

Diocese of Chester

IME 2 Events 2026-2027



This document details the IME 2 events taking place this academic year, including a brief summary of the topic and details of who is required to attend. Please ensure that you have registered for each event via the Eventbrite link. Where meals are provided, please ensure that you include your up-to-date dietary requirements as well as any access needs.

Deacons' Welcome Evening Ministry Team	All newly ordained curates
Thursday, 16 July 2026, 18:00 – 21:00	Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB
Welcome for new deacons: Introductory information about IME 2 in the Diocese of Chester, and a chance to meet Church House Ministry Team staff and reflect on how to inhabit these first few weeks of ordained ministry. <i>NB: this event includes a meal.</i> Click here to book	

Deacons' Induction Sue Pocock and Jenny Bridgman	New stipendiary deacons SSOM deacons if available
Wednesday, 9 September 2026, 09:30 – 15:30	Church House, 5500 Daresbury Park, Daresbury WA4 4GE
Induction for new curates into IME 2 in the Diocese of Chester. A full day of information, reflection and opportunities to ask questions. Also includes a tour of Church House. <i>NB: This event includes a sandwich lunch.</i> Click here to book	

Visit to HMP Thorn Cross Alan Pierce-Jones	All curates
Tuesday, 22 September 2026, 10:00 – 14:00	HMP Thorn Cross, Arley Road, Warrington WA4 4RL
Thorn Cross is a category D open prison in the Village of Appleton Thorn on the outskirts of Warrington. It houses approx 420 adult men, convicted of various offences, but not terrorist nor sexual offences. People in Category D prisons are toward the end of their custodial sentence and can have employment outside of the prison or be temporary released for family and resettlement purposes. During the visit curates will get to learn about the role of chaplaincy within the justice system (both closed and open prisons). They will get to meet serving prisoners, chaplaincy and other staff and visit different parts of the prison. Please note the following: • Visitors should arrive at the prison by 10:00 hrs and report to the main gate building. • Photographic ID <u>must</u> be brought - people without ID will not be admitted. • There is a car park, but sharing of transport is advisable as it can get very full.	

- Visitors should bring nothing into the prison except their car key, ID and any essential medication they need while in the prison.
- In particular please note that it is a criminal offence to have a mobile phone in a prison, also smart watches, USB sticks, bladed items, tools etc are not allowed.
- If anyone needs to have any opiate based or prescription medicine with them, please inform Canon Alan Pierce-Jones in advance.

NB: This event includes lunch.

[Click here to book](#)

Working Together Ministry Team	New curates and training incumbents, or those unable to attend last year.
Thursday, 1 October 2026, 18:00 – 21:00	Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB
An evening for new deacons and training incumbents to reflect on working well together and anticipate some of the pitfalls and challenges around this. <i>NB: This event includes a meal.</i> Click here to book	

SSOM Gathering Lyndon Bannon	SSOM curates
Thursday, 8 October 2026, 18:00 – 21:00	Church House, 5500 Daresbury Park, Daresbury WA4 4GE
An evening for training and learning specific to those exercising ministry as SSOM. <i>NB: This event includes a sandwich tea.</i> Click here to book	

Preparing for Incumbency Bishop Sam and Ministry Team	All stipendiary final year curates
Thursday, 22 October 2026, 12:00 – 16:00	Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB
Information afternoon for final year curates who will be applying for their next post in the months ahead, including how to complete a role application, interview preparation etc. <i>NB: This event includes lunch.</i> Click here to book	

Deliverance Bishop Sam, Ministry Team and Diocesan Safeguarding Team	All curates
Saturday, 21 November 2026, 09:30 – 15:30	Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB
A day exploring Deliverance Ministry in the Diocese of Chester, including aspects of mental health and safeguarding. <i>NB: This event includes lunch</i> Click here to book	

Growing and Enabling Others The Diocesan Ministry Team	All stipendiary curates SSOM curates if available
Tuesday, 12 January 2027, 09:30 – 15:30	Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB
Growing vocations isn't just about looking out for potential ordinands! A day on how to nurture and equip others for a wide range of ministries rooted in a commitment to discipleship and mission. <i>NB: This event includes lunch.</i> Click here to book	

Faith in the Public Square Cathedral Clergy	All stipendiary curates SSOM curates if available
Tuesday, 26 January 2027, 09:30 – 15:30	Cloister Room, Chester Cathedral, St Werburgh Street, Chester CH1 2DY
Session 1: The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford (Dean of Chester) will offer some reflections on what a Cathedral is and the role it has to play in the public square. Session 2A: The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall (Vice-Dean, Canon Precentor and Canon Librarian) will explore some of the complexities encountered in preparing worship and liturgy for the civic space. 12:30 – 13:00 Eucharist Session 2B: The Revd Canon Dr Anthony Lees-Smith (Canon Missioner) will lead a workshop on missional creativity in the public square through the lens of public and practical theology. Lunch and refreshments included Click here to book	

Environment and Net Zero Jill Elston and Airren Martin	All stipendiary curates SSOM curates if available
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Tuesday, 9 February 2027, 09:30 – 15:30	Church House, 5500 Daresbury Park, Daresbury WA4 4GE
How to manage our churches and churchyards to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. The day will also include the NZC30 aspiration and the practical ways that parishes can improve their carbon footprint. Jill Elston – Diocesan Environment Adviser Jill's role is to encourage creation care across the Diocese and support parishes in their Eco Church Journey. Airren Martin – Net Zero Carbon Project Officer Airren's role is to develop and promote the Chester Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan and support Parishes on their Net Zero journey. <i>NB: This event includes a sandwich lunch.</i> Click here to book	

SSOM Gathering Lyndon Bannon	SSOM curates
Thursday, 11 February 2027, 18:00 – 21:00	Church House, 5500 Daresbury Park, Daresbury WA4 4GE
An evening for training and learning specific to those exercising ministry as SSOM. <i>NB: This event includes a sandwich tea.</i> Click here to book	

Outreach Team	All stipendiary curates SSOM curates if available
Thursday, 11 March 2027, 09:30 – 15:30	St Mary's Church, Manchester Road, Partington M31 4FB
We will be looking at how churches encourage growth in faith and life, using the national Everyday Faith initiative as a starting point. In the afternoon we will consider why and how local churches might develop New Christian Communities. <i>NB: This event does not include a meal – please bring a packed lunch.</i> Click here to book	

Weddings, Marriage and Baptisms Lisa Moncur and Rosie Woodall	Year 1, and any curates yet to attend this session
Saturday, 13 March 2027, 09:30 – 15:30	Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB

Exploring some of the key themes around practical aspects of conducting weddings and baptisms with Rosie, Canon Precentor at Chester Cathedral, including legal advice from Lisa, the Diocesan Registrar.

NB: This event includes a meal.

[Click here to book](#)

IME 2 Annual Gathering: Breaking, Not Broken

Tim Goode

All curates in IME2 and their Training Incumbents

Saturday, 17 April 2027, 09:30 – 15:30

**Daresbury Park Hotel,
Daresbury Business Park,
Daresbury, Warrington
WA4 4BB**

This year, we welcome Revd Timothy Goode, who is Canon for Congregational Discipleship and Nurture at York Minster. Prior to his move to York, the whole of his ordained ministry was spent within the Diocese of Southwark, serving at Croydon Minster in Whyteleafe, Chaldon and finally at Rector at St Margaret's Lee. He was made an honorary canon of Southwark Cathedral in 2020 and was Disability Advisor for the Southwark Diocese from 2013-2021. A theologian, priest, and writer, Tim's work focuses on disability theology, Christian anthropology, and the transformation of ecclesial life, worship, and heritage. Having lived with disability for over thirty years, Tim brings lived experience into sustained theological engagement with ableism in the Church, particularly as it has been shaped by post-Constantinian assumptions about power, perfection, and the idealised body.

NB: This event includes a light meal.

[Click here to book](#)

Practising Presidency

Bishop Julie Conalty

All deacons being ordained priest in 2027

Tuesday, 20 April 2027, 18:00 – 21:00

**Foxhill, Tarvin Road,
Frodsham WA6 6XB**

An evening exploring some of the theological and practical considerations around presiding at (or celebrating!) communion.

NB: This event includes a light meal.

[Click here to book](#)

SSOM Gathering

Lyndon Bannon

SSOM curates

Thursday, 13 May 2027, 18:00 – 21:00

**Church House, 5500 Daresbury
Park, Daresbury WA4 4GE**

An evening for training and learning specific to those exercising ministry as SSOM.

NB: This event includes a sandwich tea.

[Click here to book](#)

Conflict Resolution	All stipendiary curates
Andrew Tawn	SSOM curates if available
Tuesday, 22 June 2027, 09:30 – 15:30	Foxhill, Tarvin Road,
	Frodsham WA6 6XB
Dealing with conflict is one of the key issues in leadership and ministry. Handled badly it can cause a breakdown of trust. Handled well it can open doors to new and creative solutions. Using well-respected material from Bridge Builders, we will reflect on our own instinctive response to conflict, we'll explore alternative ways to approach conflict and consider when each might be appropriate, and we'll offer some practical skills in mediation and defusing escalating conflict. <i>NB: This event includes a light meal.</i> Click here to book	

[Click here to book](#)