

**Wellbeing Discussion Facilitators**

**Background and Information Paper**

These new roles have been created to facilitate the discussions in PCCs and Deanery Synod meetings as part of the Clergy Wellbeing Covenant process.

The Covenant is a document which has been developed to support and care for clergy and their wellbeing. Revd Canon Simon Butler, Head of the Clergy Covenant Working Group, said

*“Our vision is that the work of supporting clergy in their ministry will become an integral part of the life of the Church and part of the DNA of every aspect of our mission and ministry.”*

The Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing was made an Act of Synod at the February 2020 Group of Sessions of the General Synod. The Covenant is the expressed view of the mind of the Church of England on issues relating to clergy care and wellbeing.

Further information on the Covenant, together with additional resources can be found at : <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/clergy-resources/national-clergy-hr/supporting-clergy-health-and-wellbeing/covenant>

The Diocesan Synod is wanting every PCC in the Diocese to discuss the Clergy Wellbeing Covenant (by using some questions provided) before Summer 2022.

The Covenant for the Care and Wellbeing of Clergy envisages a commitment that is shared three ways: there is the commitment of the clergy themselves, the commitment of the local church and the commitment of the national church. There are ideas within the Covenant for all three parties to engage in "big conversations".

These are voluntary posts, envisaged to require a minimum time commitment of approximately 3 hours per fortnight. The roles are open to ordained and lay applicants.

The suitable candidates will have an understanding of the Clergy Wellbeing Covenant and a willingness to enable others to engage in conversation. Suitable candidates will not be aiming to promote an agenda, but will be faithful to, and have faith in, the Clergy Wellbeing Covenant process.

As a voluntary position, there is no renumeration for the role but travelling, training and other expenses incurred in carrying out the role would be reimbursed.

Applications should be made by returning the completed application form to Liz Geddes, liz.geddes@chester.anglican.org by 5pm on 16th September 2021.

August 2021