

*Introduction to
National Deacon
School
2018*



INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL DEACON SCHOOL **A residential school of formation for deacons.**

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**Deacon School in 2018 will be held between
Friday 20th April and Wednesday 25th April .**

**The venue will be the St Margaret's College, off Papanui
Road in Christchurch**

Accommodation and Meals

St Margaret's College is conveniently located in central Christchurch on the bus route and close to local shops. Entrance is from 12 Winchester Street Merivale. All linen is supplied and there is a mix of single and double accommodation.

From the School: "we have superb facilities and we are confident you will enjoy our award-winning grounds. We have three boarding houses at St Margaret's College. Kilburn House, Cranmer House and Julius House. All houses consist of bedrooms, bathrooms, laundry facilities, common rooms and small tearooms. Our qualified chefs and catering staff provide high quality food and service. Our options include breakfast, buffet lunches, and dinners."

Transport. Participants will need to arrange their own transport to Christchurch but pick up from and delivery to our airport will be arranged.

**Full details of this year's programme will be available early February.
It is essential that all registrations are in by February 14th, 2017.**

one-page worksheet after each topic (10) and regular communication with the tutor, Anne Russell-Brighty. A letter of completion will be awarded at the end – one which is linked with attendance at the Deacon School.

A small fee covers printing and administration costs. A Study Guide and a Book of Readings will be supplied. Students can access text books as required through libraries such as the John Kinder (Auckland) and Theology House (Christchurch) both of which offer postal borrowing. There may also be ex-students who would be willing to lend or sell their copies. This can be arranged through Deacon School.

The aim of offering the study this way is to make it as accessible and enjoyable as possible. Even if you haven't done academic work before do give it a go!

Please direct all enquiries to Anne Russell-Brighty.
Email: asr.deacon@gmail.com or telephone 03 3848396.
This information can also be found on the website
www.chhdeacons.wordpress.com

Year Two. The Candle: prophetic ministry

The Story of Deacons /our story

Pastoral Skills – Ministry to the Sick and Dying, Grief and Loss

Leadership Skills : Working with Conflict

The Anglican Way: leading Funerals, Extended Communion

Deacons and Social Justice. Our country: the Treaty of Waitangi

Diaconal ministry in action and critical reflection on our observations.

Year Three. The Doorway: ministry of leadership

The Story of Deacons /our story

Pastoral Skills – Crisis Ministry, Mental Health, Violence and addictions

Leadership Skills: the kinds of leadership, the use and abuse of power

The Anglican Way: Preaching, Christian Formation, Baptism

Deacons and Mission: Evangelisation, Christianity and other religions

Diaconal ministry in action and critical reflection on our observations.

Academic Study: The Diaconate in the Church

Deacon School does not provide the general biblical and theological study required by ordinands so is seen as an addition to academic training. In the past some dioceses have encouraged deacons in training to pursue academic study of the history of the diaconate through the Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies (EIDTS). With the closure of EIDTS, deacons have asked for the opportunity to take part in a modified form of the study as part of their Deacon School experience.

All those who have not yet studied The Diaconate in the Church as an EIDTS paper are offered the opportunity to take part in extra-mural study of the theology and history of the Order of Deacons using some of the material previously used in that paper.

Requirements. It is expected that people will complete this at their own pace but a year should be more than enough. There will be less reading and a lighter requirements than for an NZQA paper, for example. However there will still be an expectation of completion of a

The Director

The School will be directed by the Venerable Anne Russell-Brighty (B.A.Hons, LTH, Dip. ADTL), who has formal training and experience in community development, adult teaching, and ministry with ageing people. She has been a vocational deacon since 1997 and her academic studies included the history of the diaconate. She is an archdeacon within the Diocese of Christchurch with responsibility for support of vocational deacons there, wrote and tutored the EIDTS paper “The Diaconate in the Church” and in 2005 her Study Leave topic was the renewal of the diaconate in this Province.

As required Anne will invite suitably qualified tutors and leaders to present the various workshops that make up the residential component of the School.

The History of Deacon School

The concept of a residential school for deacons was developed in the Diocese of Christchurch following recommendations in a Study Leave Report (2005) by Anne Russell-Brighty. The School was to be a place where deacons and deacons in training would live together, pray together, and learn from one another. The disciplines of spiritual growth would be encouraged - a discipline of prayer, study of the Scriptures and theological reflection. This was to be a place where ministry areas particularly pertinent to deacons would be explored, and skills such as liturgical roles for deacons would be taught. It was hoped that a Deacon School would be a major boost to the renewal and development of the diaconate believing that well-trained confident deacons seen ‘at work’ would be the most effective way of making known this aspect of the Church’s ministry and encouraging diaconal ministry in all faith communities.

In 2008 the first residential school was held in Christchurch directed by Anne. Deacon School ran there for three years and a curriculum of topics was developed. 2012-2014 Deacon School was run as an annual week-long residential gathering in the North Island (Taranaki) following that same three year curriculum and between 2015 and 2017 it ran in Wellington.

The School is structured as a residential week held annually so that formation and training can be offered in a way that is accessible for people who are unable to take part in full-time residential ministry formation. It is particularly suitable for people who have employment or other commitments. The School is an intensive experience of diaconal community and story. It is expected that all who attend Deacon School have already been accepted for training by their diocese and given some financial support to attend.

Why a National Deacon School?

The School has been enthusiastically welcomed by deacons in this Province and around two thirds of all current vocational deacons in Tikanga Pakeha have now attended. The renewal of the diaconate is still very much a ‘work in progress’ in this country; many deacons still experience a high level of misunderstanding about their role and a lack of clarity in ministry formation which varies considerably from diocese to diocese.

The work of Deacon School has enabled deacons to have a stronger sense of their vocation as well as confidence in their formation. In a review at Deacon School 2014 the consensus among the deacons who had come from five dioceses was that national formation such as they had experienced is an effective and strategic way to not only strengthen the renewal of the diaconate as a whole but the ministry of each individual minister. Deacons who had already attended the School believed that their ministry would benefit from having ongoing ministry formation at such a gathering held annually.

From 2014 onwards, with approval from the Tikanga Pakeha Ministry Council, application has been made to the St John’s College Trust Board for a grant to develop this ongoing work of offering a National Deacons School. We are grateful to the Board for its support which makes it possible for non-stipendiary deacons to attend.

Learning Objectives

1. Training for ordained ministry as a deacon in this Province within the tradition of the Anglican Church.
2. Formation in prayer and spiritual life upon which to base diaconal ministry.
3. Training for liturgical responsibilities as a deacon.
4. Training for servant leadership within the community and parish-based context within which deacons work. Formation in leadership roles guided by the Five Fold Mission Tasks (ACC6,8) and our three Tikanga context.

Instruction methods.

Some pre-reading and written work .

A daily programme of guided spiritual reading and prayer.

A combination of interactive and reflection based learning.

Field experience and observation of diaconal ministry projects.

Workshops and tutorials by people who are suitably qualified.

Participants are required to complete a self-assessment of learning .



The Three Year Curriculum

The three year curriculum of topics used at Deacon School has been developed based on the guidelines of the working group for Theological Education for the Anglican Communion (TEAC) and drawing on the experience of deacon formation in other provinces and denominations.

Year One. The Bowl and Towel: serving ministry

The Story of Deacons /our story

Pastoral Skills - Listening and Responding.

Leaderships Skills—working in groups: facilitating and meeting skills.

The Anglican Way: our Prayer Book, liturgical roles of deacons at Eucharist, Reading, Intercessions.

Deacons and Social Justice

Diaconal ministry in action and critical reflection on our observations.