



BISHOP'S COMMISSION FOR MISSION (BCM)

A Summary For PCCs

This summary is provided to offer to PCCs an overview of the BCM training programmes as they consider whether to recommend a candidate for training.

How does the PCC benefit from this?

BCM programmes have been created 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 in the church and beyond. From a parish perspective it will give you someone who is passionate and informed about a particular area of church life. In this way we seek to enable the whole people of God to live out their faith in the everyday wherever they are.

What does BCM offer?

As a Diocese we want to equip members of our church communities to live the mission of Jesus. 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 churches, neighbourhoods and networks. This training 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 programmes do we offer?

Here is a list of programmes which have been developed. Please see our website for which programmes are being offered at this time. <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/bcm/>

- **Children, Youth & Families:** This is aimed at those who are already in leadership in this area of ministry in the church. We will equip them to lead a team and bring fresh vision to see these ministries reach their full potential, both in their parishes and outside the church.
- **Creation Care:** This is for those who want to help their church steward the world's natural resources. It will consider the theology of our calling to care for God's creation, as well as exploring practical actions.
- **Evangelism:** 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.
- **Growing Faith:** For those who want to grow in their faith and help others grow too. We will equip them with tools to help others grow one to one, in small groups and look at how churches might help grow disciples.
- **Pastoral:** For those with a pastoral heart. Participants will be trained to bring the love of God to people in their church, homes and other contexts.

- **Pioneering:** For those who want to see the church moving beyond its walls, bringing new ways of being and doing church, and the language and tools to do just that.
- **Prayer Champions:** For those who have a passion to see churches engaging with God in prayer. It aims to help you make prayer a priority in different contexts and in different ways.
- **Worship:** For those who plan and lead acts of worship (you do not need to be a musician!). They will be offered principles which can be applied in different contexts e.g. schools, sheltered housing, messy church. Those commissioned will be able to lead non-eucharistic services on a regular basis - more than once a quarter.

Bishop's Permission to Preach (BPP) is a separate training programme which follows the academic year. Entry point annually in September. Selection process begins annually in spring.

What does the programme involve?

BCM training 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 is an orientation session for people to meet and connect, a foundation session to explore mission spirituality, 6 further sessions which cover material specific to the programme being followed, and a final closing session to reflect on the training and its impact on their vocation.

Sessions are provided by passionate practitioners, and involve pre-work as well as online group work so that participants can learn from each other. Each person is asked to engage with activities between sessions, and to keep a journal to reflect on their learning. At the end of the programme they are asked to produce a final reflection on how the programme has shaped them for service in the kingdom of God.

Where does the training happen?

At this time we are running BCM primarily online with some face to face as Covid restrictions allow.

What is the role of the Incumbent and PCC?

The incumbent working with the PCC has responsibility for ministry in the parish. Anyone commissioned through BCM will be accountable to them. The PCC will need to formally approve any application for the BCM programme, and in doing so will be committing themselves to using that person in the parish. In order to be commissioned the participant will need to create a role description in conjunction with the incumbent which will then be used for a new DBS check.

How do people apply?

Participants will need to complete an application form, part of which needs to be completed by the incumbent. The PCC will need to give approval of the candidate for training and to agree to underwrite the cost. There is no upper age limit for BCM – the lower age limit is 18.

What is the cost to the parish?

We currently charge £60 per person. Contact Wendy if you think that the cost is a barrier to participating in this training.

How is the participant commissioned?

Following successful completion of the programme, participants will receive a temporary commission in writing from their suffragan bishop, which is then ratified at the annual Lay Ministries Services (more details to follow). It is valid for 5 years before needing renewal.

Further Questions

If you have further questions, or for an application form, please contact Wendy Atkinson wendy.atkinson@winchester.anglican.org or look online <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/bcm/>