

# WHO WE ARE

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**Michael Wakeham**  
Wealth Planning Assistant

020 7965 4480

[truewealth@bloomsburywealth.co.uk](mailto:truewealth@bloomsburywealth.co.uk)

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## MY STORY

When I got to the age where people would ask, “What would you like to be when you grow up?”, I would shrug my shoulders and tell them, “A teacher?” Maybe it was the lack of conviction in my voice or the visual indifference that meant that I never truly believed it was where I wanted to be. It may also have been because I was seven years old and any show of commitment from a seven-year old is rare to say the least. By secondary school I was convinced that I wanted to be a vet. I had always had a lot of pets as a child and found animals to be a calming influence as they never talk back. I even went as far as spending two weeks work experience at a veterinary clinic. However, after observing an operation on a Siberian hamster, I very quickly decided I much preferred the outside of animals to the inside

of them and by the time college came around I thought that maybe my vocation rested within the realms of theatre. I was involved in extra-curricular amateur dramatics from about 10 years old and was far better on stage than on a football pitch even though I had been playing football since I could walk. Off I went to Bath Spa University to read Theatre Studies and Education (I never truly gave up on the idea of teaching) and I left London with a spring in my step and my first debt to my name. Life had begun!

It did not take me long to realise that I was not ready for life. I was always a bright student, everyone had told me so and I was even Head Boy of my secondary school. I had assumed that everything would slot into place without any real need to plan on my behalf but I was obviously sorely mistaken. I had not planned or taken into account the need to balance

work and study. I needed to work to afford to study and my drive to pursue Theatre Studies and Education diminished at a rapid rate. I dropped out of University after a couple of years but stayed in Bath working as a barman and got my fix of being on stage by performing stand-up comedy at weekly cabaret evenings. I packed in the comedy after a few months (as everyone kept laughing at me!) and headed back home to London.

Once home, a friend of mine contacted me about a job opening as an administrator at an independent financial adviser where he worked. I did not know what any of those words meant at the time but I landed my first office job and my eyes were immediately opened to a whole new world. I was bombarded by new and unheard of terms and although I felt lost, I was enthralled by it all. This was my chance to learn what the education system does not teach, something

that resonated with me, something important and something I wanted to learn as much of as I could. I worked closely with Chartered advisers in producing comprehensive financial planning and I started to believe that I finally had an answer to that question I was first asked at seven years old. I found that I loved working through the intricacies of a client's plan and following them on their journey from start to finish gave me great satisfaction. I had learnt at first hand what happens when you do not have a plan in place and having the opportunity to help people take huge strides toward their goals gave and continues to give me great solace. After nearly eight years and achieving the Diploma for Financial Advisers, I decided to join the team at Bloomsbury Wealth. Here I can continue to deliver exceptional client service all the while surrounded by inspirational people who share my passion for client-focused financial planning.