

30 July 2020

The Development and Appointments Group (a sub-committee of the House of Bishops) has invited diocesan bishops to nominate clergy for the next cohort of the Strategic Leadership Development Programme (SLDP). This is a 2½ year programme designed to support the development of clergy who demonstrate the potential for taking on significantly wider leadership responsibilities in the future.

There will be approximately 50 participants who will form a learning community to support and challenge each other as they apply their insights and lead transformation in the Church. The SLDP provides space to listen to the call of God and to reflect on their ongoing ministerial development with opportunities for self-reflection, and through conversation with others. The programme is also an ongoing process of discernment, creating space and structure for participants to listen to the call of God in their ongoing ministerial development.

Each diocese has been asked to nominate up to two people to be considered for the next cohort, and I would like to invite all clergy licensed in the diocese to think about whether you are interested in having your name put forward.

Seeking expressions of interest is the first step of a discernment process to identify participants for the next phase of this programme. Those from this diocese who express an interest in the programme will initially be considered by The Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt, the Director of Mission and Ministry/ Deputy Diocesan Secretary and the Bishop's staff will decide who is nominated from this diocese to take part in the national discernment process over the autumn.

The programme is designed to equip a broad and diverse pool of candidates for wider leadership roles in the Church in the years to come and for the next generation. With a limited number of places available, we want to ensure that those joining the programme will be those who are able to get the most benefit at this point in their ministry. Those nominated to take part in the discernment process therefore need to have:

- Completed IME and been 'signed off' as successfully completing their curacy; and
- Already built up some experience of leading beyond a single organisational boundary (either prior to or since ordination).

There is not an upper age limit to the programme, but we hope that those participating in the SLDP will anticipate spending a good period of time in active ministry after completing the programme.

The programme requires significant commitment of time to develop and grow in ministry. Participating in the SLDP is likely to mean you will need to lay some things down for a season to give yourself the time and space to get the most benefit.

Further information about the programme is available online

at <https://jobs.churchofengland.org/sldp/>

I would encourage you to prayerfully consider whether this is something you would like to explore. If you would like to put your name forward for this programme, you will need to register an account on the AAAD Pathways system in order to complete the online [Discernment Reflections Questionnaire](#) by **16 September 2020**. (Please note that this is different to the national Pathways recruitment platform).

If you have questions about the discernment process, please contact Brad Cook, Appointments & Vocations Adviser via email in the first instance to [brad.cook@churchofengland.org](mailto:brad.cook@churchofengland.org).

With best wishes

*+Nicholas Sarum*