

BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 48

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

16 May 2021



Dear friends

Some years ago, we introduced a one-year course leading to our Certificate for Lay Worship Leaders. This gave lay people the skills and confidence to lead a Service of the Word when clergy were not available. There was a certificate, signed by me, as proof of having undergone appropriate training, but the commissioning and the authority for the ministry remained with the incumbent and PCC. This is not a licensed ministry, but I authorise incumbents to delegate the leading of Services of the Word to anyone who has this certificate and is up to date with DBS and safeguarding training. This can be a real gift to parishes which do not yet have Readers.

The course has not been offered for a while, but I am delighted that we are re-starting it. Andrew Coleby, our Lay Ministry Training Officer, has put together this advertisement, aimed at lay people. Please commend it to any you think might be right for this ministry.

Certificate for Lay Worship Leaders

Do you have a passion for the worship of God in all its rich breadth of tradition, style and expression? Then this may be the course for you!

Running from September 2021 to July 2022, this new Certificate course will be timely as we rethink and relaunch congregational worship post-Covid.

This can be a great starting point for those setting out as Worship Leaders, or it can be a useful refresher for the more experienced. It is ideal for church musicians who are regularly involved in choosing music for worship, or leading parts of a service from a worship band. It can also be helpful for Churchwardens who may find themselves required to lead worship in a multi-benefice. Come and find out more to be encouraged and enthused

The course will be overseen by Revd Helen Bent, formally Worship and Music Adviser for Sheffield Diocese, and more recently Head of Ministerial Training for the RSCM. Helen brings a wealth of experience in training worship leaders, ordained and lay, together with a passion for mission and church growth.

The training will use a blended learning approach of Monday evening sessions online and practical Saturday morning sessions onsite, fifteen sessions in all spread across the year. Before you start in September you will be expected to complete the *Living Faith* module LF1 – Introduction to the Bible, which will be delivered totally online and which you can complete in your own time. Tutorial support will be available.

[Click here for more information](#)

South Korea

I am hoping to take a small group to Seoul, South Korea, for a week or so next May. We haven't been able to visit our link diocese for too long. One reason for this visit is to explore the possibility of a few more parish links, so if you and your parish might be interested in that, or would like to know more, please be in touch with [Alex Tolley](#). We could put on a Zoom presentation about the link and what is involved if there is demand for that. If you are willing to be linked up with a Korean parish on a trial basis, we will cover your costs for the trip. You don't need to speak Korean!

The Roadmap

It was never going to be totally straightforward, was it? We still have no dates for the resumption of congregational singing, the peace, the common cup, refreshments after services. Further advice should be issued this week. This week we should also hear the recommendations of the scientists as to what precautions (social distancing, face coverings, etc) might continue to be required or advised after 21 June, if that is indeed the date for the removal of all covid restrictions. Current advice for bishops is to plan our ordinations, hopefully on 27 June in our case, with continued restrictions on numbers, movement, and singing.

Whatever the restrictions and the state of the roadmap, our risen and ascended Lord is still on the throne, and we can still trust him. We have much to celebrate with the vaccine rollout and the step by step relaxation of restrictions. If we have to go more slowly than we would wish, or even take a step or two backwards to protect the most vulnerable, so be it.

Ascension and Pentecost

As we continue to celebrate our Lord's Ascension, and look forward to Pentecost, may we all know the reality of his continued intercession for us, the anticipation of his return, and the power of his Spirit in our lives here and now.

Take a Break

I'm taking some time off this week, so I shall lighten your load too, and spare you from a bulletin next Sunday. Normal service resumes in a fortnight's time, on Trinity Sunday.

With love in Christ

+ Donald