

PRESIDENT The Rt. Revd Dr. Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans



**Shared
Ministry
Network**

- encouraging collaboration and mission



SHARED MINISTRY NETWORK UPDATE MARCH 2015

Following a recent meeting of the Steering Group, we are pleased to be able to update you on plans for the next conference and provide information on other developments of interest to the network.

THE WEBSITE

The website continues to be a work in progress and we look forward to making additions and improvements in the course of the year. One of the principle aims of the website is to be able to communicate our shared ministry ethos and values. We would very much value receiving information and papers from network members to upload onto the website: theology, stories, new thinking, challenges, and so on. The quality of the website is very much dependent on what we receive from our members, so please do consider making a contribution.

RESOURCES

- i-church: Those of us who attended last year's conference will remember our chaplain, Pam Smith, web pastor of i-church. She has now published a new resource 'Online Mission and Ministry: a Theological and Practical Resource' giving a wealth of information/advice on connecting with Christians via the internet. See: <http://www.layanglicana.org/blog/2015/02/14/online-mission-and-ministry-by-the-revd-pam-smith/>
- Released for Mission report: if you haven't accessed this recent report on rural ministry and mission, it is well worth the read: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2148423/gs%20misc%201092%20-%20rural%20multi%20parish%20benefices.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY GATHERING: A few of us from the UK attended this conference in San Antonio, Texas, in early February. This was a unique opportunity to bring together Anglican/Episcopalian collaborative ministry developers to reflect on shared ministry, its theology and practice, and to engage in the challenges of 21st century ministry and mission. The conference used processes that were participative and transformative: a mixture of extended Bible study and small group discussion combined with workshops and plenary sessions, and was accompanied by 'companions' rather than keynote speakers, who were there to challenge and develop our thinking. Video interviews and reflections on the conference can be viewed via this link: <http://livingstonespartnership.net/ministrydev15>

CONFERENCE PLANS, 19th – 21st NOVEMBER: reflecting on feedback from the last conference and drawing on the experience of the International Symposium, we are confident that our next conference will be inspiring, exciting and appealing to a broad spectrum of people – ordained and lay; diocesan and parish. Amongst our aims, we hope to enable an experience of shared ministry in practice, to inspire with stories at a range of levels, and to equip one another with understanding and skills for good mission-shaped shared ministry. A booking form should by now have reached you via email – if you haven't received this information, please let me know.

Helen Babiy

On behalf of the LM Network Steering Group:

Secretary: Revd Stephen Tranter, Local Ministry Officer, Diocese of Manchester

Co-Chairs: Mrs Penny Evans, Reader & Local Ministry Development Adviser, Diocese of Hereford

Mrs Mandy Stanton, Diocesan Lay Ministry Development Officer and Warden of Readers, Diocese of Blackburn

Treasurer/Conference Administrator: Revd Dr Colin McCarty SSM, Bishop's Officer for SSMs., Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Communications and Publicity: Mrs Helen Babiy, Reader, Diocese of Lichfield

Member: Mr Geoffrey Mercer, Local Ministry Consultant, Diocese of St Albans

Co-opted member: Revd Rob Daborn, Diocese of Lichfield

NOTE ON RECIPIENTS: You have been included in this email circular because you appear on a mailing list for a Local Ministry Conference over the last two or three years, or you have expressed an interest in receiving updates. Please let me know if you no longer wish to receive updates.