



Training Programmes

Academic Year 2026–27

A guide to our training programmes,
including dates, locations, timings, and
application deadlines.

Serving



Learning



Loving



Growing



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

BCM Programme

BCM is a suite of training programmes designed to support lay ministry in a locally authorised context. It is a training opportunity for lay people exploring new areas of mission and ministry or wanting to develop in their existing ministry. Those who come on this training will need the support of their incumbent and PCC to take part.

We have five BCM programmes: *BCM Worship*, *BCM Pastoral*, *BCM Discover* (NEW for Spring 27), *BCM Children, Young People & Family*, and *BCM Sharing Faith* (NEW for Autumn 27).

KEY INFORMATION:

Currently running in Autumn 26 are *BCM Worship* and *BCM Pastoral*.

In Spring 27, we are running *BCM Children, Young People & Family*, and *BCM Discover*.

Online Taster for Spring 27: 9.11.26

Spring 27 Application Deadline: 3.1.27

Spring 27 Start Date: 9.1.27

Sadly we are unable to accept applications after the closing date due to the time needed to process the information and to give the applicant time to complete the preparation tasks.

In Autumn 27, we intend to run *BCM Pastoral*, *BCM Worship*, and *BCM Sharing Faith*.

Online Taster for Autumn 27: 12.7.27

Timings & Location: Usually on a Thursday evening online (7pm-8.30pm), every other week (excluding Hampshire school holidays), with at least two in person Saturdays at Old Alresford Place (9am-3pm).

Cost: £75 per person; £200 cap per benefice

Contact: Elena Taraban (elena.taraban@winchesterdiocese.org)

Bishop's Permission to Preach (BPP)

The Bishop's Permission to Preach (BPP) programme has been specially designed to equip students with both the Biblical knowledge and the practical skills they need to proclaim the Word of God in our world today. The course runs over one academic year and features a combination of gathered learning and contextual practice.

Those who come on this training will need the support of their incumbent and PCC to take part.

KEY INFORMATION:

Online Taster for BPP 27/28: 2.11.26, 7pm via Zoom

In Person Taster for BPP 27/28: 4.11.26, 2pm-3pm at Old Alresford Place

BPP 27/28 Application Deadline: 31.1.27

BPP 27/28 Interviews: March 2027

BPP 27/28 Start Date: 1st or 2nd Saturday in September 2027 (tbc)

Timings & Location: Tutorials are usually on a Thursday evening online (7pm-9.15pm), every other week (excluding Hampshire school holidays) with at least two in person Saturdays at Old Alresford Place per term (9am-4pm)

Cost: £150 per person

Contact: Frances Ter Haar (frances.terhaar@winchesterdiocese.org)

Exploring Theology

This is a seven-session journey into the heart of core theological ideas, designed to equip, inspire, and deepen the faith of those who seek to follow Jesus every day.

Led by the diocesan training team, this course is open to everyone—no prior study or academic requirements needed, just a desire to explore and grow.

KEY INFORMATION:

Exploring Theology 2027 [Watch Taster Video](#)

Exploring Theology 2027 Start Date: 24.4.27

Timings & Location: Online tutorials are once every two weeks on a Thursday evening (7pm-8.30pm); with two in person sessions at Old Alresford Place (Sat 24 April (morning), Thurs 10 June (evening)); and one final in person session at St Paul's Church, Winchester (15 July).

Application Deadline: 12.4.27

Cost: FREE

Contact: Frances Ter Haar (frances.terhaar@winchesterdiocese.org)

Exploring Christian Spirituality

This is a seven-session exploration of some of the ways people have encountered God in the Bible and approached Christian spirituality down the years and in our time. The course will provide tools and techniques helpful for ongoing spiritual growth and engagement, whilst helping participants identify and commit to a regular rhythm of life. Led by the diocesan training team, this course is open to everyone – no prior study or academic requirements needed, just a desire to deepen your relationship with God and grow spiritually,

KEY INFORMATION:

Exploring Christian Spirituality 2027 Taster Video: To follow in late Autumn 2026

Exploring Christian Spirituality 2027 Start Date: 23.1.27

Timings & Location: Tutorials are on a Wednesday evening online (7pm-8.30pm, once per month, with two in person sessions at Old Alresford Place (one at the beginning, one in the middle), and one final in person session at St Paul's Church, Winchester.

Application Deadline: 18.1.27

Cost: FREE

Contact: Frances Ter Haar (frances.terhaar@winchesterdiocese.org)

Living His Story

Living His Story is a seven-week, small group course based on the eponymous book by the Revd Hannah Steele. In her book, Hannah encourages us to be more imaginative in the ways we think of evangelism. To this end she re-frames our everyday lives as the place where we can naturally witness to Jesus, both in what we say and what we do. This approach enables her to address some of the common anxieties about evangelism (i.e., it's for experts, it's hard work) and instead re-imagine it as witness in the ordinary warp and weft of our everyday relationships.

The course comes with facilitator notes, questions for discussion and a series of short interviews with Hannah, one per session, in which she reflects with Will Howard on the topics raised in each chapter in the light of the intervening years.

KEY INFORMATION:

Living His Story is a free-standing course that can be run at any time in the benefice. Participants are encouraged to buy a copy of the book. The facilitator can download the leader notes from Winchester Learn Moodle, where the interviews in video and podcast format can be accessed at any time (transcripts are also available).

Timings & Location: This course can be run whenever, wherever you choose.

Cost: FREE (but this does not include the cost of the book per participant. The book is available via the usual sources online and in store. *Living His Story* by Hannah Steel, is published by SPCK.

Availability: October 2026

Contact: Elena Taraban (elena.taraban@winchesterdiocese.org)

Lay Networking Breakfasts

Our Lay Networking Breakfasts offer the opportunity for all those involved in lay ministry across the diocese (LLMs, LLWs, BCMs, BPPs, CYF, chaplains, etc.) to gather, share, encourage, learn, and pray. After a light breakfast, we spend some time in worship. Then we engage with a particular topic that is relevant for all those involved in exercising the ministry of Christ in our cities, towns and villages. After that we spend some time in discussion and prayer. These occasions offer a good opportunity to connect and keep up to date with what's going on both across the diocese.

KEY INFORMATION:

Southern Deaneries (Bournemouth, Christchurch, Lyndhurst, Southampton): 7.11.26

Central Deaneries (Eastleigh, Romsey, Winchester, Alresford, Alton): 18.11.26

Northern Deaneries (Andover, Basingstoke, Odiham, Whitchurch): 20.3.27

Please note: whilst we divide the networking breakfasts up by northern, central and southern deaneries, if the date for your area is not convenient, then please feel free to attend another networking breakfast

Timings & Location: 9am-11.30am, either on a Wednesday or Saturday (see above); locations: Southern - St Boniface, Chandlers Ford; Central - Old Alresford Place; Northern - St John's, Hartley Wintney.

Application Deadline: For catering, it helps to know how many will be coming. So, whilst there's no strict deadline, please sign up either via the link that is sent out in the Diocesan Newsletter a month or so in advance, or email Elena (details below).

Cost: FREE

Contact: Elena Taraban (elena.taraban@winchesterdiocese.org)

Vocation Mornings

Is there someone you think God might be calling to use their gifts to serve Jesus Christ, but you're unsure of what the right next step might be for them? Why not suggest they come along to one of our Vocation Mornings and have a chat with the Mission & Ministry Team, where they can find out more about the pathways available for both lay and ordained ministries. There will be a particular focus on opportunities for lay ministry including Bishops Commission for Mission (BCM and Bishops Permission to Preach (BPP).

TIMINGS & LOCATIONS:

14.11.26: 9:30am – 12:30pm, St Luke's Church,
Church Lane, Sway, Hampshire SO41 6AD

30.1.27: 9:30am – 12:30pm, St Boniface Church,
Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2FT

12.6.27: 9:30am – 12:30pm at St Mark's, Kempshott,
Homesteads Road, Basingstoke, RG22 5LQ

For more information and to book, please contact Tracey Clark:

Tracey.Clark@winchesterdiocese.org | 01962 710983

LICENSED MINISTRY DISCERNMENT TIMELINE:

- If anyone in your parish or benefice would like an informal chat about a sense of calling to ministry, please get in touch with the team
- Discuss sense of calling with church leader
- Church leader completes clergy referral form and sends to DDO
- All candidates will be invited into a time of supported discernment
- For more information on the process of discernment for ordination, please contact Tracey Clark (see above)
- Following discernment and application, LLM candidates will be invited to attend a diocesan panel; these are usually held in January, April, and June).

Postgraduate Theology Group

What lights your theological fire? It could be a book that you're reading at the moment (or a podcast, or an online lecture) that's turning things upside down for you and you'd like to have the chance to discuss it. Or it could be that you'd like to talk about some research you've done in the past. Facilitated by the diocesan training team, these meetings are open to everyone who loves theology, especially those who have previously undertaken some form of theological education.

KEY INFORMATION:

Autumn 2026: 25.11.26

Spring 2027: TBC

Summer 2027: TBC

Timings & Location: This group meets once per term at OAP (see above for dates), 2pm-3.30pm at Old Alresford Place. Those who are unable to attend in person can do so online via Zoom.

Application Deadline: None. But in advance of each session there are materials to watch, listen to or read. Ideally, if you haven't signed up already, get in touch at least a couple of weeks beforehand, so we can enroll you on Moodle and share the relevant resources with you.

Cost: FREE

Contact: Will Howard (william.howard@winchesterdiocese.org)

Additional Key Dates

6.2.27: Lay Ministry Training Day, St Boniface Church 9.30am - 3.30pm

18.3.27: Celebration Service, St Paul's Winchester 6.30pm - 9.00pm

9.10.27: Lay Ministries Service, Winchester Cathedral, 11.00 am