

Study Leave Committee 2019

The Study Leave Committee administers study leave in accordance with our diocesan statutes. This committee is responsible for approving the plans of those who, by virtue of their role, are covered by the diocesan study leave scheme. Clergy are able to make an application for three months study leave after seven years of service in this diocese.

At the end of 2019 the committee said farewell to Kathy Doughty who served as record keeper for almost two decades. We are grateful for all the work Kathy has done over the years to keep track of clergy placements and to record the dates of leave taken. This has been no easy feat. Thank you Kathy. We also farewelled Phillip Baldwin who has refocussed his commitments onto those within his local community. We have particularly appreciated Phillip's helpful suggestions for those planning study and wish him well in his future endeavours.

At the time of writing the committee are acutely aware that several clergy will not be able to take study leave overseas this year as they had planned due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also difficult for those who are due to take leave in 2021 to be able to make plans. The committee recognises that some of these clergy still need some new ideas and fresh learning experiences as well as rest and re-creation to resource their ongoing ministries. This may mean taking study leave in two halves rather than all at once, which the committee is certainly open to considering. We are committed to helping clergy to flourish through education and are grateful for the ongoing generosity of the St John's College Trust Board in granting scholarships to those who require financial support to be able to pursue their educational goals. Such scholarships currently enable several members of this diocese to study at tertiary and post-graduate level through educational providers within the Christian tradition.

Three clergy took study leave in 2019. The committee enjoyed hearing reports from Les Memory and Mike Baker. Thomas Brauer was granted permission to take an early portion of study leave to be able to travel overseas to defend his PhD thesis.

Stephanie Robson

Convenor of the Study Leave Committee