The Diocese of Rochester is affirming that we are Called Together in the areas of Growing Disciples, of Enriching our Communities and of Resourcing our Mission and Ministry. This Directory offers many opportunities for all who are responding to a call to grow as Christian people or specifically as clergy, lay ministers, church wardens and church treasurers, those involved with the children and young people and with those who are older to engage in courses and events which will help our formation and flourishing as God’s people in this Diocese.

 GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL, GROW YOUR CHURCH IN FAITH; GOD THE SON WHO SAVES THE WORLD, ENRICH US WITH YOUR MISSION AND MINISTRY; THAT WE MAY BE A BLESSING THROUGHOUT AND BEYOND THIS DIOCESE, FOR WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN
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Vocations

Everybody has a vocation. Jesus calls us as disciples to grow more like him but each of us is unique with a unique set of gifts and we are called to discern what our unique vocation might be. For some it will be a call to live out their faith in a particular way in their secular job, family or wider community. For others it will be a call to serve within the church in some way which may or not be in an authorised or licensed ministry, lay and ordained.

Our vocation changes over time and we constantly need to be listening for the voice of God and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God equips each of us with gifts and skills, so that we can be part of the body of Christ, serving others. As we journey through life, we always need to ask the question: "Am I using my gifts in the way in which God intends for me to do so? Sometimes we will be able to answer "yes" but, at other times, we may feel that he is calling us to discern if we have another. We may not be sure about how are called to serve and we need to spend time discerning that. That is where Vocation Advisers come in!

Vocations Courses

During the year the Vocations Team puts on a number of events and holds regular vocations days under the title: It’s Your Calling. It’s Your Calling is held three times each year, on a Saturday. It is aimed at those exploring where God may be calling and looks at our journey and the gifts that God has given us, as well as the Biblical understanding of vocation. The day gives an opportunity to meet others on a similar quest and to take time to think where God could be calling. After It’s Your Calling, there is an opportunity to meet with a Vocations Adviser, for an informal chat. For those exploring licenced lay or ordained ministry that is a requirement.

Vocations Advisers are not there to promote one type of ministry, but to listen to your story and to help discern what God might be saying; they are there for you. If at any time you would like to speak with a Vocations Adviser, you should first speak with your incumbent and then contact your Deanery Vocations Adviser or the Lead Vocation Adviser for your Archdeaconry.

Revd Canon Pamela Ive
Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations
Working in Church Schools
For those wanting training about working in church schools, please see the training offer from the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education to be found at


If you have any questions about your church school or about the training we offer and how it might be helpful for you please contact one of the team directly,

John Constanti, Director of Education
john.constanti@rochester.anglican.org

Virginia Corbyn, Deputy Director of Education
virginia.corbyn@rochester.anglican.org

Teresa Spearink, PA for John and Virginia and the Board of Education
teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org

You can also find lots more helpful information on the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education website: http://www.rdbe.org.uk/
LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage

Foreword by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York
July

1 July, 22 July & 30 September. Working with Conflict
09:30-16:00 St Benedict’s Centre, West Malling

Led by ... Mick Kain who is an Organisational Facilitator offering training, coaching and development. Mick offers a framework to help understand the reactions we all have in relation to conflict.

We will deepen our understanding of the causes and dynamics of conflict in order to have options to make discussions creative and positive. We will look at positive alternatives to conflict and building helpful communication styles.

This programme will work on three levels:

- A theoretical understanding of conflict using a range of helpful and easily applied frameworks.
- Personal development getting a deeper understanding of how our own experience and attitudes to conflict help and hinder us.
- Reflections and discussion in your own context to engage those around us in developing creative ways of dealing with conflict

The learning style will be active and reflective. We will use discussions of our own experiences and reflective exercises to relate theories of conflict to our current situations. Within the overall aims of the course, the learning will adapt to the questions and issues participants bring. You will be invited to further explore what you are learning by doing a structured exercise back in your own context between sessions.

Timetable


Day 2 – Dynamic of Conflict Thursday 22nd July: Gaining a more objective way of understanding what is happening in the midst of a conflict and exploring our positive options.

Day 3 Alternatives to conflict Thursday 30th September: Looking at communication styles that move towards resolution.

This programme is limited to 16 people only and there is a requirement to attend all 3 days which will be held at St Benedict’s Centre, West Malling from 0930 – 1600hrs. This programme is likely to generate high interest so, places will be offered on a first come basis.

Tickets: can be booked via the link: https://bit.ly/3uGaxmT

Maximum Number: 16
August

**Saturday 7 August: 9:30am - 3:30pm St Matthew’s Church, Wigmore [Gillingham] Celebration of Lay Ministry**

with Karen Senior, Warden of Lay Ministry & The Venerable Andy Wooding-Jones, Archdeacon (Rochester) we hope to meet in person with Lay Ministers from across the Archdeaconry as we renew licences, commissions and authorisations, and commit ourselves to ministering into our communities and churches with all the challenges of in a post pandemic world.

Open to all Lay Ministers in Rochester Archdeaconry
### September

**Tuesday 7 September: 09:30am for 10:00am -1:00pm at St Benedicts Centre / Zoom**

Training Incumbents in Rochester & Canterbury Dioceses - All Years  
Led by Revd Anthony Hammill IME2 Coordinator  

By invitation only

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**8 September: KIME: Presiding at the Eucharist, St Benendict’s Centre**

Year two Curates to be ordained Priests in Rochester & Canterbury Dioceses.  
Led by The Revd Canon Chris Dench  

By invitation only

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**10-12 September: Rochester Leadership Programme for Lay Ministers – Part I**

with Karen Senior, Warden of Lay Ministry & The Revd Canon Chris Dench  
An adaption of the Clergy Rochester Leadership Programme for Lay Ministers from each Archdeaconry.  

By invitation only

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**13 -16 September: Rochester Leadership Programme (RLP) for Clergy - Part Two**

with The Revd Canon Chris Dench, Revd Caroline Glass & Revd Andrew Axon  
Rochester Leadership Programme for clergy from each Archdeaconry.  

By invitation only
Tuesday 21 September: Help! My Parish is in Vacancy, 6pm-8.00pm, Diocesan Office

Help! My Parish is in Vacancy

with Karen Senior, Warden of Lay Ministry & The Revd Canon Chris Dench, Diocesan Director of Formation & Ministry

When the Vicar leaves, parishes begin a new chapter, and there are often questions asked of Lay Ministers and Churchwardens – but they might not have been through this experience before either. An evening for Lay Ministers and Churchwardens whose parishes are beginning a vacancy, an opportunity to reflect on the challenges of their own roles until a new appointment is made.

By invitation only

Thursday 23 September Looking to your next post

St Benedict’s Centre 09:30am -1:00pm

Help with looking for your next post. Year 3 Curates in Canterbury & Rochester Dioceses

Hosted by The Revd Canon Chris Dench

Guest Speaker: Helen Dimmock MBE, Honours and Appointments Secretariat

By invitation only
October

**Saturday 2 October: 9:30am -3:30pm Lay Ministry Conference, Christ Church Orpington**

with Karen Senior, Warden of Lay Ministry

A day of sharing and inspiration with contributions from speakers and activities concerning all lay ministry matters.

**To book, contact: tricia.cliffe@rochester.anglican.org**

Open to all Lay Ministers in the diocese.

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**7 October 11 & 30 November. Working with Conflict. 09:30-16:00 St Benedict’s Centre**

*Due to the high interest generated and success of the first series, this is back by popular demand*

**Led by ... Mick Kain** who is an Organisational Facilitator offering training, coaching and development. Mick offers a framework to help understand the reactions we all have in relation to conflict.

We will deepen our understanding of the causes and dynamics of conflict in order to have options to make discussions creative and positive. We will look at positive alternatives to conflict and building helpful communication styles.

This programme will work on three levels:

- A theoretical understanding of conflict using a range of helpful and easily applied frameworks.
- Personal development getting a deeper understanding of how our own experience and attitudes to conflict help and hinder us.
- Reflections and discussion in your own context to engage those around us in developing creative ways of dealing with conflict.

The learning style will be active and reflective. We will use discussions of our own experiences and reflective exercises to relate theories of conflict to our current situations. Within the overall aims of the course, the learning will adapt to the questions and issues participants bring. You will be invited to further explore what you are learning by doing a structured exercise back in your own context between sessions.

**Timetable**

**Day 1 - Tuesday 7 October**: Origins of conflict: Developing a deeper understanding of what makes communication become conflictual.

**Day 2 – Thursday 11 November**: Dynamic of Conflict: Gaining a more objective way of understanding what is happening in the midst of a conflict and exploring our positive options.

**Day 3- Tuesday 30 November**: Alternatives to conflict: Looking at communication styles that move towards resolution.

This programme is limited to 16 people only and there is **a requirement to attend all 3 days** which will be held at St Benedict’s Centre, West Malling ME19 6JZ from 09:30 – 1600hrs. Places will be offered on a first come basis.
Thursday 7 October: Preaching Reviewed, 10am -1pm St Benedict’s Centre

Led by Gretel Wakeham & Canon Chris Stone

Give your preaching a breath of fresh air, with innovative ideas to revitalise and inspire.

Open to: All


Curates in Rochester & Canterbury Dioceses - All Years

Led by Revd Anthony Hammill IME2 Coordinator (Rochester) & Revd Canon Dr Tim Naish, IME2 Coordinator (Canterbury)

By invitation only

Wednesday 13 October: Spirituality: Praying with Icons, 10am-12.30pm at St Benedicts Centre

with Elaine Wilkins & Paul Stevens

"We look at an icon of Christ or other Christian scene... we see rich colours - red, yellow, blue... and the silence of the icon speaks to us of a deep inner world...
a world of mystery and divine presence. In this workshop we will take a look at some eastern and some western icons and consider how they speak to us ... and how we may use them to enrich our life of prayer..."


Open to: All

15 – 17 October: Post-Licensing Retreat for Lay Ministers

with Karen Senior, Warden of Lay Ministry & The Revd Canon Chris Dench

For LLMs licensed in May 2021

By invitation only
**Wednesday 20 October: 09:30am -1pm at St Benedicts Centre**

**Addressing Bias – Sexuality**

**Led by Diocesan Trainers**

A session to consider the unconscious biases we carry with regard to sexuality drawing on the Living in Love and Faith resources and recognising the contentious divisions within the Church of England. Drawing on an understanding of historical and theological contexts we will address how we can demonstrate the all-including love of God through the communities of our churches so that they are places of genuine welcome and inclusion.

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**Open to: All**

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**26 – 28 October Stages of Ministry Programme: Pre-Retirement Residential**

**with Revd Jane Edwards, Bishop’s Adviser for Retired Clergy & Revd Canon Chris Dench, Diocesan Director of Formation & Ministry**

The programme will include contributions from various people and organisations including the Church of England Pension Board, Church Housing, a medical doctor and a lawyer.

**By invitation only**
**November**

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| **15 – 17 November** | New Posts Conference  
with Revd Canon Chris Dench, Diocesan Director of Formation & Ministry  
For Clergy who have recently begun a new post.  
By Invitation only |
| **19-21 November** | KIME Residential  
KIME Curates in Rochester & Canterbury Dioceses - All Years  
Led by Revd Anthony Hammill IME2 Coordinator  
By invitation only |
| **Tuesday 23 November** | Ministry of Deliverance  
10am-12:30pm St Benedict’s Centre  
The Ministry of Deliverance: things that go bump in the night with the Revd Jim Charles.  
Opportunity for clergy to learn more about the ministry of deliverance and the approach in the Diocese of Rochester in a parochial context.  
Open to: Clergy only. Maximum : 25 |
Life Together
Deeper our relationship with God across the Diocese of Rochester

‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.’

Acts 2:42

Whoever is within it, or however it expresses itself, a Life Together group, is about Christians joining together to support each other, and being committed to the activities of the community or group.

Website: https://www.rochester.anglican.org