

# APPROACHING RETIREMENT

Retirement brings a different experience according to whether clergy are stipendiary or self-supporting and dependent on the length of time in ordained ministry (as well, of course, as circumstances such as health and fitness). Clergy are encouraged to prepare for practical aspects of retirement well in advance, especially in regard to housing.

## Before Retirement:

Many of the issues that arise around the retirement date are addressed in PRE-RETIREMENT COURSES. Five years before retirement is due from licensed stipendiary ministry, clergy are invited to attend a regional course - if you've not been invited and that date has passed, please contact the Ministry Team at Church House (01722 411944). For those in self-supporting ministry, there's a course run roughly every other year, advertised in the CMD brochure - the next is likely to be held in 2020.

## After Retirement:

Clergy who have retired from licensed ministry will of course engage with their local church and community in their own way but more formal support is sometimes helpful or necessary. Salisbury Diocese has a network of RETIREMENT OFFICERS who are ready to give support and keep in personal contact with retired clergy and their families, depending on their needs and preferences. Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate (PTO) are invited to an annual Study Day and are entitled to apply for CMD courses. Clergy retiring in the diocese are invited to join the Retired Clergy Association of the Church of England (RCA); the Diocese hosts an annual conference for diocesan retirement officers from the southern dioceses at Sarum College to discuss good practice and the issues that commonly arise around the ways retired clergy are regarded by their dioceses and the Church as a whole; Salisbury Diocese is among the most active in providing support and maintaining contact with retired clergy. The Diocese's formal ministry to retired clergy is coordinated by the Bishop's Retirement Officers, who are:

For the Ramsbury Area (Wiltshire):

Canon Ann Philp                      01722 555178, [acphilp55@virginmedia.com](mailto:acphilp55@virginmedia.com)

For the Sherborne Area (Dorset):

Canon John Wood                      01305 268749, [john.s.wood@btinternet.com](mailto:john.s.wood@btinternet.com)

The Bishop's Officers work closely with the Deanery Retirement Officers, who are appointed by the Rural Dean. An up-to-date list of retirement officers is to be found on the Retired Clergy page in the Ministry section of the Salisbury Diocesan website.

## RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION

The RCA (further information at [www.rcacoe.org](http://www.rcacoe.org)) is a national network for retired clergy in the Church of England, providing encouragement, advice and support. Its stated objects are:

1. To advance the Christian religion for the public benefit by supporting the continuing work of retired clergy of the Church of England in their local communities and more widely;
2. To relieve the needs of retired clergy by providing information, support and advice pertaining to housing, pensions and welfare and by encouraging Church of England leaders at local and national levels to support retired clergy in their care in order to ensure their mental and physical wellbeing.

On retirement in this Diocese, stipendiary clergy are invited to take up membership free-of-charge; most if not all other dioceses similarly offer membership when their clergy retire.

#### ASSISTED HOUSING PROVISION FOR RETIRED CLERGY

Information about the Pensions Board's housing assistance schemes can be found on the Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) Currently available properties are also listed on the retirement housing pages on the website.

Various options are available, including shared ownership and rental schemes, but the Pensions Board strongly recommends that anyone interested in what they can offer should make contact with them at least five years before retirement is due.

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*If you have comments about this page and especially if you can suggest further information that might be helpful for those approaching the end of licensed ministry and beyond, please contact John Wood ([john.s.wood@btinternet.com](mailto:john.s.wood@btinternet.com))*

*JW July 2019*