



Foundations in Ministry Programme Handbook 2024-25



Diocese of
Guildford 

Transforming **Church**
Transforming **Lives**

Welcome

Welcome to the Diocese of Guildford's Foundations in Ministry Programme.

We are delighted to have you, and pray that you will find it a blessing – personally in your own life and ministry, for your parish, and as you spread God's kingdom in our world.

Your parish church has designated you a Lay Associate Minister, a new designation for us as a Diocese. This is an enormously exciting development, full of strategic and missional promise. Congratulations!

Aims of the programme

The Foundations in Ministry Programme exists to expand the missional leadership capacity of our churches in the Diocese.

Expand

Amazing ministry is already happening in our parishes, and the programme will work with our parish churches to help resource and develop lay leaders in your local areas through your parish church.

I AM
THE WAY,
AND
THE TRUTH
AND
THE LIFE
NO ONE COMES
to the FATHER
THROUGH

The programme takes place over two academic years, and creates space for personal growth and development. While there will be lots of good input, this is not primarily about information, but about transformation.

Missional

Our churches are already doing wonderful work, but we face missional challenges. Church attendance in our diocese and across the nation are falling, especially among younger people. Foundations in Ministry exists to equip a whole variety of leaders in all aspects of the life of the church.

Leadership

Leadership is the key factor (humanly speaking) in seeing the growth, life and health of the church. The programme will reflect on and nurture us all in leadership.

The shape of our churches, their leadership and work, may well change dramatically over the coming decades. We believe lay people sharing the leadership of churches with clergy will be key in creating a sustainable and fruitful church.

No-one really knows what the future will bring, Foundations in Ministry exists to equip us to be adaptable, imaginative and innovative in mission in and through our churches.

Resourcing

Theological resourcing

Good, robust, lifegiving theology can equip us for mission and leadership.

The programme has a focus on application and practice. It is grounded by a first year that will give you a strong theological framework, this continues into the second year with the addition of specific skills and theory related to one of our specialism pathways.

By the end of the first year, you will:

- Have an overview of the Bible and its major themes.
- Have an understanding of how these themes work and function theologically.
- Be able to articulate and communicate your own understanding of the gospel, mission and your place within the kingdom of God.
- Develop your understanding and practice of leadership.

Personal resourcing

The programme will equip you personally for your missional leadership.

- You will learn and be on this journey with your year group
- The first year will have a strong element of discernment, reflecting on our own gifts, personalities, and callings;
- Small groups play a major part in the programme, on each of the 'in person' Saturday gatherings, and in the online sessions
- You will be taught the skills of theological reflection and encouraged to put these into practice.



Partnership

The Foundations in Ministry Programme is built on partnership:

- Between you, your church and your incumbent, and the Diocese;
- With others on the programme who you will be learning and be trained with.

What does this look like?

- You will have regular supervision in your parish, probably with your incumbent;
- There will be meetings between you, your parish and the Foundations in Ministry Programme team. This is to make sure that your training is in alignment with the mission of your home church, and that your parish has a clear and agreed understanding of what your role is in its mission and leadership.
- The online sessions are designed to apply what you have been learning about the Bible, theology and leadership to your local context. These times will be facilitated by leaders from around the Diocese, who have particular skills and experience in local missional leadership.

Spirituality

The Foundations in Ministry Programme is not an academic course, but is rather a spiritual training programme. It is rooted in God, and prayer and worship are central to how the programme operates.

- Each in-person Saturday begins with worship. There will be a variety of styles to be experienced and enjoyed throughout the year;
- Each in-person Saturday has a strand looking to develop our spiritual lives for the demands of challenging missional times, and to put down even deeper roots as disciples of Jesus Christ;
- We encourage you to keep a journal throughout the programme, you could use it to record and develop your prayers.

What will it look like?

The programme lasts two years.



The first year, is a year where every participant covers the same topics. It builds a robust framework of theology, Bible and leadership to equip us as missional leaders for our changing and challenging times;

In the specialist year you will also be trained for a specific area of ministry that you have discerned with others in the first year.

Suggested specialisms for the second year:

- Children's and Families ministry
- Youth ministry
- Community Outreach
- Digital Church and Online Media
- Discipleship, Preaching and Teaching
- Ecology and Creation
- Pioneering, Church Planting and Evangelism
- Church Management and Safeguarding
- Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy
- Sports Ministry
- Contemporary Sung Worship

Not all of these will be available (depending on group size), but we expect that we will be able to facilitate four or five of them.

Timetable (2024-2025)

	21st Sep	9th Nov	11th Jan
9.30-10am	Opening Worship	Opening Worship	Opening Worship
10-11 Bible study	Creation in Scripture	Sin and the Fall	Exodus/ Wilderness
11.30am-12.15pm Theology	A Theology of Creation	A Theology of Fallenness	A Theology of Wilderness
12.15-1pm Small groups	Getting to know you	SHAPE	Possible ministry options
1.45-2.30pm Leadership	Jesus and leadership	Leadership styles	Self leadership
2.45-3.30pm Mission & ministry	The kingdom of God	The life of prayer	Personal evangelism
3.45-4.30pm Testimony/prayer			



	8th Mar	10th May	21st Jun
9.30-10am	Opening Worship	Opening Worship	Opening Worship
10-11 Bible study	Grace	Salvation & Redemption	Re-Creation
11.30am-12.15pm Theology	A Theology of Grace	A Theology of Salvation & Redemption	A Theology of Re-Creation
12.15-1pm Small groups	Leading Teams	MBTI	MBTI
1.45-2.30pm Leadership	Casting Vision	MBTI	Communication
2.45-3.30pm Mission & ministry	Spiritual disciples	The 5 marks of mission	Multiplication
3.45-4.30pm Testimony/prayer			



Matt

Grove

Programme
Manager



As Foundations in Ministry Programme Manager I am delighted that you have decided, or perhaps been ‘encouraged’ to explore Lay Associate Ministry. I am so pleased and thankful for your discernment, for that of others, and that your parish has recognised the gift that you are and will be to the church and the furthering of God’s Kingdom.

For many of us, as we start something new, there can often be this sense of imposter syndrome, of an uneasiness that we are on the right programme or doing the right thing. In truth, I don’t think we can be an imposter in the vocation that God gifts to us, but certainly FiM is here to affirm you in the uniqueness of your calling and to acknowledge the vocation of all of God’s people.

My hope is that you will experience a time of learning, formation, and development, and that these will work together to equip and encourage you in whatever it might be that God is calling you to, that you will find confidence in that calling, as you respond in obedience and humility. As we take that journey together, you will likely be challenged and stretched in different ways, and of course there are the challenges of life too. I am here to take that journey with you, so do be in touch as and when you need, and may God bless you at every turn and junction.

matthew.grove@cofeguildford.org.uk

Rachel Bader

Programme
Administrator



Originally from the Midlands, I went to university in Hull before moving down to London and then eventually to Guildford where I met my husband at a local church. I still live in Guildford and worship at a local Baptist Church and enjoy being part of the welcome team there, and small group leader. Coming from a background in administration and communication at small and large charities, church administration and education, please do contact me with any general queries or if you require assistance with forms, documentation or are just not sure who to ask!

rachel.bader@cofeguildford.org.uk



Julie Partridge

Programme
Chaplain



Hello everyone

I'm very excited and honoured to be on the FiM team as Chaplain.

I have been part of St Mary's Church in Fetcham for almost 25 years. I trained as an OLM with the Local Ministry Team and was Ordained in 2000 and am due to finish my curacy next spring.

As well as serving my church as an OLM, I also serve part-time as a Community Worker in the parish.

I am married with two children. I love walking and running (short distances!)

I look forward to journeying with you as you study, learn and reflect over the next two years.



John Valentine

Dean of the
Local Ministry
Programme



Welcome to the Foundations in Ministry Programme!!

I am delighted to welcome you to the FiM family and thrilled that you have decided to explore Lay Associate Ministry (LAM). It is such an exciting programme, full of potential for you and for future of the Diocese.

I am originally from Cranleigh, so am delighted to be return to my roots. After a short spell in the law, I was ordained, serving churches in Norwich and central London. My wife Catherine and I were privileged to oversee the planting of two churches, and increasingly I moved into the training and theological formation of church planters. It feels a great privilege to be Dean of LMP at this time of change and growth, working with such an able and committed team.

We have two young adult children, and a dog called Bea. I love reading, particularly theology, biography and contemporary British and American fiction. I love watching nearly every sport that involves a ball, and am learning to love running (rather slowly . . .).

I pray that through this programme, you will be encouraged, equiped and released into the fullness of ministry that God has for you.