

The Programme

From February to November, you will look at “inner life” and “communal life” aspects of prayer, reading the Bible, and living out the life of Christ.

Reading the Bible: Inner Life

Do you read the Bible devotionally? What is helpful? What is difficult? Over three weeks you will explore three practices of devotional Bible study that are new to you.

Reading the Bible: Communal Life

Our Bible is a library of unending complexity and wisdom. Together you and your companion will choose two books to read through and study gently.

Prayer: Inner life

How do you pray now? How would you like to pray? For six weeks you will explore the joys and difficulties of prayer, choosing from a range of possible practices to try out.

Prayer: Communal Life

Mid-way through the year, you will be invited to a relaxed weekend retreat where we will explore and deepen our understanding of communal prayer life.

Living out the Life of Christ

In the “communal life” sections of this unit you will choose two things about Jesus’ life that you would like to find out more about, and two things about the “body of Christ” (ie the Church) that intrigue you.

The final, **inner life** unit, looks specifically at you. What is it that you, with your experiences and strengths and weaknesses, bring to the Body of Christ? How do *you* want to grow more into Christ’s likeness?

Anglican Diocese of Dunedin

TO BE PART OF THE BCP IN 2026 PLEASE
CONTACT:

Barbara Noordanus
c/- educatoradmin@calledsouth.org.nz

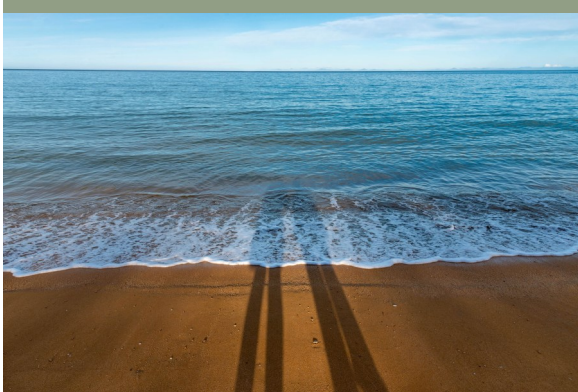
We hope to have all names in by the end of November.



Bishop’s Companions Programme



Anglican Diocese of Dunedin
2026



Growing in prayer, reading the Bible, and living out the Life of Christ.

The BCP (Bishop's Companions Programme) was launched in 2022 and has been deeply appreciated by those who have taken part for the past 4 years. We are looking forward to offering it again in 2026. The programme is simple.

Through the year, participants are offered a companion to walk with them as they gently deepen their practices of prayer, reading the Bible, and living out the life of Christ.

It's simple!

This is not a set programme with goals you have to achieve or levels you get tested on!

It is not designed to assess you at all. It is designed to **assist** you. All we are interested in is helping you explore the riches of our faith in the way that is most helpful for you.

You and your companion will maintain confidentiality with each other, and the amount you interact with others on the programme will be totally up to you.

The BCP is shaped for you.

- Weekly meetings of half an hour or less with a companion, either in person or online, at a time that suits you.
- Together you decide what you would like to learn more about, both in theory and practice, for your journey with God.
- We offer time on individual prayer, corporate prayer, reading the Bible devotionally, learning from the wisdom of others, things that interest you about the life of Christ, and things that interest you about the Body of Christ. All this, gently, over the year.
- Others across the Diocese will be walking their own path in a similar direction. You'll meet mid-way for a shared retreat.

Prayer

Reading the Bible

Living the Life of Christ



We are pilgrims on a journey...

As the line from Richard Gillard's "Servant Song" reminds us, we are all pilgrims on the journey of faith in Christ. The path is different for each of us, and we are at different stages along it—and that is fine. The BCP starts where you are and helps you to take a few more steps along the way. If you rarely pray and have never read a book of the Bible in its entirety, that's OK. If you've got a PhD in theology and want to deepen your spiritual life, that's OK. This is your journey, and we want to companion you along the way.

... and companions on the road...

Each BCP "pilgrim" will be given a companion for the year-long journey: someone who will meet with them weekly either online or in person. You will decide together what practices of prayer and Bible reading would be most helpful for you to explore, and how you would like to deepen your understanding of the life of Christ. Your Companion will then walk with you, guiding and encouraging you along the way. The Companion is not a teacher or spiritual director, but simply what it says: a companion.

