



OPT-IN

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLERGY

2026

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# Welcome

Professional development is one of the three core pillars that support clergy wellbeing and ministry development. Together with professional supervision and ministry review, it forms part of the shared practices that help sustain faithful, reflective, and healthy ministry across our Diocese.

In accordance with the guidelines of General Synod, the Anglican Diocese of Perth has adopted minimum professional development requirements for all clergy: 30 hours over a three-year period, comprising **12 hours of mandated components** (3 hours each in Family and Domestic Violence, Ethics in Ministry, Professional Responsibilities and Boundaries, and Safe Ministry), and **18 hours of elective professional development**, chosen by you.

In 2026, the Diocese's mandatory professional development focus will be **Professional Responsibilities and Boundaries**. A series of session dates will be published shortly, and all active clergy are required to register for, and attend, one of these offerings.

Your elective professional development is intentionally flexible, allowing you to respond to the emerging needs of your ministry context, as well as areas of curiosity, growth, and renewal. Conversations with your professional supervisor can be a valuable starting point for discerning these priorities. As we move into the cycle of Ministry Reviews, these processes will also provide rich opportunities for reflection and identification of future learning needs.

I am delighted to share some of the professional development opportunities available to you in 2026. As you begin shaping your [PD plan](#) for the year ahead, I hope these offerings might spark interest, imagination, and engagement. Of course, there are many and varied ways to accumulate professional development hours, all of which are clearly outlined in [Policy 10.7B](#), which I strongly encourage you to review as you embark on a new year of learning and growth.

I wish you well in your professional development endeavours for 2026 and warmly invite you to be in touch if I can support you in any way.



Gill

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# From the Safe Ministry Commission

Professional development, which is sometimes called 'ministry development', involves *The maintenance and enhancement of the knowledge, expertise and competence of ministers throughout their vocation, according to a plan which has been developed with regard to the needs of the minister, the church and society*'.

For some, 'professional' may not be the term of choice for clergy, but it is a commonly used term to refer to the competent and skillful practices of one who holds a licence, qualification or recognition for a particular profession or occupation.

'Professional development' is the broadly accepted phrase for the development of workers in many fields and industries. It is the term which was applied to ministers in the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Using this phrase builds a common understanding and points to a body of accepted wisdom on the ongoing development of workers in many fields of employment and ministry.

Professional development is different to other training because of its relevance to the requirements of the particular context. When a children's minister learns how different ages and stages shape a child's capacity to learn and process information—that is professional development. They are learning what they need to know to be a competent children's minister. When a deacon or priest with responsibility for a parish or organisation learns about the latest changes to compliance laws for child safety—that is professional development. They are learning what they need to know to be a competent parish leader. When a pastoral care worker learns listening skills—that is professional development. And when a school chaplain learns about the developmental, emotional, and spiritual needs of young people, and how best to support them within an educational environment—that too is professional development. In every case, they are gaining the knowledge and skills required to serve with confidence, integrity, and care.

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Historically, ministry (along with many other fields of service and work) had a 'front-ended' approach for gaining necessary skills and competencies. Clergy would do their training in a theological college and on graduating, would then be considered to be equipped with all that was needed for effective ministry. They were expected to use their foundational theological degree and to simply 'apply' it for the practice of their ministry for the term of their vocation.

Our contemporary understanding of ministry shows that front-ending is not sufficient. Many ordained clergy could easily create a long list titled 'All the things they didn't teach me at theological college'. Many practical aspects of ministry are not part of undergraduate theological degrees, many aspects can only be learnt 'on the job' in the parish or chaplaincy or diocese, or in an 'action learning' environment. Changes to legislative and compliance requirements, along with fast-paced changes in society necessitate an ongoing approach to learning about ministry and mission.

Adults often learn best at the time when they have a clear need for learning that has relevance for their current situation. This suggests a cleric's most teachable moments will be experienced as they progress in their vocations.

Finally, whilst truth is eternal, knowledge is not static—it evolves as ministers think, seek and ask questions. Ongoing, life-long learning and development are best practice tools for flourishing ministry. The best professional development is the development that is best suited for the individual and their context. In conversation with their professional supervisor, and flowing from their annual ministry review, clergy can set goals for learning for the coming year/s which will direct their professional development in a focused way.



# Archbishop's Certificate

Here at Wollaston we are excited to be launching our new Archbishop's Certificate program, beginning in 2026. We hope that everyone will be able to find a module they find interesting, or even better, enrol for the whole certificate.

Theological education is the most exciting journey I have ever embarked on – I am hoping that we will be part of your journey in 2026. Welcome to Wollaston.

*Meg Warner, Principal*

I warmly commend the new Archbishop's Certificate program to you, and hope that you will accept the Principal's invitation to embark on this journey in 2026.

*The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO DD*

## Module Two

### ***Pilgrimage and Spiritual Walking***

Bishop Hans Christiansen and Friends

Tuesday 19 May, Tuesday 26 May and Tuesday 2 June, 5.00 – 7.00 pm

Saturday 23 May | 10.00 am – 3.00 pm | WTC (no cost)

[Register here.](#)

## Module Three

### ***Mark: A Gospel of Urgency***

Robert Myles

Wednesdays, 7, 14, 21 and 28 October | 5.30 – 7.00 pm | WTC (no cost)

[Register here.](#)

[\*\*DOWNLOAD PDF\*\*](#)

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# Thursdays at Wollaston

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## Weddings:

## A refresher course in the legalities

The legislation around the registration of marriage has changed in the past few years. Also, celebrants are now expected to complete all of the legal documentation online via the Marriage Celebrants Portal. This session will go through all the relevant procedures to refresh your minds (or perhaps inform you for the first time) on how to navigate through the legal requirements as a celebrant.

Together we will explore the legal requirements of the Marriage Act (1961) and familiarise ourselves with the Marriage Celebrants Portal

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May | 9.30am - 12.30pm | WTC | no cost  
Facilitated by Peter Boyland

[Register here](#)



# Thursdays at Wollaston

## 2 Neurodivergence and faith work

Everyone is neurodiverse – we all have different brains.

But some people have neurodivergent conditions such as Autism, Tourette's, ADHD or Dyslexia.

This session will build a basic understanding of common neurodivergent conditions, and explore how churches can be safe and inclusive environments for everyone, including neurodivergent clergy.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June | 9.30am - 12.30pm | WTC | \$30

Facilitated by Chris Bedding

[Register here](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

## 3 Trauma-informed pastoral care

This session introduces clergy to the principles and practices of trauma-informed ministry. Participants will explore what trauma is, how it affects the body, mind, and spirit, and the ways it can shape a person's behaviour, relationships, and engagement with faith communities. The workshop offers practical guidance for creating safe, supportive pastoral spaces; recognising signs of trauma; responding with sensitivity; and understanding the limits of one's role. Attention is given to communication, boundaries, referral pathways, and the importance of avoiding re-traumatisation. Throughout, the focus remains on equipping clergy to offer compassionate, grounded, and wise pastoral care to those carrying the weight of traumatic experiences.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August | 9.30am - 12.30pm | WTC | \$30

Facilitated by Sue Lodge-Calvert

[Register here](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

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# Thursdays at WTC

## 4 Dementia Awareness

An accessible introduction to dementia designed for those in ordained ministry. This session explores what dementia is, the different types, causes, and stages, and the ways it can affect individuals and their families. Participants will consider the value of person-centred approaches, develop confidence in communicating well, and learn how to recognise changed behaviours and supportive strategies. The workshop also touches on good practice in reporting and documentation.

Throughout, the focus remains on the pastoral, spiritual, and practical implications for clergy as they accompany people living with dementia and those who care for them.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September | 9.30am - 12.30pm | WTC | \$30

Facilitated by the Amana Living Training Institute

[Register here](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

## 5 AI and Church Ministry

What is 'Artificial Intelligence' and what are the risks and the possibilities associated with it?

Join this session for an open, theological exploration of this rapidly developing technology and its ramifications for clergy, and for those under their pastoral care.

In what ways (if any) might we legitimately use AI in our creative endeavours, such as the writing of sermons, hymns and prayers?

How are we to minister to people who are using AI to receive practical or even spiritual guidance, or who have formed deeper forms of 'relationship' with this technology?

We will begin with an introduction to the technology (which will assume no special technical knowledge), and then engage with these questions - and more - as a group.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October | 9.30am - 12.30pm | WTC | \$30

Facilitated by Grahame Bowland

[Register here](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

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# Thursdays at WTC

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## Establishing Personal Presence Online: A Ministry of Visibility

Our online presence is an extension of our personal ministry. This session explores how clergy and Church leaders can represent themselves online with authenticity, warmth, and professionalism. Discover how to engage meaningfully in digital spaces while keeping clear boundaries and reflecting your vocational identity.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October | 9.30am - 12.30pm | WTC | \$30  
Facilitated by Ming Johnson

[Register here](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

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# Doing Theology Together and Preachers' Day Out

## Doing Theology Together *Out of the Whirlwind*

An introduction to the Book of Job and to reading Job as trauma literature

Facilitated by Sue Boorer and Meg Warner

Thursday 18 June | 10.30 am – 3.30 pm | WTC | \$25 (including lunch)

[Register here.](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

## ***Bible 101***

An Introduction to Biblical Studies for Beginners

Facilitated by Robert Myles and Meg Warner

Thursday 1 October | 10.30 am – 3.30 pm | WTC | \$25 (including lunch)

[Register here.](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

## Preachers' Day Out ***Another Look at the Gospel of John***

An exploration of some of the issues in the Gospel of John, for readers and for preachers

Facilitated by Robert Myles and Friends

Thursday 12 November | 10.30am – 3.30 pm | WTC | \$25 (including lunch)

[Register here.](#) | payment details will be circulated closer to the date.

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# UD Intensives

Wollaston Theological College will offer two week-long intensive units through the University of Divinity in the second half of 2026, each well suited to clergy seeking focused professional development.

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## **Decolonising the Gospels**

*21st – 25th September*

Taught by Associate Professor Robert Myles, this unit explores how postcolonial and decolonial perspectives open fresh interpretive possibilities within the Gospels.

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## **Battlelines: Religion, Gender and Sexuality**

*23rd – 29th November*

Led by Associate Professor Mark Jennings, this unit examines the contested intersections of religion, gender, and sexuality in contemporary society and the church.

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Both units may be taken for credit toward a University of Divinity award or audited at a significantly reduced fee, with no assessment requirements for audit students.

If you are interested in finding out more about these or other offerings, please visit the website <https://wollaston.edu.au/study-at-wollaston/> or contact [info@wollaston.edu.au](mailto:info@wollaston.edu.au).

Those interested in extending their theological study through a Higher Degree by Research are also welcome to contact the Dean of Research at [research@wollaston.edu.au](mailto:research@wollaston.edu.au) to discuss pathways and possibilities.

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# Clergy PD offerings from Elizabeth Smith

The Reverend Dr Elizabeth Smith is offering these 3-hour PD offerings for clergy.

Location: 7 Thomas Street Bayswater 6053

Group size: Min 4, max 8

Cost: \$30 (includes good coffee / tea and a bowl of soup for lunch)

Expressions of interest or to register:

[revdrelizabethsmith@outlook.com](mailto:revdrelizabethsmith@outlook.com) | 0417 348 997

## Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue Discussion

Stewards of Creation: A Hope-Filled Ecology | Tuesday 17th March, 9.30am – 12.30pm

*Capability to be developed:*

Theological foundations for the Fifth Mark of Mission

*Activity:*

Discussion of the Anglican-Orthodox Agreed Statement, and of ways to engage with the material in various ministry contexts (parish, chaplaincy etc).

*Outcome:*

You will have a good understanding of the theological method and findings of the Agreed Statement and develop potential ministry applications of the material for your ministry context.

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## Prayers for Various Occasions | Monday 23rd March, 9.30am – 12.30pm

APBA has a stash of these, but there are so many gaps! This session will equip you to fill some of the gaps as they arise in your context, while keeping the good Anglican norms of brevity, good grammar, decent theology, and perhaps even beauty.

*Capability to be developed:*

liturgical leadership

*Activity:*

Input, with scenarios to explore, including the needs brought by participants, and practical work on putting words together well, for a variety of contexts.

*Outcome:*

You will have the beginnings of a stash of useful prayers for various occasions, and the confidence to tackle new occasions as they arise in your ministry.

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# Clergy PD offerings from Elizabeth Smith

**Preaching: Consider your audience** | Tuesday 14th April, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Let's assume you've got something good to say in your sermon. Now let's take into account the people who will be listening. How does our audience influence our communication methods?

*Capability to be developed:*

Preaching skills

*Activity:*

Input and discussion with a small group, exploring the diversity of our hearers and some techniques for reaching more of them, more effectively, with the Good News as we preach.

*Outcome:*

You will be alert to the ways different people "hear" a sermon, and have strategies to adapt your preaching according in a variety of ministry contexts.

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**Making Mini-Liturgies** | Wednesday May 13th, 12.30 – 3.30pm

When it's a pastoral situation or an outside-the-Sunday-box opportunity, and Eucharist or Daily Prayer are too much or not enough – how can we craft some simple common prayer to suit?

*Capability to be developed:*

Liturgical leadership

*Activity:*

Input, with some case studies and scenarios to explore, developing guidelines for responsible liturgical creativity.

*Outcome:*

You will have confidence to adapt trusted forms and appropriate language and actions for simple, special-occasional services in your ministry context.

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# Study Leave and Study Grants

Clergy are entitled to two weeks of study leave after every 12 months of full-time equivalent ministry in the Diocese to further develop and enhance their ministry skills and knowledge in ways that will benefit a parish, allied ministry or the Diocese.

Certain provisions regarding reporting of one's learning, and the application to one's role, are required, and can be found [here](#).

Financial grants towards the cost of study can be applied for using this [form](#).

## Contact Information

The Ven Gill Rookyard

*Archdeacon for Ministry Wellbeing and Development*

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