

Sabbaticals for Clergy in the Diocese of Durham

1. As part of the CMD provision the diocese offers a limited number of sabbaticals for clergy each year.
2. Candidates for sabbaticals will normally be nominated through the 'Pastoral Conversation' scheme.
3. Nominations must be endorsed by the relevant Archdeacon, or equivalent.
4. Nominated candidates should meet with the Director of Ministry to prepare a 'Sabbatical Proposal Document'.
5. The candidate will then send the proposal document to the Bishop of Jarrow (a copy must be sent to the Director of Ministry).
6. The bishop will then either authorise the sabbatical, ask to meet the candidate or decline to authorise. If the sabbatical is authorised a letter will be sent, copied to the Director of Ministry, Churchwardens, Area Dean, Archdeacon and Diocesan Bishop.

Notes

- (i) A 'sabbatical' is a period of three months in which the minister is excused duties in order to engage in a project or set of activities that will promote personal and spiritual renewal.
- (ii) Sabbaticals are not holidays and so the three month period is over and above annual leave and is supervised by a mentor.
- (iii) The minister is responsible for arranging ministerial cover during the sabbatical.
- (iv) A diocesan grant of £750 is paid to all who are awarded sabbaticals. Currently the budget allows for 5 grants per year
- (v) The 'Sabbatical Proposal Document' is key to this whole process. There is no form to fill in but the candidates are advised to prepare this with the help of the Director of Ministry and to ensure that the following issues are covered:

- (a) Personal background in ministry – length of service.
- (b) Proposed dates.
- (c) Some idea of how time will be spent.
- (d) An indication of how the grant will be spent and whether further funding will be sought in the form of a Special Clergy Development Grant from the Council for Ministry.
- (e) Any specific goals, hopes, agendas.
- (f) Assurance that Churchwardens, Area Dean, family, etc. are supportive.
- (g) Commitment to give an account of the sabbatical after the event either in writing or some other medium or by participating in a post-sabbatical workshop.

Stephen Cherry
25th January 2008