

# Pentecost 2022

## Lay Ministry Matters



Some of you may be thinking that Lay Ministry Mailings are a thing of the past and I really expected to send one out around Easter, but that didn't happen, and here we are celebrating Pentecost along with the Platinum Jubilee however, there has been lots going on in those 6 months of Lay Ministry.

The photo above was taken outside the cathedral on 14<sup>th</sup> May when Bishop Simon admitted and licensed a new cohort of LLMs – in person and with family and friends in attendance! Congratulations to them all, and from left to right they are:

Iain Ambler – from St Francis Strood (Previously admitted as a Reader)  
Charlie Bunker – from Aylesford  
Christopher Bartlett – From Falconwood  
Giovanni Parrales – from St Francis Strood  
Liz Tragheim -from St John w Footscray Sidcup  
Liesel Stanbridge – from Christ Church Orpington  
Lisa Glasscote – from St Philip's Tunbridge Wells  
Jane Rosam – from Hever, Four Elms and Mark Beech  
Kathryn Swanston - from Stone  
Richard Kinderman - from Wilmington  
John Khnana - from St Nicholas Sevenoaks  
Coral Baycroft-Williams - from St John w Footscray Sidcup  
Emma Parren – from Aylesford  
Rosaline Griffiths – from Northfleet and Rosherville

Please pray for them all as they settle into their new roles.

This Pentecost season is especially busy, as in addition to the new cohort of people being licensed, everyone across the diocese who has the Bishop's Permission (to Officiate or to Minister) needs that Permission renewing. Thanks to all of you who have sent in your paperwork, and to those who have been in touch to say it will be delayed, but a much larger number than in previous times have decided not to renew this time, so the numbers of Lay Ministers in some parishes will be significantly reduced.

The process of discernment leading up to being licensed (or authorised or commissioned) is a long one, with many steps to take, and I have been very conscious that there is nothing like that at the other end of ministry – when deciding when to stop. For some people the decision is made because they move away, or their health deteriorates, but for those who are still in their parishes and feeling well, if a little wearier than they once were, it can be a difficult decision. Much as I admire the Queen's sense of duty to her life long calling, I think that the Ecclesiastes 3 principle comes into place here; there is a time to begin and a time to stop.

In early May we held a day at St Benedicts called Finishing Well, to consider this, and I was very grateful to Elaine Almond, LLM at Borough Green who was herself planning to retire from Ministry this year, for her considerable input into the planning and presentation of the day. The day was a mixture of listening and thinking and talking and praying, along with some gentle art-based activities, and with lunch provided!



Those who attended all said afterwards it had been a helpful and enjoyable day, and some of them have asked to renew, while others have decided not to.

For those of you who have decided not to renew your Permissions, there will, in time be an official Thank you letter from Bishop Simon. These are personal letters so take longer to produce than a letter like this – and there will be a lot of them to write in the next few weeks.

The same weekend that the new LLMs were licensed, the parish of St Aidan's Gravesend were saying a heartfelt Thank you to Mavis Prater, their Reader since 1996, who had decided the time has come to retire.

Mavis wrote to me afterwards:

*I had said on many occasions I didn't want a fuss, but obviously others had different ideas!*

*What a beautiful letter signed by Bishop Simon..... I was also presented with a glorious arrangement of flowers, a gift token and an amazing celebration cake. As*

*you can imagine the tears flowed!! I felt totally cocooned in love.*

*My family came too, which made it even more special.*



The following weekend, Elaine Almond was surprised by the congregation at Church of the Good Shepherd Borough Green, and wrote:



*"Today was quite a big deal for me as I retired from lay ministry at my local church ..... Last sermon, but a lovely gift of an engraved glass goblet, fizz & cake after. Thank you to all who organised it, managed to keep some secrets! and those who were there and are part of my church family. It means a lot!"*

One of the sad things about so much lockdown was how many people were not able to have proper send offs. From clergy who moved on to Lay Ministers who retired, so it's good to see churches taking advantage of the opportunity to say a genuine in person 'Thank you' now. Perhaps we all treasure these opportunities to do things together as a church more now than we used to, as we know how much we missed these occasions.

We are once again holding Archdeaconry 'Thank you' teas for Lay Ministers with PTO and PTM in June and July - and if you fit that description you should have received an invitation from Tricia - whether you are renewing or retiring. If you have not received it please let us know and we will send a replacement, and we would really appreciate RSVPs in good time please.



Whilst on the theme of retirement, towards the end of 2020, Miriam Giles was planning to step down from being Deputy Warden of Lay Ministry for Bromley and Bexley, around the time of her birthday in January 2021. (Miriam is photographed here with Bishop James back in 2016 when she was commissioned as Deputy Warden)

I am immensely grateful to Miriam for agreeing to continue through the Pandemic season, but we will be thanking her officially for all she has done in that role at the Lay Ministry Conference on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and at the same time I hope that Bishop Jonathan will be commissioning her successor – Philippa Linton, who is a Reader licensed to Holy Redeemer Lamorbey. Currently we are enjoying a bit of an overlap with Miriam and Philippa, and Mark remains the other Deputy warden of the Archdeaconry. Do be praying for Philippa as she gets to know the Lay Ministers in the Archdeaconry – and say hello to her when you get the chance.



## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Whilst online learning has some advantages, many people are once again enjoying the opportunity for in person CMD, and the chance retreat, or go on pilgrimage.

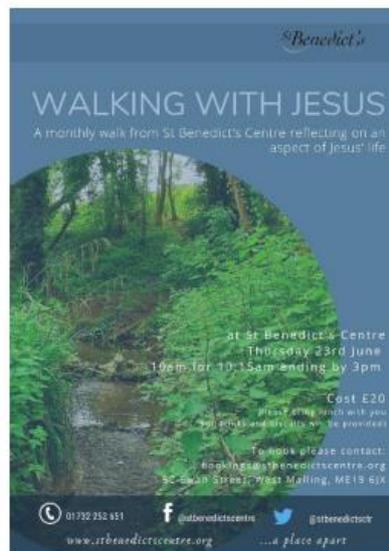
**Walking with Jesus** is something of a mix of those three, and is offered monthly at St Benedict's. The June day is detailed to the right, and the July one is on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you want a quiet retreat but aren't sure about going away overnight, or if you want a quiet space

to study or prepare – remember that St Benedict's offer quiet rooms for the day, each with tea and coffee making facilities and with wifi at £10 for the day. Email [bookings@stbenedictscentre.org](mailto:bookings@stbenedictscentre.org) to book your room.

### Walking with Jesus

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 9.30am for 10am until 3pm



On this walk through the West Malling countryside we will think about Jesus and his relationship with his cousin John the Baptist.

The church remembers John on 24<sup>th</sup> June. We are not given a huge amount of information about John and Jesus, but when we look, we find a rich example of what it is to be a follower of Jesus

pointing to him as John did. Led by Canon Jane Winter.

*Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, the walk may be muddy in places.*

*Cost £20 including hot drinks and biscuits. Please bring your own lunch. To book: [bookings@stbenedictscentre.org](mailto:bookings@stbenedictscentre.org)*

## Offering **SPIRITUAL CARE** to those at end of life

at All Saints' Tudeley, Kent TN11 0NZ

An interactive morning workshop led by Penny Stephens, previously Chaplain at St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney & Hospice in the Weald, Pembury, with 23 years' ordained ministry.



A workshop for:

- ◆ All involved in Pastoral Care
- ◆ Health and Social Care Workers
- ◆ Anyone with a personal interest
- ◆ Volunteer & Staff Chaplains
- ◆ Family Carers

Available dates 2022 9:30am - 1pm:

Thursday: ~~9th June, 7th July~~ (fully booked)

Tuesday : 13th September

**\*NEW Date Added\***

Thursday : 13th October

**Cost: £10**

(Bursary Available)

To book contact Liz Wood:

chadmin@tudeley.org 01892 833241

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Penny Stephens offered two mornings in June and July on Spiritual care to those at the end of life, and both booked very quickly.

Two more dates are now on offer in September and October – please see the flier on the left for details.

### **Safeguarding Training**

All Lay Ministers who are licensed, authorised, commissioned or have the Bishop's permission must have an up to date C3 or leadership module of safeguarding training. If you haven't done the Leadership Module, your C3 will expire by the end of this year so please book soon.

The Diocesan Safeguarding team have recently added some new courses for the leadership Module – between now and November and they book up fast, so if you need to do this please book asap at <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/events-and-training/safeguarding-training/>

The Leadership module is not a day, it is a process which can take a couple of months in total, so it is important to book before your current training expires.

All Lay Ministers are also required to do the Domestic Abuse Awareness module, which is online training you can do at your own pace whenever it suits you via the CofE safeguarding portal :  
<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

For those of you who are preachers *Preaching Generosity* is a new, weekly, bite-sized preaching resource, produced by the Diocese of Rochester in partnership with St Augustine's College of Theology and the National Giving Team of the Church of England.

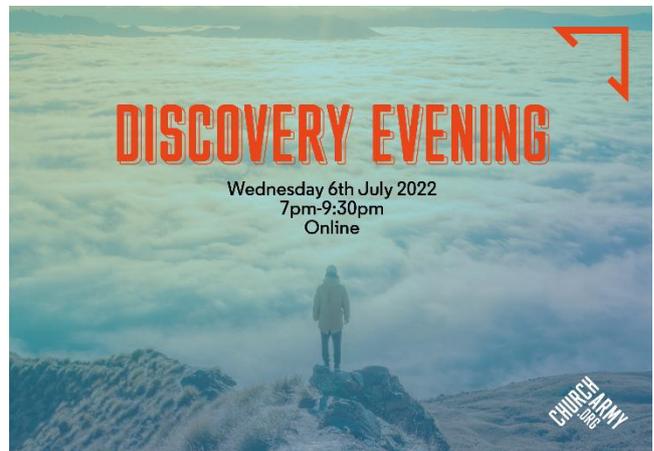
Each week, a short sermon idea drawn from one of that week's Common Worship lectionary readings will be made available to give preachers the tools to become comfortable and confident in preaching about generosity.

For some examples, or how to get these direct to your inbox, please go to:  
<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/for-leaders/preaching-generosity/>

.....  
I have been asked to share this with you, by a friend in Church Army who is organising this event for people at many levels of interest:

## Church Army Discovery Evening

Online - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 7pm - 9.30pm



Do you have a passion for sharing your faith or know someone who does? Are you exploring vocations, but are not sure where you fit, or know somebody like this? Then how about considering Church Army?

We're hosting our next **Online Discovery Evening** on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7:00pm-9:30pm** for anyone interested in finding out about Church Army – What we do, supporting us, joining the Mission Community, working for us or training as an Evangelist with us.

To book a place click the link below or find us online at

[churcharmy.org/discover](https://churcharmy.org/discover) or for more information, please contact [Andrew Payne](#), in the Community & Vocations Team.

**IS THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY? THE ANNUAL LAY MINISTRY CONFERENCE, 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT CHRIST CHURCH ORPINGTON – HOPEFULLY WITH BISHOP JONATHAN (to be confirmed)**

## A very successful experiment!



For a number of years clergy have been invited to attend the Rochester Leadership Programme – a 2x 5 day programme based on Benedictine principles of living a balanced life amidst the pressures of ministry. Chris Dench and I had planned to trial a Lay Ministry version of this several years ago, then Covid struck! Although all Lay Ministers would benefit from this, we could only offer it to a dozen, and we wanted a spread across Archdeaconries, so we consulted Archdeacons about who to invite. We had a weekend in September 21 at Worth Abbey, then a weekend in February, and those involved really appreciated the opportunity.

I want to close this letter by quoting Archdeacon Paul Wright, now retired, who met with the Lay Ministers in Bromley and Bexley last February. He said he had been looking forward to the day but had been struck anew by the end of the morning what really good Lay People we have in the diocese. His final message to us all was  
PRAY FOR EACH OTHER. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

With my prayers and best wishes for you all,

*Kare*