

Training and Learning Grants 2026

The purpose of Training and Learning grants is to promote on-going training, learning and professional development for clergy and Readers in the diocese.

All in-house training and learning is free of charge, and you can find details of our current [CMD programme here](#). Training and Learning grants are available to fund training from external providers. Some examples of providers are [here](#).

All Clergy and Readers have free access to the [Cathedral Library](#), and the [Cathedral Adult Learning](#) programme.

Policy and Criteria

The Board for Mission and Ministry has established criteria for the allocation of grants. The purpose of any allocated grant is to **broaden and deepen** your ministry, and to better equip you for ministry both in your current position and in the light of any likely future deployment. The provision of any grant should also take into account your agreed learning needs – often, arising from an MMDR – and the needs of the Diocese as expressed in *Living God's Love*.

The Mission and Ministry department reserves the right to only award grants where applications meet these criteria.

What can Training and Learning Grants be used for?

1. Training and Learning Grants have previously been used for in-house events. As these are now offered free of charge, grants are only necessary for training provided by external agencies and organisations
2. The Diocese recognises that festivals such as New Wine and Spring Harvest can help in developing your ministry. However, the Training and Learning grant is intended to support focused, intentional professional and ministerial development. Grants for any particular festival are limited to one year in three.
3. Grants may be used for retreats, provided that it is clear that the retreat would enhance your ministerial effectiveness. Examples would include a led retreat on a particular theme (such as Christian poetry), a retreat which follows a recognised spiritual discipline (such as Ignatian prayer and spirituality), or an individually guided retreat (during which the person meets daily with a retreat conductor). Unless one of these elements were included, grants would not normally be given for time away reading, walking or simply being in silence. Please note that a retreat cannot be taken within four months of Extended Study Leave.

4. Grants would not normally be awarded towards acquiring professional skills unrelated to ministry (for example, in accountancy), nor to general "life skills" (for example, driving lessons).
5. Training and Learning Grants may not be used towards travel and accommodation, unless:
 - these are directly relevant to a particular training course
 - the costs are not excessive,
 - the PCC is unable to fund such costs itself.

If there is any uncertainty about the approval of a grant application, this may be referred to your Archdeacon.

How to apply

Applications for Training and Learning Grants for events that are not run by the Diocese need to be made in advance and supported by appropriate confirmation of the event, its cost and how the training will broaden your ministry. Please apply [here](#).

The Responsibility of the PCC

PCCs are strongly encouraged to support the on-going training of their clergy and Readers and should consider providing funding towards on-going training.

PCCs should be reminded of their obligations to support their ministers' development as set out in the Central Stipends Authority's booklet "*The Parochial Expenses of the Clergy - A guide to their reimbursement*". This particularly includes responsibility for travel, books, retreats and annual conferences.

Further grant making bodies:

Further information about other grant making bodies who can support your training and learning is [here](#).