Sabbaticals Report 2025

Sabbaticals are a gift from God and bring a welcome respite from Circuit pressures and responsibilities. It is never easy to accept this gift because of the responsibility ministers feel towards their congregations and circuit but the reports the Sabbaticals Advisory Group receive on completion show it was all worth it.

In 2024-25 eight ministers will be taking their Sabbatical and, once again, the range of experiences planned is extensive. In my time as Sabbaticals Officer, I have noticed a greater emphasis on well-being and improving mental health, which is partly what the sabbatical is about.

In the next Connexional year, there will be five ministers taking their Sabbatical.

The opportunity comes around every seven years, which means I have had the honour to support some twice! I took on this role in 2012, when Rosemary Cox needed to step back, and it is now time for me to do the same. I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting all the presbyters and deacons, with whom I have come into contact and I hope you will all help my successor.

It would help them so much if Superintendents could make sure the Support Group Convenor is appointed at the September Circuit Meeting – in fact it does not matter if you have no-one taking a Sabbatical in any particular year. That support group is a vital element of the preparation for the Sabbatical and needs to be in place before the preparations begin.

If you are due a Sabbatical in 2026-27, you will be hearing from the Sabbaticals Officer in November of this year.