

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3, ESV

Growing Leaders - growing numbers of leaders equipped for mission focused ministry

“Three important roles of every diocese are to inspire people, to help them hear God’s call in their own lives, and to equip them for their unique ministry.”

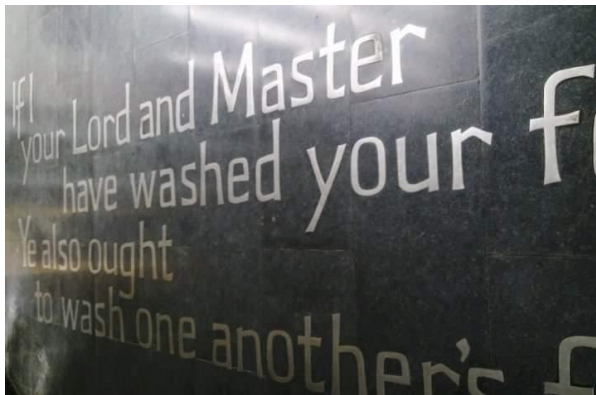
Last month, Bishop Ruth awarded the first ‘Bishop’s Certificates’ to affirm those people who have completed one of our Lay Training Pathways. There are many more to follow. Our Pathways offer a programme of practical training, focused learning, and personal formation for Christian people who are growing into a variety of forms of ministry and leadership.

Presently, Coventry Diocese offers six Lay Training Pathways, which anyone can join if recommended by their ‘vicar’. The Pathways are: Bereavement Ministry; Children’s, Youth & Family Ministry; Leading Worship; Pastoral Ministry; Preaching; and Reconciliation. Those following a pathway benefit from meeting other lay leaders from across the diocese as well as teaching and training from experienced leaders.

The overall desire of the programme is to recognise, resource and release the ministry of Christian people who offer service and leadership in the churches of Coventry Diocese.

Rob Harrison – Director of Ministry & Leadership

Pray for those helping grow and develop leaders - including Training Ministers; the Director of Ministry and Leadership; DDO (Vocations Advice); New Ministries Lead, for curates; the Dean of Women’s Ministry; Intercultural Mission Enabler; Diocesan Environment Group; Dean, Self-Supporting Ministry; the Warden of Readers; Mission Hubs supporting leaders of New Worshipping Communities (pioneers); Rural Mission and Ministry leads.



Leadership across our Diocese - The Coventry Diocesan Synod election process runs from 3rd to 25th June

Diocesan Synod Election Prayer

Almighty Father, who by one Holy Spirit gives varieties of gifts, and varieties of service, we thank you that we journey together as your children. We place our Diocesan Synod into your hands. Activate your wisdom and discernment in all who stand for election, and in all who vote. Grant each of us your grace, that in service we may seek your glory and the common good. For this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There are five temptations that a healthy leader will resist:

- Urgency** – our world demands instant responses. A healthy leader will give priority to the important, not just respond to the urgent.
- Dependency** – many want leaders to give them answers ... more often a coaching style response will lead to greater long-term health.
- Heroism** – giving attention to one individual is rarely healthy. A secure, self-aware leader will always be pointing away from themselves and developing teams.
- Availability** – effective connection and communication ... is not the same as constant availability. A healthy leader will set flexible but firm boundaries ...
- Looking Back** – congregations have very long memories ... it is seductive to think we are more capable than our predecessors, but this is a trap to avoid

Does your exercise of ministry bring you personal growth, freedom and renewal? Are you becoming more creative and resourceful, or does ministerial leadership simply exhaust you?

From Roger Matthews ‘Healthy Leaders and Healthy Churches’ (2013, Grove Leadership series)

AD = Area Dean C = Clergy All schools listed here are CoFE H = Headteacher EH = Executive Head HoS = Head of School P= Principal L: Leader

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 30 ORDINATIONS Coventry Cathedral	EMBER DAYS should be kept, under the bishop's directions, in the week before an ordination as days of prayer.	26, 28 and 29 June 2024 to be kept for those to be made deacon or priest.	Coventry Diocesan Cursillo – at House of Bread, Shipston, 13 to 16 June 2024.	PRAYER For everyone in	FOCUS leadership – clergy and laity	1 Fosse Deanery AD - Patrick Taylor LC – Margaret Howard
1 st SUNDAY A. TRINITY 2 Barford and parishes C – <i>Interregnum</i>	3 Hampton Lucy Primary School H: Lucy Jackson Bishop's Council	4 St.Peter's Primary School, Barford. H: Mary Baker.	5 Loxley Primary School, Loxley. EH: Sarah Plaskitt, HoS: Claire Woolley.	6 D-DAY Anniversary Dassett Magna churches C – <i>interregnum</i> Bishop's Core Staff	7 Nominations opened for Diocesan Synod on 3rd June.	8 The Dassett School, Fenny Compton. H: Suzanne Corry.
2 nd SUNDAY A. TRINITY 9 Edgehill churches C – Barry Jackson	10 Kineton Primary School, H: Margaret Pollard. Residential – Archdeacons & Area	11 Mid-Fosse Parishes C – <i>interregnum</i> Diocesan Trustees	12 Moreton Morrell Primary School. H: Sarah Eadon. DAC meeting	DIOCESAN CURSILLO 13 Mission Hubs – St John, Westwood; St Paul, Leamington Spa; Alcester Minster.	DIOCESAN CURSILLO 14 Leadership learning communities at Mission Hubs	DIOCESAN CURSILLO 15 Mission Hubs – St Laurence, Foleshill; All Saints, Bedworth; St Andrew's, Rugby.
3 rd SUNDAY A. TRINITY 16 Stratford-upon-Avon C – Patrick Taylor CURSILLO W/END FINISHES	17 Holy Trinity Primary School, Stratford-u-Avon. H: Jo Herrero.	18 Shottery C – Craig Grocock Race Equality Steering Group	19 Shottery St Andrew's Primary School. AHT: Helen Howlett.	20 Bishop's Core Staff; Urban Church Plants in Bedworth, Wyken, Tile Hill and Hillfields	21 DBE Headteacher Conference at Ardencote	22 St Mark's Academy, Coventry P: Rachel Atkinson L: Jonny Davies
4 th SUNDAY A. TRINITY 23 Alveston C - Linda MacDermott	24 Alveston Primary School. H: Anne Clewley	25 Wellesbourne & Walton D'Eiville C – Greg Bartlem Cathedral Chapter	26 EMBER DAY Wellesbourne Primary School. HoS: Tim Hewitt Diocesan Synod election – may be voting process if enough nominations	27 Ordination Retreat (27-30 June)	28 EMBER DAY Ordination Retreat New deacons	29 EMBER DAY Ordination Retreat New priests

**PRAYER
DIARY**

Ember Days
You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.
John 15.16



BEING HEALTHY CHURCH
William Blake wrote,
"To see a World in a Grain of Sand, And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, And Eternity in an hour."
Let's embrace the arts, celebrate the material, love the physicality of this world through which God makes himself known to us. **Chris Webb**

SPECIFIC DAYS IN JUNE 2024

1 – Fosse Deanery Area Dean, Patrick Taylor asks for prayer please for the significant number of parishes in vacancy and those working hard to cover them. Also for a way to be found to provide clergy deployment and a church presence in the significant new housing development at Lighthorne Heath.

2 – Barford *In vacancy.* C -John Horton. R -Ann Fawcett, Chris Farr, Malcolm Dawson.

6 – Dasset Magna *In vacancy.* R – John Davies

9 – Edgehill We give thanks for our huge team of volunteers who give time, energy and talents bless the church, the school and the community. Please pray for our new Children and Family worker, Liz, that God would continue to bless her ministry. Pray for wisdom as we continue to explore where God is at work. C – Beren Hartless, Alison Abbott, Matthew Arnold; R – Pete Ashton

11 – Mid-Fosse *In vacancy.* R - Richard Woodfin, Gillian Jones.

13 & 15 – For [Mission Hub](#) leaders across the Diocese

16 – Stratford-upon-Avon we give thanks for a number of young adults coming to faith. Prayers for those involved in the process of appointing a new Associate Minister. C – Thomas Powell, John Hall-Matthews. R - Phil Harper, Andrew Martin.

18 – Shottery C - Mike Stewart, Sarah Cushing, Nikki Moon, Paul Edmondson, Joy Hance, David Capron, Mary Cramer, R - Jan Walker.

20 – for [Urban Plant](#) teams in the Diocese

22 – please pray for [St Mark's Academy](#) and all those who study there, for a continued stream of graduates who go on to serve in the diocese as fruitful lay leaders. Also pray for Rachel Atkinson, the Academy Principal, as she and the diocese make plans for the next academic year [St Marks Academy](#)

23 – Alveston

25 – Wellesbourne We thank God for the growing relationship with our church school resulting in more families engaging with our Children's Work, both on Sundays and during the week. We are also thankful for the many new people who have joined our churches over the last 12 months, its been exiting! We are churches that are great at practical love, please pray that we grow in our passion for Jesus. Curate: Helen Smith; C - Wendy Biddington, Norman Howes, Christopher Lamb, Heather Turner, William Howard, John Horton, Charmaine Host. R - Richard Bacon and Ian Host.

Other PTO clergy in the Fosse Deanery – C - Stig Graham, Penelope Harrison, Roy Lodge, Diane Patterson, Jenny Rowland, Brian Russell, Richard Smith, Graham Wilcox

C = Clergy R = Reader



Pray for clergy wellbeing

There was some recovery since the pandemic in mental, physical, and vocational wellbeing [of clergy], but financial wellbeing decreased since 2021 and relationship wellbeing (measured in terms of isolation) continued to fall.

Stipendiary incumbents fared particularly badly, seeing no recovery in any aspect of wellbeing; low rates of mental health; and widespread financial difficulties associated partly with the cost-of-living crisis.

Respondents under the age of 40 were more likely to struggle financially and also to report higher levels of emotional exhaustion and depersonalization (two dimensions of burnout).

'Holding Things Together', Church of England Clergy in Changing Times - February 2024

Susan Bowden-Pickstock, New Ministries Lead / IMD2 Advisor

Suggests prayer for

- : **third year curates** seeking their first post, for insight, stamina and an open heart to understand God's leading
- : **second year curates** for vision as to leadership opportunities in parish and the Diocese.
- : **first year curates** approaching priesting to have time to reflect on this step into sacramental ministry
- : **non-stipendiary curates** who juggle other work and ministry that they may maintain and increase a sense of their own vocation in the Church.

PRAYER JOTTINGS – JUNE 2024

- Extracts from *The Collage of God* (Mark Oakley) – Ch 4 **Truthfulness** - and *God Soaked Life-Discovering a Kingdom Spirituality* (Chris Webb) – Ch 5 **God In Everyday Life** –

From Mark Oakley, 'Through listening to each other's words we deepen our awareness of each other, the worlds which it possible to inhabit, the truths which necessarily contribute to our own understanding of Truth (p.52).' 'I see the need for a spirit concerned to ensure that the Church keeps a breadth of mind, a general courtesy in its communal life, a desire to defend another's right of speech and interpretation of shared texts and maintains a greater concern to check its own prejudices than preserve its so-called 'purity' (p. 56)'.
From Chris Webb, 'Everywhere Jesus looked he saw the hidden spiritual world opening itself up to view through the ordinary, the mundane, the everyday: wine at a wedding, salt in the kitchen, water drawn from the well, leaven kneaded into bread dough ... the kingdom, it turns out, can be seen everywhere. The question is, do we have eyes to see it?' (p. 109) 'Really seeing is difficult and takes time How hard might it be to see a storm, a river, a sunset – let alone another person?' (p. 112) He goes on to describe how some of us are more people focused, others task focused, while he is more ideas focused. (p. 114) Really seeing people takes 'deliberate, intentional effort and a lot of practice.... Truly seeing people springs from a hospitality of the soul' (p. 115).

Listening carefully (Oakey), really seeing people (Webb) – both are encouraging us to learn attentiveness (Webb, pp. 117-123). Inevitably, Webb introduces *examen*, which is a way of weighing the events of our day, and can help us 'hone our spiritual attention.'

Where today have I experienced loving community?

Where have I experienced the loss of love and community?

- **Being ourselves**

When we think about growing leaders we can sometimes focus on skills and information that we need to develop in another. But leaders are much more than just the gifts they have or the skills they acquire. As we grow leaders we also need to help them explore how their passions, personality and experiences are part of how and what they lead. This is because our being and our history helps to shape who we become. God uses the whole of who we are, so we

should join in and help people grow in the wholeness of who God made them in the spaces that God is calling them to.

As we take time to reflect and pray on growing leaders this month. Perhaps create space for God to speak into how you notice and grow leaders around you?

There is a free 5 session course running in June on Zoom; the link is: [Being Ourselves - Equip Hub](#) Wednesdays, 1-2.30pm, 12 June – 10 July

Growing Leaders in California and Coventry

Recently I watched the *Jesus Revolution* film (2023, on DVD), and was chuckling through the opening, as it charted the impact on a more traditional church of hippies and wanderers coming to faith. It then charted the extraordinary growth and spread of faith across coastal California, and the emergence of young leaders; one in particular, Greg Laurie, who went on to lead a thriving network of new worshipping communities. I was thrilled to meet someone in person this week (in Coventry) who was personally impacted by that movement, and see that God has grown leaders both locally and internationally with very diverse ministries since the 1970s.

- **D-Day 80th Anniversary – a Prayer for the Armed Forces (6th June)**

Lord of the nations, we honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. Grant us similar courage to recognise and restrain evil in our own day, and may those who lead the nations of the world work together to defend human liberty, that we may live peaceably one with another. This we ask in the name of the Prince of Peace, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Each month **we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is Fosse Deanery**. In July we will be praying for Coventry South, Shipston in August and Warwick & Leamington Spa in September. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.
- Coming up – *the Themes for the next 3 months are, Healthy Churches (July), Parish Support (August) and Growing Faith, Young People (September)*. Do consider sending me your prayer suggestions, and any other jottings.

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