



The Coventry Diocesan Training Partnership

In *On the Way* (June 2010), **Bishop Christopher** announced the formation of a Diocesan Training Partnership. This new venture takes its cue from the recognition that 'The Mission of the Church belongs to us all as Christ's missionary people – the people who are sent by him (Luke 10.1; John 20.21; Acts 1.6-8). Hence, we need to be disciples who are confident in the faith and led in the faith by committed and competent ministers and leaders.' The specific role of the Diocesan Training Partnership is defined as being to 'help deepen discipleship throughout the Diocese, and to select, educate, train and form those called to ministry and leadership' (*On the Way* p.5).



The Purpose Statement of Coventry Diocese is:

- Worshipping God;
- Making new disciples;
- Transforming communities.

In his exploration of the Purpose Statement in *Signposts for the Future* (June 2009) Bishop Christopher suggested that hidden within this statement was an important theme of '*Teaching the Faith*: The challenge of our times makes teaching the faith an urgent priority.' He continued that this should be done particularly in three ways:

- In worship, 'through word and sacrament, song and symbol, so that the "word of Christ dwells in us richly" (Colossians 3.16).
- Through 'Our evangelistic and formational processes' which are 'to involve the most effective methods of learning the faith so that new disciples can be taught to "obey everything that Jesus commanded" (Matthew 28. 20).'
- By 'engagement with local communities to see them raised closer to the kingdom of God', which 'requires us to "account for the hope that is in us" (1 Peter 3.15)' (*Signposts* pp.2-3).

The role of the Diocesan Training Partnership extends across all three of these ways of teaching the faith, but with a particular emphasis on the 'formational processes' mentioned in the second. Its core purpose is to help Christians within the Diocese of Coventry, both lay and ordained, to grow as disciples of Jesus towards 'maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ' (Eph. 4.13).

The strategy of the Diocese in achieving its purpose is, according to *Signposts*, to develop 'an overarching climate, a culture in which the mission of the Church on the ground can be nurtured and sustained' so that the 'missionary energies of the Diocese of Coventry' are released (*Signposts* p.5). The emphasis in delivery of the strategy is therefore on local rather than diocesan initiatives, with a good deal of autonomy devolved to deanery, parish and other levels.

The Diocesan Training Partnership plays an important role in the development of this climate, by modelling and embodying an approach which releases 'missionary energies'. It follows that the Partnership's task is to work towards equipping the people of God for the tasks to which God has called them. It does this by asking the key question,

What do you need, in terms of support, training and development, to become the community God is calling you to be?

This question may be asked at diocesan, deanery and parish levels, as well as relating to individuals.

The Diocesan Training Partnership team seeks to be theologically astute, pastorally informed, missionally aware and administratively agile, able to apply, and to equip others to apply, the riches of the Christian tradition in a time of rapid change in the life of the Church of England in general and the Diocese of Coventry in particular.

The work of the Diocesan Training Partnership includes:

- The Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship (BCD)
- The Bishop's Certificate in Ministry (BCM)

- The Ministerial Development Review Scheme
- Initial Ministerial Education (including Ordained Local Ministry)
- Reader training
- Continuing Ministerial Development for Clergy and Readers
- Vocations Discernment and Selection
- *Divine Inspiration*

For more details see: www.coventry.anglican.org/ministry/learning and www.coventry.anglican.org/ministry/training

Divine Inspiration

Divine Inspiration works successfully with all parishes, building capacity and encouraging congregations to be more outward-facing and open to visitors seven days a week. Telling stories to those who visit is a simple way of sharing what we are about. Our buildings are increasingly being used for activity other than worship and having a sound strategy for this is part of any church's Ministry of Welcome.

Divine Inspiration designs and delivers training to volunteers working in churches to help them to explore, understand and share their church's heritage with others.

Helen McGowan and Amanda Ross also produce *The Gatekeeper*, a monthly publication for all parishes in the Diocese and manage a website to promote places of worship as visitor destinations and places for learning, culture and peace. Helen McGowan is currently the Diocesan Link Officer for the Church Urban Fund.

www.divine-inspiration.org.uk

Divine Inspiration is jointly funded by English Heritage and The Diocese of Coventry.

Coventry Diocesan Training Partnership Staff



Richard Cooke is the Principal of the Training Partnership. He was CME Adviser from 2004-2008 and Director of Discipleship Development from 2009-10. Before that he spent 16 years in parish ministry in the diocese. Richard's specific responsibilities are for Continuing Ministerial Development, Ministerial Development Review and developing the Bishop's Certificate in Ministry (due to launch in September 2011), as well as the overall leadership of the DTP team. He is also Associate Minister in the Edgehill Group of Parishes.

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Paul Wignall is the Diocesan Learning Adviser with special responsibility for IME4-7 (curates) on a part-time basis. He was Director of Ministry and Mission Development in Truro diocese from 2001-2006. Paul is a qualified social worker with special expertise in child protection. His ministry has included extensive parish experience in this and other dioceses and he is currently an Associate Minister in the Alcester Deanery.

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Sarah Palmer and **Ruth Wagstaffe** are the Training Partnership Administrators and are the friendly voices at the end of the phone or on email. You can contact them between 9am and 5pm on weekdays at the Diocesan Offices.

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Divine Inspiration



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During 2011 a new **Diocesan learning Adviser for Discipleship Development** will be appointed, as well as a new **Vocations Adviser** to replace Canon Roger Spiller as DDO when he retires towards the end of the year.