyed overland from the top to the bottom of the Americas , from London to Nepal and back through Iran and Afghanistan . As a result I now speak three languages passably plus a smattering of many others.



At Glastonbury, having walked from Winchester via Salisbury

Whatever you do in life do it to the best of your ability . I shall endeavour to live up to that maxim as your new Chairman.

## Jamie Summers Incoming Chair



and cousins after my christening at Bourton-on-the-Hill, Gloucestershire

All my sisters