



Living Faith



Training

for

Licensed Lay Ministry

in the Diocese of
Peterborough



A focus on God's mission to the world

Training for Licensed Lay Ministry in the Diocese of Peterborough is done as part of the Living Faith programme. It is rooted in the call to focus God's mission to the world in three lay ministries.

Readers

Readers preach, lead worship, lead teaching groups and may take funerals and carry out pastoral work. Reader ministry is a long established, nationally accredited form of lay ministry within the Church of England.

Lay Pastoral Ministers

Lay Pastoral Ministers develop their gifts through training to share in the leadership and development of pastoral care in their parish or benefice.

Licensed Evangelists

Licensed Evangelists share the good news of Jesus Christ in whatever way they can; they also encourage their churches to take every opportunity to share the gospel and draw others into the Christian faith.

The course is designed to develop lay ministers who are:

- Rooted in the Christian faith
- Godly
- People of integrity
- Outward looking
- Working contextually
- Ready to take on a role of public ministry in the Church

The growth and development in these areas happens both on the course and in the parish. The collaboration between course and parish staff is therefore a key component in the effectiveness of the training. Some training will take place within a parish context.

The Elements of the Course

The three elements of the course are:

1 The core foundational module

Everyone does the core foundational module – six days and two residential weekends spread over two years.

2 Living Faith Modules

In the Living Faith Modules you learn about the Bible, the Church and its mission to the world.

Each of these modules comprises six sessions. They are taught at two centres, Corby and Bouverie Court (Northampton). Everyone does one introductory module together at Bouverie Court. You may be exempt from doing some open modules because of prior learning you have done.

3 Specialised training sessions

These sessions are relevant to your own ministry. Readers do the equivalent of 30 over three years, including a residential weekend. Lay Pastoral Ministers and Licensed Evangelists do the equivalent of 12 over two years.

Practical considerations

Time commitment

There are 30 two hour sessions, three Saturdays and a residential weekend each year. Lay Pastoral Ministers and Licensed Evangelists study for two years and Readers for three years.

In addition to attendance at all the designated sessions, you will need to spend at least a session a week in personal study. You will need also need to complete assignments.

All Licensed Lay Ministers in training are required to take two sessions of Child Protection training organised by the diocese.

There will be a rehearsal a week or so before you are licensed (in September).

You will be asked to draw up a working agreement with your parish before being licensed.

Assessment

Everyone in training will keep a learning journal that will include reflections on what you are learning, write ups of project work and assignments. These can be produced in a variety of forms - video diary, essay, letter, audio recording etc.

Progress through the course will be assessed through the learning journal, assessments, practical work and your participation in the group.

The Syllabus

1 The Core Foundational Module

Day 1: Starting the Journey

Introducing you to the course, the staff and other participants.

Day 2: God's Passionate Commitment to the World

Exploring our response to God's love and the development of our faith.

Weekend A: Prayer and Spirituality

Developing our personal life of prayer, worship and spirituality.

Day 3: Use and abuse of God's Word

Examining the Bible's authority and what it is for.

Day 4: What are you like?

A look at our personality types.

Weekend B: Becoming Integrated Ministers

Learning about teamwork and being Anglican.

Day 5: Becoming Ministers in Context

Learning to minister within an increasingly diverse context.

Day 6: Becoming Public Ministers

Preparing to take on the role of licensed, public ministers in the Church.

2 The *Living Faith* course

Readers take nine of the *Living Faith* modules. Lay Pastoral Ministers and Licensed Evangelists take six. Those with a particular call to work with children do the module on working with children either during their training or shortly after being licensed.

All the *Living Faith* modules are open to other people who want to learn more about their faith, studying alongside those training for licensed lay ministry. They are listed at the end of this leaflet.

3 Specialised Training Sessions

These will be tailor made for each individual ministry and be skills based. Readers will be helped to acquire skills of preaching and leading worship, Lay Pastoral Ministers skills of being alongside others in pastoral need and Licensed Evangelists skills of evangelism in the contemporary context. The training will include placements and practical projects.

***Living Faith* modules**



LF1 - Introduction to the Bible

Basic study skills will be taught together with an introduction to the content of the Bible. This will include the different types of writing, the particular role of the Old and New Testaments, and a variety of ways of “reading” the Bible. Insights into how to study Bible texts will be gained as one Old Testament book and one New Testament book are examined.

LF2 - Reading the New Testament

You will explore the background to the New Testament and its theology through examining particular texts. This module will help you to understand these texts in their historical, sociological and literary context and relate them to our world today.

LF3 - Reading the Old Testament

You will explore the background to the Old Testament and its theology through examining particular texts. This module will help you to understand these texts in their historical, sociological and literary context and relate them to our context today. The importance of understanding the Old Testament in reading the New Testament will be examined.

LF4 - Introduction to Church History

This module will introduce the main periods, developments and issues in the Church through history. It will look in particular at the development of the early Church and the Church in the West. It will also consider the development of the Church world wide.

LF5 - Pastoral Care in Ministry and Mission

You will explore how pastoral care is part of ministry and mission. This module will help you to develop practical skills in pastoral care and the ability to reflect on pastoral situations. It will focus on pastoral issues in times of transition and change and examine the boundaries necessary for effective pastoral care.

LF6 - We Believe - exploring the nature of God

This module will introduce Christian doctrine by examining the doctrine of God and the Trinity. It will examine the Biblical roots and emerging doctrine of God and the person of Christ.

LF7 - Ethics

This module will give a framework for examining ethical issues and help you to understand a variety of Christian approaches. It will look at the role of Scripture and the role of God in relation to moral issues we face today, and examine issues around birth, mid life and dying. You will be invited to your their own context as a basis for reflection.

LF8 - The Mission of God

You will examine God’s mission Biblically and through history. This module will consider worldwide Church growth and developments. It will help you to explore your part in God’s mission. It will consider the particular challenges to mission faced by the Church in Britain in the 21st century.

LF9 - Worship and the Sacraments

You will examine the key role of worship and the sacraments in the life of the Church through exploring their Biblical and historical roots. This module will examine the Biblical basis of worship and the sacraments. It will look at the development of Eucharistic worship, and non sacramental worship with particular attention to the importance of liturgy.

LF10 - Core skills for Children's work

You will explore specific skills for children's ministry. This module will help you to develop your understanding of children and the skills required to nurture children in their journey of faith. It will help to develop a vision of a Christian community in which children's faith is expressed and valued.

LF11 - Working with Adults

You will explore specific skills for working with adults in groups. This module will cover areas like how adults learn, understanding group dynamics, effective group leadership and facilitation skills. It will be useful to those working with a variety of groups such as Lent groups, Christian basics courses, pastoral visiting team, bereavement groups, confirmation groups, enquirers groups.

Frequently Asked Questions

These are answers to some of the questions we are most often asked about training for Licensed Lay Ministry. If you have any other questions please raise these with your Vocations Adviser, the Warden of the ministry you are interested in or the contacts given in the front of this leaflet.

Is there any help with childcare?

You are responsible for making arrangements for childcare. However your parish has put you forward for this ministry, so it is reasonable to look for help with this from your church.

How do people manage with transport to the training sessions?

You are responsible for getting yourself to sessions. However people on the course often give each other lifts. If you can get yourself to the introductory day, we will see if there is anyone from your area who can help you with transport.

Are the training venues accessible for people with disabilities?

Both training venues - Bouverie Court, Northampton and St Columba's, Corby - are accessible to wheelchair users. If you are concerned about other forms of accessibility, please contact us in advance so that we can do our best to help you.

What if I can't keep up with course?

The aim of the course is to help you learn at your own pace and level. We will give you all the support we can to complete it. If other circumstances mean that you have to take time out you will be able to pick the course up the following year.

If I'm licensed, does it last for ever?

No. Licenses are issued for three years at the end of which there is a review to see whether this licensed ministry is still right for you.

Can I reapply if my previous application for Licensed Lay Ministry was turned down?

Yes. One person who was turned down some years ago reapplied, became a licensed Reader, and has helped to run the course!

Will previous training be taken into account?

Yes. You may be exempt from doing some of the open modules or specialised training depending on what you have done before. However, everyone needs to do the whole of the Core Foundational Module.

Is it possible to “fast track” the training by doing it full time?

It is not possible to fast track the Core Foundational Module so two years is the minimum time you can take. If you are training to be a Reader it may be possible for you to complete the course in two years rather than three, if you are able to commit extra time to it.

Will I have to have a computer and access to the internet to do the training?

We want everyone on the course to work with a computer, submit written work electronically and be able to communicate by email. If there is a particular reason why this is not possible for you, we will discuss this with you.

Will the course be very academic? Will I have to write essays?

The purpose of the course is to equip you with the skills you need to fulfil your ministry rather than to teach you to write academic essays. We are committed to helping you learn at your level, whatever that is, and we will be encouraging everyone to submit work in a variety of ways. At the same time we hope the course will stretch you, wherever you are starting from.

I have done quite a lot of study before. Will the course stretch me enough?

If you have an appetite for more academic theology we will point you to books and resources which will take you deeper so that you are helped to work at your level.

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