

### ***From Bishop Donald***

In recent years the church has become much more willing to recognise the ministry gifts that God gives lay people.

It is a great joy to see increasing numbers training and then being licensed to serve in our churches.

I look forward to welcoming many more lay people to join the ministry teams of our diocese.



*The Rt Revd Donald Allister, Bishop of Peterborough*

### ***From the Warden of Lay Pastoral Ministers***

A Lay Pastoral Minister is someone who has a heart for others. At its simplest it is about reflecting the care that God has for us to other people; sharing their joys and sorrows, listening, taking seriously their hopes and fears.

Of course, we are all called to care for others and that caring isn't only done by Lay Pastoral Ministers. However LPMs go through two years of training, are usually a part of the local ministry team and are supported in their work by Area Groups and the Warden. Their ministry is formally recognised when they are licensed by the Bishop and they have access to further training and reflection from the diocese.

*The Revd David Kirby*

### ***Contact***

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*Title page photo: Gill Metcalfe after a service at All Saints, Earls Barton*

The Ministry of

# Lay Pastoral Minister

in the Diocese of  
Peterborough



## ***What kind of people become Lay Pastoral Ministers?***

Lay Pastoral Ministers are men and women who are called to share in the ministry of caring for the people of God, by supporting and enabling the pastoral ministry of the Church.

### ***They will be people:***

of prayer

of integrity

able to listen and reflect

sensitive to the needs of others

of compassion

able to work and communicate with others

able to lead others in pastoral ministry



## ***What do Lay Pastoral Ministers do?***

This will vary according to the individual but it might include:

- taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound
- visiting people in hospital, in residential care homes, in prison or those who have been bereaved
- preparing people for baptism, confirmation and marriage
- running groups, such as parenting courses or bereavement support meetings

## ***What about the training?***

Don't panic! Your training will help prepare you for this ministry.

Training as a Lay Pastoral Minister takes 2 years and costs £200 per year, paid for by your parish. Each year involves weekly sessions during term time, six Saturday study days and two residential weekends. Some of the training is alongside those training as Licensed Evangelists and Readers, and some is specific to this ministry.

When you have satisfactorily completed the training, you will be licensed by the Bishop at a special service in Peterborough Cathedral.

## ***Am I being called to this ministry?***

If you think God may be calling you to this ministry, pray about it. Talk with your family and friends about how they see your gifts. Discuss your sense of call with your parish priest or Rural/Area Dean (if in interregnum).

If you would like to explore it further, please contact the Warden of Lay Pastoral Ministers, whose details are over the page.

## ***Lay Pastoral Ministry in action***



*Pat Alderman with the Little Sunbeams Mums & Tots group at St Peter's, Raunds*



*David Bull leading a prayer group at St Benedict's, Northampton*