

MINISTRY IN RETIREMENT

Permission to Officiate

For matters relating to obtaining Permission to Officiate [PtO] and the necessary DBS clearance, contact the relevant bishop's PA: for Barnstaple and Exeter Archdeaconries, Bishop Sarah; for Plymouth and Totnes Archdeaconries, Bishop Nick.

NB: A priest without PtO may not robe (as a clergyman/clergywoman) or lead a service; to do so is now an offence under the Clergy Discipline Measure. Whilst clergy are encouraged to take a break of six months from all ministry on retirement, they should nonetheless seek PtO immediately they retire, in case they are asked to take a one-off service in the first six months and would have to say 'no' to avoid committing an offence under the CDM.

Safeguarding

There is now a national programme followed by every Diocese, which has different modules required for different levels of ministry. In general, retired clergy with PtO are required to receive training module C3 (equivalent to the former modules C1 & C2). After completing the current C3 training, your training should then be refreshed every 3 years with an updating module C5, which is still currently under development.

This new national training is intended to be portable between dioceses, so a priest retiring into Devon may initially be covered, though would still require PtO.

Visit the [safeguarding section](#) for more information and contact details.

Fees and Expenses

Where a retired priest conducts a church service at the request of an incumbent or churchwarden, unless the service is taken in the benefice where the priest lives or regularly worships when not officiating, he or she is entitled to receive a fee (for 2017, £33; 2018, £34) and to be offered travelling expenses (currently up to 45p per mile). It is helpful to clarify whether you would take a fee and expenses when the request is made, though you are encouraged to do so.

The Diocesan Board of Finance has agreed that Retired Clergy with PtO should receive 50% of what is now called the DBF part of the fee (formerly incumbent's fee) for officiating at weddings and funerals (whether in church or at a crematorium or cemetery) and burials. Any expenses should be reimbursed by those involved (not by the DBF) in addition to the fee.

Note again, that a priest who conducts a service *without* PtO is committing an offence under the Clergy Discipline Measure, even where no fee is taken.

Continuing Ministerial Development

The Director of Ministry, Prebendary Philip Sourbut, has indicated that retired clergy with PtO will be alerted to suitable training opportunities as and when these are available.

Cathedral Chaplains

The Cathedral welcomes the ministry of retired clergy with Permission to Officiate to act as Chaplains when the Cathedral is open to visitors. The Rota is drawn up usually on a 3-monthly basis, with chaplains offering a morning or an afternoon 2 or 3 times a month depending on availability, but this is of course flexible to suit people's circumstances.

To enquire about joining the rota, or for more information, please contact:

The Visitor Services Administrator, Chris Bodkin,
Exeter Cathedral, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS