

PASTORAL COUNSELLING

An eight week course, designed for clergy who are in their first five years of ordained ministry, who already have some basic listening and counselling skills, but who would like to enhance and develop these.

The course will be limited to eight participants. Each meeting will last for two hours.

During the first hour, over the eight weeks, each participant will have an opportunity to present a pastoral situation for group reflection.

The second part of the meeting will seek to relate the issues raised to psychotherapeutic and theological ways of thinking. These may include relevant aspects of developmental psychology; clarification of the differences between the counselling and the priestly roles; the recognition and management of transference, and attention to the counter transference (i.e., our own subjective reactions to the person we are with) both as a means to helping them, and also to increasing our own self awareness; appropriate and inappropriate uses of authority; the establishment of suitable boundaries; the clarification of realistic goals; the relation of listening to prayer and sacramental ministry; supervision; mental health issues; and referral.

Appropriate reading material will be suggested and/or provided.

Time: Wednesdays, between 3-5pm

Dates: October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 28, and December 5, 12.

Venue: The Healing and Counselling Centre, St Marylebone Parish Church, 17 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LT.

Leader: The Rev'd Christopher MacKenna. Chris is Director of St Marylebone Healing and Counselling Centre; he is a Senior Member of the British Association of Psychotherapists and has had 34 years experience of parochial ministry. He is also the author of a number of papers which explore some of the resonances and conflicts between Christian and psychotherapeutic thought and practice.

Cost: £120. Funds may be available from Diocesan POT and CME budgets. Some bursaries may also be available.

Application forms available from the Centre Manager, St Marylebone Healing and Counselling Centre: healing@stmarylebone.org or 020 7935 5066.