

7. **Criminal Records Bureau checks:** If you do not already have a recent Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, issued by the Diocese of Peterborough, you will need to apply for one at this stage. Once a satisfactory check is received you can proceed to the next stage.

8. **You will be invited to attend an interview** with one or two assessors who are experienced in the ministry you have applied for.

Applicants for the Ministry of Licensed Evangelist will be visited in their home and in the context of their community by the Warden and an experienced Licensed Evangelist. A three-way conversation will take place that will complete the discernment process prior to training.

9. **Following a satisfactory interview**, applicants for Reader and Lay Pastoral Ministry will be invited to attend a Selection Conference.

10. **If your application is approved** you will start the part-time training course in September. The training takes two years for Lay Pastoral Ministers and Licensed Evangelists and three years for Readers.

11. **On completion of the training** you will be asked to draw up a working agreement with your parish or benefice before being licensed by the Bishop, usually in September at Peterborough Cathedral.

Contact:

Lay Vocations Officer:
The Revd Jenny Parkin
Tel: 01604 761891
Email: parkinjen@btinternet.com

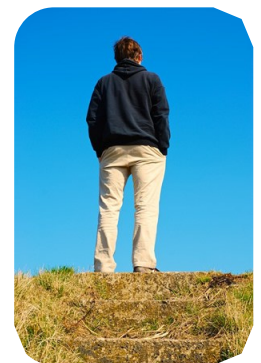


Discernment and Application

For

Licensed Lay Ministry

in the Diocese of
Peterborough



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Introduction

The Church is seeing an increasing number of people being called by God to become licensed lay ministers. They work alongside the clergy on a voluntary basis, sharing in leadership.

Licensed Lay Ministers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience. What unites them is a deep desire to see God's ministry and mission flourish locally, and a sense that God is calling them to express this in a particular way.

Perhaps you could be one of them.

What to do as you explore God's call

For those who feel that God may be calling them to Licensed Lay Ministry, this booklet sets out the stages of testing out that calling, and in due course applying to train as a licensed lay minister.

The selection process is necessarily thorough and therefore takes some time to complete.

It is advisable to begin the discernment process early in the year, in order to be ready to make a formal application by mid-April and then begin training in September.

The stages of the discernment and application process

1. **Pray** about it.
2. **Talk to your friends and family** about how they see your gifts.
3. **Talk with your parish priest** (or Rural Dean during an interregnum) about your call.
4. If together you agree that you may have a vocation to one of the Licensed Lay Ministries then **contact the Lay Vocations Officer** to arrange to see a member of the vocations advisory team. The **Lay Vocations Officer's** contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

You might also come along to the annual *All are called* vocations day, usually held in November at a central location in the diocese.
5. **Seek the agreement of your PCC** to support you in prayer and financially both during your training and in your future ministry. The PCC are asked to pay £200 for each year of your training, plus the occasional expenses resulting from your ministry in the parish or benefice once you are licensed. In a benefice these costs can be spread between the parishes.
6. **Complete and submit the application forms** provided to you and your incumbent by the Warden or Candidate Secretary of the relevant ministry. With these you will be asked to send a copy of the PCC minute recommending you for training and agreeing to pay your course fees.

You will also need to provide the name of someone who knows you well who can act as a confidential referee. Readers are asked for two referees, one should be a lay person and the other a licensed or ordained minister other than their incumbent. In all cases your incumbent will be asked for a confidential reference.