

Ministry Educator for the Diocese (DME) 2020

The position of Ministry Educator is funded through the St John's College Trust. A wide range of educational projects and responsibilities are within the Ministry Educator's domain, both locally and nationally. Despite significant disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many scheduled events morphed into a new form or were able to be rescheduled.

Clergy Conference was one event that we did differently in 2020. Instead of the usual residential setting, clergy enjoyed a shorter ZOOM conference. A highlight of this format was that the newly appointed Archbishop of York and Primate of England, Stephen Cottrell, was able to record an inspiring talk for us.

ZOOM proved its worth by providing a context for preaching workshops, and a 1 week course exploring the book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," with a group of church leaders. I have continued to work in collaboration with my Methodist and Presbyterian colleagues to develop and present seminars to help church leaders grow fruitful congregations. We have been able to work together with five groups of church leaders (3 Anglican, 2 Methodist-Presbyterian co-operating ventures).

Together with my Ministry Educator colleagues from Nelson and Dunedin dioceses we launched the inaugural "Clergy Bootcamp" – a three day residential intensive, focusing on ministry skills for the newly ordained. I hosted the event here in Christchurch at the Community of the Sacred Name and we had 10 participants from Christchurch, Hokitika, Kaikoura, and Nelson. We intend to refine and repeat this worthwhile collaborative training.

Six Healthy Boundaries Training days took place in five different archdeaconries. There are many opportunities to undertake boundaries training through the year. All those with a Bishop's license are required to complete the Boundaries course every three years.

The annual BACO (Bishop's Advisory Committee for Ordination) weekend, which is part of the diocese's current discernment process for those who have been invited to explore a call to ordination, took place a little later than usual. Subsequently two families relocated to Auckland. We now have three students studying at St John's College in Auckland. Cassie Lee, Eddie Bijl, and Robert Jamieson.

Study Leave Committee members have met regularly and continue to offer thoughtful engagement with those planning study leave.

Post-Ordination Training, also known as Professional Development Fridays, continued in various forms throughout the year. This group meets for a day each month and is comprised of those who are in their first three years of ordained ministry in an Anglican context. Regular ZOOM check-in meetings were particularly valuable during the lockdown period, until we were able to resume face-to-face gatherings. The Venerable Susan Baldwin ably led this group for many years, bringing depth of wisdom and experience. She concluded this role at the end of 2020. Rev'd Lynnette Lightfoot had also regularly contributed to this group. She also concluded this aspect of her ministry at the end of 2020. At the final POT/PDF

meeting in December there was an expression of deep appreciation for the contribution these women have made to many individuals during their tenure.

Out and about in the Diocese I have helped lead vestry quiet days and been a guest preacher and presider. I am a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Theology House Board. I continue to work with Jenny Wilkens, our Diocesan Director for Ordination, as we meet with those who are exploring a sense of call to ordination. Those who apply to St Johns College Trust for scholarships to fund their studies are also required to meet with me, and I am able to help them navigate their way through the application process. Many people in our Diocese currently benefit from St Johns Scholarships. There is also funding available at a diocesan level to help meet the costs of occasional learning opportunities. Once again in 2020, the Lay Training Fund and the Clergy Professional Development Fund were completely spent - which is great! It is hoped that those who have benefited from these grants will apply and share their learning in ways that bless others.

AMEN (Anglican Ministry Educators Network) met together formally twice; once in Dunedin and then in Auckland later in the year. This group of colleagues also participated in TPMC (Tikanga Pakeha Ministry Council) progressing national educational aims. I was appointed to the TPMC executive for 2021.

The diocese receives significant funds from St John's College Trust which pays for the Diocesan Ministry Team members, the Diocesan Director for Ordination, the Diocesan Rural Ministry Facilitator, Deacon's Formation Fund, Lay Training Fund, Clergy Professional Development Fund, a portion of the costs of Director of Theology House, the library, librarian, and administrator, and also contributes generously to the educational aspects of the bishops role. Due to Covid-19 and the upheaval associated with ongoing need to flex and adapt, the 2020 budget was rolled over for 2021. A new application for funding beyond 2021 will take place September 2021.

Stephanie Robson - May 2021