



GOD IS CALLING

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Is God calling you
to be a
Licensed Lay Minister?

What is a Licensed Lay Minister?

A Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) is a lay man or woman who has the Bishop's Licence for a preaching and teaching ministry within the parishes where they live or work. The national title for this office is Reader, but several dioceses have now adopted the title of Licensed Lay Minister as being more readily understood by today's society.

The office of Reader is an ancient one, with roots in the early church office of 'Lector', someone who read the epistle at the Eucharist. Modern Reader ministry began in 1866 and there are now over 10,000 Readers in the Church of England with around 200 in the Diocese of Salisbury. LLMs are trained and authorized to national standards, and once licensed are able to minister within their own team or benefice, or with permission, in the wider diocese.

If they move they can ask for a new licence in the diocese where they settle.

What do Licensed Lay Ministers do?

The ministry of an LLM is focused on supporting the work of the mission of parishes in preaching, teaching and leading or assisting in the public worship in church.

However, an individual LLM's ministry will be influenced by the local pastoral and educational needs. They can be involved in schools, in study and prayer groups, parish visiting, baptism and confirmation preparation, as well as leading funerals and caring for the bereaved. Many are now finding fresh opportunities for ministry and witness in their workplace and in the wider community, including Chaplaincy roles and work with voluntary organisations.

LLMs do not preside at the Eucharist, or officiate at baptisms or marriages. When robed, they can be distinguished from their ordained colleagues by their distinctive blue scarf.

Could it be you?

If you feel a desire to help others deepen their Christian faith through public preaching and teaching along with providing pastoral care to people wherever you are, then God may be calling you to Licensed Lay Ministry.

To be an LLM, you will need to be supported by your incumbent and PCC and be recommended for training at an LLM Discernment Day.

Your training will build on the qualifications, skills and life experiences you already have and enable you to relate these to the Gospel message, helping others to do the same.

The training is a 3 year, part time course at Sarum College in Salisbury. It is both academic and practical involving the delivery of ministry in your parish and in a wider placement. It will include some Saturday study and formation days, tutorials and on-line learning.

What can I do next?

Ask God in prayer ... how you may become all that God intends you to be and how best you may serve him.

Reflect on your gifts ... are you able to engage with people and share your faith? Do you enjoy teaching? Are you some one with caring skills and a willingness to support others? Do you enjoy reflecting on Scripture and sharing what you learn with others?

Talk to your parish priest or chaplain... who will be able to advise you and put you in touch with the Vocations Team.

Take a look at our website — salisburycalling.org

Attend a Vocation Enquiry Day ... held regularly throughout the year. Details of the next one are available on our website, from your parish priest, or from the Vocations Team.

