



BISHOP'S COMMISSION FOR MISSION (BCM)

A Summary For PCCs

This summary is provided to offer to PCCs an overview of the BCM programme as they consider whether they will recommend a candidate for training. There is a more complete paper available which was presented to Diocesan Synod in June 2016.

How does the PCC benefit from this?

1. The BCM programme is to support the work of benefices and deaneries by equipping lay people for service, giving the participants a vision for mission in their area of vocation. It is to enable the whole people of God to live out their faith at home, at work, in the community and among friends. Those who complete the training will be equipped in their area of ministry, and be ready to bring a missional focus to bear on every aspect of their life and ministry.

Why do we need it?

2. This programme is being developed by the School of Mission in response to the parish and deanery mission action plans, which clearly indicate the need for equipping lay people (see also General Synod Paper GS2056). As a Diocese we want to equip members of our church communities to live out their lives as disciples of Christ. Many who would not come near to the church as institution will have contact with Christians in their daily lives. We want to enable members of the Diocese to take the opportunities to share the love of Christ in deed and word as they serve in their area of vocation. This programme is a way of recognising and affirming people in their ministries, providing some input/resource and sending them out, encouraging them to continue in that work.

What BCM training is available?

3. Initially there are 4 BCM *streams* being developed. These are:
 - **Pastoral:** This is for those with a pastoral heart. They will be trained to bring the love of God to people in their homes and other contexts, e.g. care homes, prisons - to live out their vocation to be pastoral in every sphere of life.
 - **Worship:** This is for those who have a desire to lead God's people into God's presence. They will be equipped to do so in a variety of contexts (e.g. schools, sheltered housing, all-age gatherings), especially among those who currently have little contact with the church. This is not just for musicians but for all who lead worship, whether in church buildings or beyond. Those commissioned will be able to lead non-eucharistic services and events.
 - **Witness:** This is for those who have a heart to talk about Jesus, and who want to enable their church to be more effective in its mission. They will be equipped to do so in a relevant, confident and contextual way.
 - **Discipling:** This is for those who have a passion to walk alongside new Christians. They will be equipped to enable their companions to grow effectively and fruitfully in their faith, and establish a pattern of spirituality to sustain them as they grow.

We have developed the first three of these, and we plan to pilot Discipling in summer 2018. Further streams in development are pioneering, children families and youth and preaching. More details will be made available in due course.

What does the programme involve?

4. The BCM programme gathers people from across the Diocese to learn together and help shape one another for new or ongoing areas of service. Running over a term, there are 10 to 12 sessions which are provided by passionate practitioners. Participants will also learn from each other in small groups to reflect on how the material affects their particular vocation. They will be expected to keep a diary between sessions, and produce a final reflection on their learning. Each participant will also be buddied up with another to further enable their reflection and learning. They will also be expected to complete a portfolio of tasks during the programme.
5. The content for each of the streams includes two foundational sessions on mission, several core sessions relevant to the stream and a couple of closing sessions looking at their future ministry. For more information visit the BCM page on the diocesan website. The specialist sessions will vary slightly each time the programme is run.

Where will the training be offered?

6. The training will be offered in churches in the northern and southern archdeaconries. We plan to go across the diocese to reduce the necessary travel time for participants.

What is the role of the Incumbent and PCC?

7. The incumbent working with the PCC has responsibility for ministry in the parish. For any who want to participate in this training, their task is to recognise and affirm either a developed vocation or a gifting which needs to be developed. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), in liaison with the incumbent, will need to check with the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager to ensure that the applicant is free from any safeguarding concerns that might make them ineligible for the role they want to train for. Then the PCC and incumbent will need to formally approve the application, and in doing so will be committing themselves to using a graduate of the programme in the parish afterwards. The participant will need to create a role description in conjunction with the incumbent for their future work in the parish.

How do people apply?

8. Participants will need to complete an application form. The PCC will need to minute approval of the candidate for training and to agree to underwrite the cost of the training, currently £90 (to reimburse speakers travel, venue hire, refreshments, donations to the work of the specialists, and to cover the extra administrative costs necessary for the training.) There is no upper age limit for BCM – the lower age limit is 18.

What is the cost to the parish?

9. We currently charge £90 per person per programme.
 - parishes sending 3 participants will be offered the places at 20% discount ie £70 each
 - parishes sending 4 or more participants will be offered the places at 33% discount ie £60 each

What happens at the end of the training?

10. Following successful completion of the programme, participants will receive a letter from the Bishop of Winchester granting them a temporary commission to minister in this role. This temporary commission will be confirmed at the annual lay ministries services which happens in October each year. It is valid for 5 years before needing renewal.

Further Questions

11. If you have further questions, or for an application form, please contact Wendy Atkinson – wendy.atkinson@winchester.anglican.org.