



Foundations in Ministry

programme
handbook
2023-2024



growing
faith 

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.

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 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 leadership, and nurture us all in the leadership we are involved in.

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 is a practical one. It is grounded by a first year that will give you a strong theological framework, and the second year is structured around specific skills and specialisms.

By the end of the first year, you will:

- Have an overview of the Bible and its major themes;
- Have an overview of major theological themes, such as the life, death and resurrection of Christ; the kingdom of God; creation and new creation; the Holy Spirit;
- Be able to articulate and communicate your own understanding of the gospel, mission and your place within the kingdom of God.

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 termly 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 (led by a band, a gospel choir, a cathedral-style choir, and Common Worship) 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 be trained for an 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 (2023-2024)

	23 Sep	18 Nov	20 Jan
9.30-10am Worship	Band	LMP	Gospel
10-11 Bible study	John 20:19-23	The big story	Mark
11.30am-12.15pm Theology	Trinity	The person and work of Christ	The Holy Spirit
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			



	16 Mar	27 Apr	15 Jun
9.30-10am Worship	LMP	Choir	LMP
10-11 Bible study	Romans	Prophets and apocalyptic	Psalms and wisdom
11.30am-12.15pm Theology	The Church	Salvation and life of faith	The end of the world
12.15-1pm Small groups	Feedback on mission & leadership	Enneagram	Next steps
1.45-2.30pm Leadership	Leading teams	Casting vision	Multiplication
2.45-3.30pm Mission & ministry	Spiritual disciples	The 5 marks of mission	Communication
3.45-4.30pm Testimony/prayer			



Meet Matt

Grove

Programme
Manager



I came to faith as an adult, having had something of a nominal faith since childhood. My working life has predominantly been in the transport industry, before a return to education inspired in part by a sense of call to ordained ministry. Three years of evening study, was followed by two years at the University of Winchester reading Theology and Ethics. This transition from work to study was straddled by ten years of lay ministry which allowed me to apply my learning to practical ministry experience.

During my time at Winchester I was recommended to train for ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. The first two years of this was on a mixed-mode pathway which continued this combination of study and practical ministerial experience in parishes in the Diocese of Winchester. My third year of training was a full-time residential year in Oxford.

I was ordained in the Diocese of Portsmouth, serving my curacy in the parishes of Portsdown & Purbrook. I have continued with study and ministry throughout my curacy, completing an MA in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy, and starting my PHD. I became a course facilitator and tutor at Waverley Abbey, working on vocational training courses. This combination of study, ministry and teaching has unearthed and developed a passion to see others equipped for ministry and service.

I love to spend time with my children, friends and family. I'm passionate about having time off and finding a balance in life, for me this is swimming, walking in the country and having a cold beer or a coffee on the way, invitations welcome!

I really look forward to meeting people throughout the wider diocese in due course and to everything that the next few years has in store as we witness to the gospel together.

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. Coming from a background in administration and communication at small and large charities, church administration and more recently at a secondary school, I am really looking forward to using my experience and skills to deliver efficiently the programmes and getting to know the students, staff and other stakeholders involved.

John Valentine

Dean of the
Local Ministry
Programme



I am originally from Cranleigh, so am delighted to be returning 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 . . .).

Recommended reading

If you would like to prepare, have a look at some of these books:

Leighton Ford, *The Attentive Life: Discerning God's Presence in All Things* (IVP: 2014)

Peter Scazero, *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship: Moving from Shallow Christianity to Deep Transformation* (Zondervan: 2021)

Rowan Williams, *Being Disciples: The Essentials of the Christian Life* (SPCK: 2016)

Tom Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Original, Provocative and Practical* (SPCK: 2011)

