

LLF Roadmap for Coventry Diocese

Dear Clergy Colleagues

Following our Bishop’s Study Day back in January with an introduction to LLF from Dr. Eeva John, we wanted to update you on our progress so far and to give you an idea of how we see engagement with LLF moving forward through the summer and autumn. Encouraging news is that the timescale for running courses and offering feedback has now been extended into January 2022.

**What has happened so far?**

With the help of Area Deans, Deanery Representatives for LLF have been identified. Rev. Gail Phillip (LLF Advocate), Rev. Edmund Newey (Co-advocate) and Emma Crick de Boom (Reconciliation Enabler) have run a Pilot LLF Course with this team of Deanery Reps to enable all those involved to experience the course for themselves first and to familiarise the team with the LLF resources. Introductory presentations to LLF have also been given by the LFF Team at some Deanery Synods. Please do be in touch with us if we can be of help in providing an introductory session in your Deanery. Our contact details, together with details of our Deanery Representatives are given at the end of this document.

**What are our next steps?**

With the help of our Deanery Representatives, we hope to get at least one Pilot Course up and running in each Deanery between now and the end of autumn. Groups of between 6 – 10 in number work best in order to allow enough time for depth of discussion. Each course will require a Facilitator and at least one Co-Facilitator. If the course is to be run online rather than in person, a further Co-Facilitator to manage the tech is recommended.

**What if we’d like to run a course in our parish or benefice?**

A key aim in engaging with LLF is that people experience a diversity of perspectives, views and experience. The course material does provide this to some extent, but experience of the course will be best where the group itself is diverse. You should consider whether your parish context in itself could offer this diversity. It’s also important to be aware that some people may feel more comfortable engaging with LLF outside their own parish setting.

**Facilitating or Co-Facilitating a Course**

Due to the sensitive nature of the issues LLF explores, anyone wishing to facilitate or co-facilitate a course needs to have gone through the relevant safeguarding recommendations for LLF (see below). They should also attend **one** Facilitation Training session. These are available as Zoom meetings organised by the National LLF Team on the following dates:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tues 8th June  | 4 – 6 pm |
| Tues 22nd June | 2 – 4 pm |
| Weds 23rd June | 10 am – 12pm |
| Thurs 24th June | 10 am – 12 pm |
| Mon 28th June | 2 – 4 pm |
| Weds 30th June | 2 – 4 pm |

To book a place on any of these training sessions, please contact Rev. Gail Phillip for further details (revgailvicar.stgiles@gmail.com). We will organise further facilitation training for our Diocese if needed.

**LLF and Safeguarding**

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team has produced a guidance document with specific recommendations for those intending to run an LLF course. For Clergy, this would involve a brief Induction interview with the LLF Advocate or Co-advocate, along with two references – one from the Area Dean and another from a licensed ordained colleague.

Lay leaders will need to complete a safeguarding application form (<https://coventry.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/safeguarding/safeguarding-resources.php>), have an Induction interview as above and two references, including one from their Incumbent. A DBS is not required unless the course is specifically focusing on under-18s or groups of vulnerable adults.

If you would like a copy of this guidance document, please email Gail or Edmund.

**What additional Pastoral Support will be available?**

The LLF material covers aspects of life which are intimate, personal and, for some, sadly may have been a source of pain as well as joy. To make additional support available to those for whom the course may trigger the need for more pastoral support, we have recruited a team of LLF Chaplains, with a mixed range of perspectives on these issues. Chaplains would be available for a maximum of two, one-hour sessions should course participants need to talk further. They will also be key partners in prayer for the LLF process. Please be in touch with us if you would like more information about LLF Chaplains.

**Braver and Safer Document**

The National LLF Team has produced additional pastoral guidance with the ‘Braver and Safer’ document. You can find this through <https://llf.churchofengland.org/pluginfile.php/121/block_html/content/LLF%20-%20Braver%20and%20Safer%20-%20Creating%20spaces%20learning%20together%20well.pdf>

This document provides comprehensive advice on a range of scenarios which could occur through engaging with LLF. It’s well worth a read!

**What if we’re looking for a stepping stone towards LLF?**

It may be that members of your congregation are not used to discussing sensitive issues and that you’d like to equip them more fully before tackling LLF. If so, you might like to explore running the Difference Course. Please contact Emma Crick de Boom for further information.

The Pastoral Principles Course is also now available <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/bishops/pastoral-advisory-group/pastoral-principles>

This is a short course exploring the pastoral principles which underpin engagement with LLF.

**What about timing?**

We’re very aware that Clergy have so much to try to get to grips with at the moment, not least the challenges of transitioning our churches out of lockdown. Although some may see engaging with LLF as a potential means of re-establishing stronger community, others may have real concerns about timing, wellbeing and capacity. We hope offering Deanery courses initially will be a support and provide some feedback to the National process by January 2022. We would want to encourage you to move at the pace which seems best in your context, whilst seeking to offer the experience of engaging with LLF to the widest possible spectrum of people so that the process of listening, learning and discerning from the whole people of God can be authentic.

**What is the feedback process for LLF?**

Once an LLF Course has been completed, feedback can be offered through the online survey available on the LLF Learning Hub under the LLF Course section. Please let us know if courses are running and we can provide further details about feeding back, together with our Diocesan code for the online survey.

**And finally . . .**

It has been heartening to see how much those involved in our Pilot Course have enjoyed exploring the wide range of LLF material, finding it stimulating, challenging and accessible. Though we hope, come the summer and autumn, it will be possible to run courses much more in person, the Pilot has shown that the experience can also work well online and that this can even have some advantages. We can offer guidance for those who may need to run the course in this way. We will provide further information about Deanery Pilot Courses as they become available. Please be in touch with Gail or Edmund if you are interested in facilitating or co-facilitating a course yourself or have others in your context who might be.

With our very best wishes

Gail, Edmund and Emma

**LLF Team Contact Information**

To discuss engagement with LLF further, please contact:

Rev. Gail Phillip revgailvicar.stgiles@gmail.com

(LLF Advocate) 024 7664 5030 or 07794643335

 Rest day: Friday

Rev. Edmund Newey rector@rugbychurch.org.uk

(LLF Co-Advocate) 01788 574313 or 07414 904931

 Rest day: Saturday

Emma Crick de Boom Emma.CrickdeBoom@coventry.anglican.org

(Diocesan Reconciliation Enabler) 0737 661 5262 (Mon – Fri)

**Deanery Representative Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rev. Buff Forbes-Stone**vicarstcaths@gmail.com **Ann Tuesley**anntuesley80@gmail.com  | Coventry East & North |
| **Rev. Alison Hampton**churchesofardenrev@gmail.com  | Fosse & Alcester |
| **Rev. Mark Bratton**markbratton@berkswellchurch.org.uk  | Kenilworth & Coventry South |
| **Maggie Seldon**maggieseldon@btinternet.com **Rev. Gail Phillip**revgailvicar.stgiles@gmail.com  | Nuneaton(Deanery Pilot Course to run in June/July) |
| **Rev. Edmund Newey**rector@rugbychurch.org.uk  | Rugby |
| **Christine Dunn**christinedunn339@hotmail.co.uk  | Warwick & Leamington |
| **Julie Cox**Julie.cox357@btinternet.com  | Shipston & Southam(Plans for course in September) |

The LLF Learning Hub with its wealth of information and resources can be accessed through:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>