**The Enabling Ministries resources**

These resources are offered to those who might find them helpful as a way of encouraging the bubbling up of ministries (in the widest possible sense) across the diocese. The hope is that more of the people of God can share in ministries in ways that release their gifts rather than overburdening the few.

The resources are mainly aimed at people already part of the church and provide a way for them to consider what it means to be church now and what it might mean in the future. This is a good thing to do in itself as we seek to encourage everyone to live out their faith, but it may also be helpful now when the status quo does not look to be sustainable.

There are 2 resources:

1. **Pack of questions:**

A set of playing card style questions to generate open conversations about faith and church. They could be used as an ice breaker at PCC, with small groups, at Café church, in a sermon slot, at Synod etc. Someone said they had handed them to people before the service and then discussed responses over coffee afterwards. Someone else who used them at a Benefice Quiet Day said ‘*They actually quite enjoyed doing them [and] found them quite revealing’.* These are the opening up bit of the process, particularly for congregations not used to talking about their faith and together they can be a Christian presence in their communities.

1. **Set of A5 themed cards**

This resource helps move the conversation onto the next level, by helping groups to focus down on particular areas (e.g. our faith, how we link to our community, what gifts we have and what ministry we might have) and think about next steps. It aims to help explore what a church believes, how it connects to its wider communities and what gifts and ministries exist or are emerging. Each card has some information, some suggestions for reflection or activities and then ‘next steps’ or something to move on with. These cards could be used with all the same groups that the question cards could be used with.

**Getting more support with this work**

* We are running **monthly online workshops** to help people use the materials – [sign up here](https://forms.office.com/r/Q48Amm8zNz)
* There is more information on Enabling Ministries and resources at:
  + <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/who-we-are/vision/enabling-ministries>
* Or you are welcome to contact Charlie Peer or Julia Hill for any enquiries, including requests for help with facilitation.