

SPOTLIGHT ON...

TONY PULLEN

Tony assists with parish visiting, home communions, delivering courses, and preaching at John the Baptist, Malden. As a hospital chaplaincy volunteer he visits patients and offers bedside communion, and also helps facilitate at "Gravetalk" events, which offer a listening ear for the bereaved.



The second is a course in pastoral ministry taught by the Diocese. This takes place one evening a week with occasional weekends and Saturday sessions. Areas covered include reflecting on the foundations for pastoral ministry; developing skills in listening to, assessing, and responding to the needs of individuals and the wider community; discerning how to sustain and develop ministry; practical skills; observation visits; and a placement.

Licensed Pastoral Ministers

Licensed Pastoral Ministers exercise leadership in a parish or the wider community, working under the supervision of the incumbent or other staff members, or a supervisor in any agency through which they may minister. They may co-ordinate pastoral ministry and train other adults involved in it. The discernment and selection process for licensed pastoral ministry is coordinated by the Vocations Team in collaboration with the Discipleship and Ministry Team.

Training consists of a CertHE (Level 4) course, usually taken part-time over two years, followed by further practical training and reflective practice for 1-2 years (unless a candidate is already a commissioned pastoral minister, in which case only the CertHE is required). The CertHE includes biblical and theological studies; the foundations of pastoral care; Christian faith and ethics; a placement; and reflective practice.

Note that all those discerning a call to lay pastoral ministry will have to undergo a DBS check and safeguarding training.

Next steps

If you think you might be called to serve God in lay pastoral ministry, talk with your incumbent or chaplain. They will be able to help you discern God's calling.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about your sense of call to lay ministry, please e-mail the Revd Dr Raewynne Whiteley, Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry, at raewynne.whiteley@southwark.anglican.org

Find out more about pastoral ministry in Southwark on our website at southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/ministry/discipleship-ministry/lay-ministries/pastoral



The Diocese of
Southwark



Pastoral ministry

Are you called to care for others?

Walking
Welcoming
Growing

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WENDY STEPHENS

Wendy serves as a full-time prison chaplain at HMP Wandsworth, something that grew out of her original volunteer ministry there.



Are you called to care for others?

Pastoral Ministers are at the forefront of practical, Christ-centred pastoral care, seeking to bring wholeness and well-being to the individuals and communities they serve.

Are you someone who:

- enjoys working with people?
- often finds yourself in a caring role with those in need in your family, parish, or community?
- would like to discover how your Christian faith can shape your caring?
- wants to gain more skills in pastoral care?

If the answer is yes, God might be calling you to ministry as a Pastoral Minister.

“Being servants in our communities, and being absolute in our powerlessness, we become a friend to the friendless and an obstacle to no one.”

– Anne Butler, one of the first Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries (SPAs)

Lay pastoral ministry might include:

- coordinating a bereavement support group
- running a parent and toddler group
- helping to run a pastoral care and visiting team within a parish
- volunteering at a local refugee centre
- reaching out to homeless people
- visiting as part of a hospital or prison chaplaincy team
- serving as a London Fire Service volunteer chaplain.

What does becoming a Pastoral Minister give you?

- Affirmation of God’s call by the wider Church.
- Tailored training and ongoing support.
- A learning community.
- An opportunity to reflect as you go.

There are three pathways for pastoral ministry:

Affirmed pastoral ministry

Affirmed Pastoral Visitors or Assistants are part of the pastoral care team in a parish. They provide basic pastoral care including visiting and other forms of pastoral support, and work under the supervision of the incumbent or other staff member or a Commissioned or Licensed Pastoral Minister.

They are selected by the local parish and do introductory training on pastoral care from a Christian perspective, listening skills, and boundaries and confidentiality.

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MARIE WILLIAMS

Marie serves at the parish of Holy Saviour in Croydon, where the focus of her ministry is on the Black Theology Book Club and the deanery’s Black History in the Making project. She is also helping the church to become “Bereavement Friendly”.



Commissioned Pastoral Ministers (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries)

Commissioned Pastoral Ministers work as part of a team in a parish or the wider community. They may co-ordinate pastoral ministry and train other adults involved in affirmed pastoral ministry, and work under the supervision of the incumbent or other staff member, or a supervisor in any agency through which they may minister.

Discernment and selection for commissioned pastoral ministry is coordinated by the Vocations Team with the Discipleship and Ministry team. There are two components to the training, each of which take a year. The first is the Bishop’s Certificate, *Growing in Life and Faith*, which is offered both in-person and online by the Diocese. This includes learning about the Bible; what Christians believe; what it means to be Anglican; and how we live out our faith.