



# Training and Support for Clergy

Autumn 2021



DIOCESE OF  
**Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.

“ As we emerge from lockdown, I want to let you know about some changes in our support of continuing ministerial development (CMD), and to ask you to reserve some important dates in your diaries.

As you know, all clergy undertake the equivalent of five days of CMD each year. In the past we have offered a menu of one day learning opportunities on a variety of topics at the Old Deanery and in locations around the diocese. Over the last year, because of the restrictions due to Covid, people have accessed learning in diverse ways, so as we emerge from the pandemic, CMD will look different. Each year there will be three core opportunities for our learning and development in which all clergy will be strongly expected to participate. These are: the Clergy Day, the Archdeaconry Days and the Pre-Advent Retreat Days. The remaining two days will be chosen and accessed by clergy themselves. We will continue to publish a wide range of free online and in person events **via the website** and offer a grant of up to one third of other courses which can be accessed **via this link**.

In this booklet colleagues from Ministry for Mission have gathered together some dates and information about the three core opportunities and also some other offers of support, events and dates through the autumn that we hope and pray will help and enable you in your ministry.

Thank you for all that you offer in ministry across the diocese. ”



**Bishop of Taunton**

## Core days for Clergy



### Clergy Day

Monday 8 November 2021

This day will be hosted by Bishop Ruth. We will be joined by Chris Goldsmith, the Director of Ministry and Carrie Myers, Lay Ministries Officer, both from the National Church. The purpose of the day will be for clergy to reflect on their ongoing calling, engage with the re-interpreted qualities for ordained ministry in the church and the Vision for Lay Ministries (published in 2020). There will be an opportunity to reflect on how this intersects with our own vocations and to weave this into our own visions and contexts, including our part in the Diocesan vision for Discerning Ministries.



### Archdeaconry Days Gathering

Saturday 12 February 2022

The theme for 2022 will be **God calls...everyone, everywhere**. There will be a service on Sunday 6 February to launch the theme. The week will give opportunities to explore the range of ways in which God calls, from the call to all to be disciples and the call to specific ministries. The week will conclude with an opportunity to gather on Saturday 12 February.

### Pre-Advent Retreat Days

Tuesday 23 - Thursday 25 November 2021

A much needed retreat day at the beginning of Advent to refresh and resource clergy for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

## Other important dates/events

### Celebration of Lay Ministries

Saturday 9 October 2021 1pm-4.30pm

The CoLM is happening this year on Saturday 9 October in Bath Abbey. As usual we will celebrate the wonderful diversity of ministries that are exercised across the diocese and those who have done diocesan training. This year's service is being created by Jonny Baker and we are also delighted to welcome Carrie Myers, National Lay Ministries Officer. Before and after the service from 2-3pm, there will be stalls and refreshment so that people can discover more about the many ways of offering their gifts in the service of God and community.

### Pioneering Parishes

Tuesdays 5 & 19 October, 2 & 16 November, 2-3.30pm

The Pioneering Parishes series of four webinars offers concepts and tools to move the energy of a parish outwards and to foster a pioneer culture. It is a collaboration between Revd Greg Bakker, Pioneer Development Officer in Portsmouth Diocese and Revd Tina Hodgett, formerly Pioneer Team Vicar in Portishead. It grows out of Greg's experience of enabling a traditional benefice in Hampshire to host a pioneer team, and over time also enable its regular congregation to become more pioneering. The tools offer a process of gradual change management in parishes and an understanding of pioneering for all. This course is being offered for the fourth time following positive feedback from many who attend. For further information contact [tina.hodgett@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:tina.hodgett@bathwells.anglican.org)

## Offers of support

### Living in Love and Faith

You will be aware that everyone is encouraged to participate in the course and give their feedback on the experience by the end of 2021. Knowing the pressure that this creates for clergy and parishes, we have recruited and trained a team of volunteer facilitators who can work with you, leading a course in your parish or deanery. Please contact [sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org) for further details

### Peacebuilding network

This is a new network being developed to support parishes across the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The purpose of the network is to offer trained volunteers to assist parishes who find themselves having to confront uncomfortable differences or disagreement which threaten the harmony of the congregation or community. If you want to know more, contact Simon Keyes at [peacebuilding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:peacebuilding@bathwells.anglican.org) who is leading the network or Julia Hill at [julia.hill@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:julia.hill@bathwells.anglican.org)

### Reflective Practice Groups

Reflective practice groups provide a safe space for clergy to reflect upon their ministry in a structured way with colleagues. They run in many locations across the diocese and we start new ones as demand arises. Please contact [sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org) for further information.

### Mentors

We have a network of clergy across the diocese who are willing to be mentors, if you would value a mentor then please be in touch with [sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org). Similarly, if you are

interested in offering to mentor colleagues in different deaneries, we would be glad to hear from you.

## On-going vocational conversations

While there is much that you may already be doing to help people to explore their calling, the Vocations team is always there to offer support via [vocations@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:vocations@bathwells.anglican.org). Information on a range of ministries may be found on the website

[www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/exploring-ministries/](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/exploring-ministries/) and we can also put you in touch with one of our Chaplains for Discerning Calling if a vocations conversation would be helpful.

## Spiritual direction

If you are seeking a spiritual director, you can find details of whom to contact on the website [www.bathandwells.org.uk/spiritual-direction](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/spiritual-direction) or contact Catriona Galbraith for general questions about Spiritual Direction, [SpiritualDirection@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:SpiritualDirection@bathwells.anglican.org)

## Considering retirement?

This autumn, a pre-retirement workshop will be organised by Arnold Wills with input from financial planners, the pension board, a GP and solicitor. This is for clergy who are between five and 10 years from retirement and would value understanding more about the financial and housing implications and the need to plan.

We also offer the opportunity for a residential conference with spouses which focusses predominantly on the pastoral aspects of retiring and 'leaving well'. It is for clergy who are approximately five years away from retirement. For more information on any of the above, contact [sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org)

## Community Organising skills for parish ministry

As part of developing Community Organising in the Diocese, we will be offering various opportunities to learn the skills of community organising to enhance community engagement and mission. This will include the process of organising, listening, planning, action through public storytelling and enabling everyone to get a seat at the table and offers a framework for unsettled leaders in an unsettled world. For more information, contact [david.maggs@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:david.maggs@bathwells.anglican.org)

## Counselling and Wellbeing

The Counselling and Wellbeing service is a professional, free service and is independent of church structures. Clergy, their spouses and children can all use the service. Counselling for couples and families is also available. More information can be found on the website [www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/clergy/counselling-and-well-being/](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/clergy/counselling-and-well-being/) or by contacting Sally Walters, Adviser in Counselling and Wellbeing [sally.walters@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:sally.walters@bathwells.anglican.org)

## Extended Ministerial Development Leave

Extended Ministerial Development Leave (EMDL) or sabbatical is an opportunity once a decade to step back from ministry and have up to three months away combining elements of refreshment, study, retreat, relaxation and family. Contact Jane Chamberlain in the first instance [jane.chamberlain@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:jane.chamberlain@bathwells.anglican.org)

## External training and further study

For a contribution in funding an external CMD course, or to enquire about doing further study, please contact [sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:sophie.moore@bathwells.anglican.org)

## Dates to note:

2021

**9 October** Celebration of Lay Ministries

**8 November** Clergy Day

**23-25 November** Pre-Advent Retreat Days

2022

**6-11 February** Archdeaconry Days

**12 February** Archdeaconry Days Gathering

For all training and events visit:

[www.bathandwells.org.uk/events-and-training](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/events-and-training)