

Pathways to Ministry

A course for those exploring Local Ministry in the Diocese of Lichfield



Pathways to Ministry is a one year course for people who are exploring their Christian faith and discipleship and reflecting on their own particular gifts and calling. It covers several key areas which include: God at work in the Church, in your neighbourhood and family as well as in your own life. The course also focuses on Bible study and prayer.

The **Pathways** programme will provide opportunity not only to acquire new knowledge and understanding about God, mission, Scripture, and what it means to be Anglican today, but will also offer space and support for self-development and the process of discerning ways in which you might be called to serve God's kingdom.

The course is open to anyone who feels that they might be called to ministry in the church, of any sort. There are no requirements of previous study experience, although participants should have completed the **Bishop's Certificate Course, Living Faith Course, Foundations for Ministry** or an equivalent. Learning support will be available for those who have not studied in a long time, or are not confident about their study skills, and the course will include some 'back to study' skills. Learning will happen through a variety of methods, including discussion, lectures, workshops, workbooks and reading.

The one year course includes a combination of four Saturdays and five weeknights in each of the three terms. The local sessions will be run in area groups with local tutors. Local groups will depend on numbers, but may run in any area. Previously these have included Burton, Lichfield, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Stoke and Stafford.

Course Outline

Over the course of the *Pathways* year we will look at a range of themes.

Term 1: **God in Our Lives**

Term 2: **God in the Church**

Term 3: **God in the World**

Saturday sessions, which run in Stafford each year and either Wolverhampton or Shrewsbury, include a range of speakers as well as Bible studies. The evening groups work through a theme each term, facilitated by a local tutor. As part of the course, participants are also invited to meet with vocations advisors, and to attend a quiet day focussing on God's call.

Diocesan Advisory Panels

As *Pathways to Ministry* is preparation for Local Ministry, participants must have the support of their Ministry team and PCC/DCC to join the course. During the year candidates have the opportunity to specify the type of ministry they would like to offer. Candidates for Ordained Local Ministry will work with Diocesan Director of Ordinands towards attending a Bishop's Advisory Panel. Those offering for Lay Ministries will be invited to attend a Diocesan Advisory Panel. At this point, references will be required from the Incumbent (or equivalent), the PCC/DCC and other members of the parish.

The Pathways course begins in September each year and applications are usually due by the end of July. The cost of the course is **£80.00** for the year.

If you would like more information or you wish to participate in this course, please contact Julia Cunningham in the Local Ministry Office:

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