

FAN THE FLAME



CME NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your CME newsletter where each quarter we'll provide you with loads of details of upcoming courses, book recommendations, a wellbeing update, handy contacts and much more. Our hope is that it will help *'fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands'* (2 Tim. 1:6) and flourish in the role to which you have been called.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meet Stephanie from Property.
- Learn about new retirement provision.
- Recommendations for reading.
- Wellbeing from Canon Neil Kelley.
- Dates for your diary, both inside and outside the diocese.

HANDY CONTACT - STEPHANIE WORSWICK

I've been married to my husband, Greg, for 34 years, and together we have two wonderful grown-up children, of whom I am incredibly proud. We also share our home with Max, our mischievous tabby cat. After leaving school at 15, I began my career with British Telecom, where I worked for 32 years before joining the Diocese. I have now had the privilege of serving as Property Secretary for the past 10 years. When I'm not working, you'll probably find me at Man City watching the football or out and about with friends. There's always somewhere to go and something to do, and as my husband loves to remind me, I simply can't say no! I thoroughly enjoy my role and am fortunate to work with such a supportive and friendly team. If you ever have a housing issue, please do give us a call. We're always happy to help! (stephanie.worswick@blackburn.anglican.org)

Website: www.blackburn.anglican.org/training-grants

CME Officer: mike.print@blackburn.anglican.org

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INTRODUCING FINANCIAL WELLBEING SERVICES



For many in ministry, thinking about retirement housing or long-term finances can feel distant or daunting. Through our [Enabling Choice](#) conversations with clergy, we heard a clear need for practical, personalised support that reflects different stages of ministry and helps build confidence for the future.

In response, we developed our [Financial Wellbeing Services](#), complementing the support already offered by our pensions and housing teams. Through tools, coaching, guidance, support with home ownership and savings, and connections to specialist advisers, we're here to help you explore your options and make informed decisions throughout your financial wellbeing journey.

Financial tools and coaching: We've partnered with financial wellbeing planner, Maji, to provide online tools that help clergy understand their finances and plan for goals such as saving, home ownership and retirement. Eligible clergy can also access free, confidential one-to-one financial coaching to help them explore their options and make informed decisions with confidence.

Independent financial advice: When regulated financial advice is needed, clergy can access discounted services through Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS). Eligible clergy may also be offered

support towards paid-for advice at key life stages.

Kickstart to Saving: Newly ordained clergy can apply for a savings grant of up to £1,000, paid in two stages. The grant is designed to help build savings in the early years of ministry, supporting future goals such as home ownership or retirement.

Finance Hub: The [Finance Hub](#) brings together practical tools, guidance, events and church-specific services in one place. It helps clergy explore financial and housing options, track progress towards goals and connect with local advisers for additional support.

Local Advisers: Local Advisers offer one-to-one conversations to help clergy explore housing options, financial wellbeing and long-term planning. They can answer questions, signpost useful resources and connect clergy with trusted organisations for specialist support where needed.

Events and webinars: We offer a programme of online and in-person events covering a range of financial wellbeing topics, delivered both nationally and in partnership with dioceses.

Support with home ownership: We're exploring ways to help clergy onto the housing ladder during ministry, including support with building deposits and connections to regulated providers. Further developments in this area will be announced as they become available.

Get in touch today: To get started, visit the [Finance Hub](#) and register today to discover our latest events, guides and articles. You can also book an appointment with Revd Helen Coffey, your local adviser [here](#), to explore the support available and discuss your individual circumstances.

THE REVD CANON NEIL KELLEY
ASSISTANT ARCHDEACON (CLERGY WELLBEING)



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
One of the great privileges of ministry is that no two days are ever quite the same. We are invited into moments of profound joy and deep sorrow, into ordinary conversations and holy encounters. Yet the very richness of ministry can sometimes leave little room to pause, reflect, and attend to our own wellbeing.

As clergy, we spend much of our lives helping others make sense of their experiences. We encourage people to pray, reflect, seek wisdom, and recognise God's presence in their lives. Yet we do not always give ourselves the same gift.

I want to encourage each of us to find simple and sustainable ways of reflecting on our ministry. Reflection is not an added burden or another task on an already crowded list. Rather, it is a means of receiving God's grace, gaining perspective, and recognising where the Spirit is at work.

Whether through prayer, journalling, ministerial or pastoral supervision...

spiritual accompaniment, or simply taking a few quiet moments at the end of the day using the Examen, reflective practice helps us notice both blessings and pressures. Increasing numbers of clergy are discovering pastoral supervision as a particularly valuable tool for resilience and sustainable ministry. It offers a structured, safe, and prayerful space to explore our experiences, recognise patterns, and attend to the emotional and spiritual currents that shape our work.

Healthy ministry is not sustained by determination alone. Jesus himself withdrew to pray, rested when he was weary, and entrusted work to others. His pattern of life reminds us that we are human beings before we are ministers. Our wellbeing matters not only for our own sake, but also for the communities we serve. When we cultivate reflective habits, we often discover renewed resilience, greater self-awareness, and a deeper appreciation of God's presence in our work.

Above all, reflection is not about measuring performance or striving for perfection. It is about creating space to listen: to God, to ourselves, and to the experiences that shape our ministry. In that space, we are reminded that we are held by God's grace long before we are sustained by our own efforts. With every blessing, Neil.

Email: Canon Neil Kelley:
neil.kelley@blackburn.anglican.org

Visit the Diocesan website for more:
www.blackburn.anglican.org/clergy-wellbeing



JUST 90

Just 90: is a new programme of clergy-only discussions centred around topics which affect those who are ordained in particular ways. There will be some input from a speaker, chance for discussion and networking, all with tea, coffee, and a smile... crucially all served within 90 minutes or less. Dates for the diary:

20th October, 1-2.30pm - 'Personal Spirituality' - The Revd Nicholas Heale at Clayton House.

20th April, 1-2.30pm - 'Singleness in Ministry' - The Rt Revd Philip North at Bishop's House.

Topics being considered:

Creating healthy boundaries;
Healthy Lifestyle;
Clergy Couples;
Parenting in a Vicarage;

What topics would you like to see discussed? Email the CME Officer.

Blackburn Cathedral

Loads of great events taking place at our cathedral in our centenary year.
Click here for more: [Events Guide](#)

EMMANUEL CLERGY STUDY DAYS

We're now able to let you know about the exciting new voluntary study days you're welcome to book on to:

CME Session - **Preaching Mark**, by The Revd Peter Whittington.

Format - **Online**; When - **15 October 2026**, 10:00am to 1:00pm.

CME Session - **Ethics and Leadership**, by Revd Claire Cooke.

Format - **Online**; When - **12 November 2026**, 10:00am to 1:00pm

To book 'Just 90' or an Emmanuel Clergy Study days go to the CME page on the diocesan website [here](#).

Courses by external providers:

College of Preachers

www.collegeofpreachers.co.uk/events

St George's House

www.stgeorghouse.org

CPAS

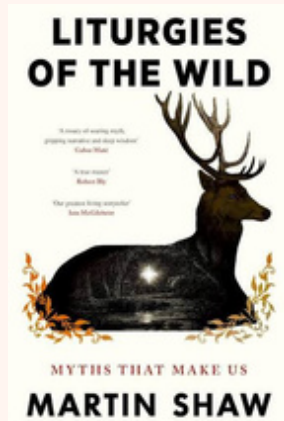
<https://www.cpas.org.uk/event>

Pusey House

[Conferences](#)

Pilgrim Places Conference

[Walking Together 2026](#)

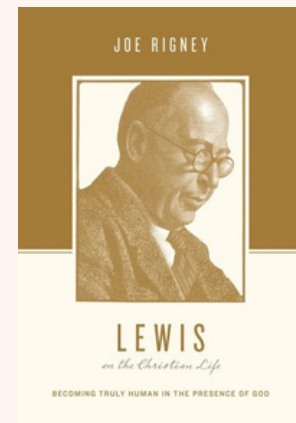


The Editor writes:

LITURGIES OF THE WILD - SHAW

'We have come from God, and inevitably the myths woven by us, though they contain error, will also reflect a splintered fragment of the true light, the eternal truth that is with God' writes JRR Tolkien. In our modern world we have left behind myths, true or otherwise, and largely turned to dry facts, which neither inspire nor teach us how to live. Martin Shaw is on a mission to change that. To encourage us to return to myths in an effort to understand ourselves and our world. In some sense he has been on this mission his whole life but it was only recently when his mission led him to Jesus, that he found in Him the True Myth, the One who is Truth Himself, and to which all truth points and finds its beginning and ending. His book, *Liturgies of the Wild*, is the result of taking all of that lifelong learning and refracting it through the prism of Jesus Christ. As Tolkien makes clear *'legends and myths are largely made of 'truth', and indeed present aspects of it that can only be received in this mode'* and Shaw sets about telling some of these legends in a way which will leave your heart, much like a fast walk up a hill, bruised but better by far for the work out. As Justin Brierley comments this book shows *'a living faith in the company of a wild God. Read it... and then read it again. It will do your should much good'*. A brilliant book which I shall certainly be returning to!

Ebury Vine, 230 pages, £12.99



The Editor writes:

LITURGIES OF THE WILD - SHAW

Imagine sitting in a pub with CS Lewis, it doesn't have to be the Eagle & Child, Oxford, your local will do. In your hand is your favourite tippie, and in Lewis' is a tankard of bitter. The fire is burning in the grate and you and a guy called Rigney you've just been introduced to are chatting about theology with the writer of the Narnia Chronicles. And what an evening it is as you go through systematically Lewis' vision of the Christian life. Rigney and Lewis don't always agree but it sure is fun watching them debate, and you can tell that despite their disagreements Rigney really appreciates Lewis. This book will challenge you theologically, ask you deep questions about your own discipleship, all in a gentle and loving way, as if you're actually sat having a nice pint. Why is this book good for priests? Well firstly your own discipleship, we need to be following Jesus more and more faithfully in order to lead our people. Secondly, because lots of people will have heard of, if not read, Lewis and there are so many nuggets you can use in sermons and bible studies. Thirdly because Lewis is, to a large extent, outside of any tradition, which enables us both to use what he offers whilst also critiquing the rest. Finally because this book is just so well written, and engages in loving disagreement so well, that it will help us to do the same. Warning... you will want to go out and buy more Lewis books as a result.

Crossway, 320 pages, £15.99

CLERGY DEVELOPMENT

EMMANUEL STUDY SESSIONS

Personal Spirituality

The Revd Nicholas Heale



Clayton House



20 October 2026



1pm-2.30pm

Singleness in Ministry

The Rt Revd Philip North



Bishop's House



20 April 2027



1pm-2.30pm

JUST 90 SEMINARS

Preaching Mark

The Revd Peter Whittington



Online



15 October 2026



10am-1pm

Ethics and Leadership

The Revd Claire Cooke



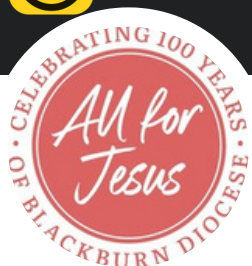
Online



12 November 2026



10am-1pm



For more info or
to book scan the
QR code



Emmanuel
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE