



# GOD IS CALLING

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Is God calling you  
to be a

**Lay Pastoral Assistant?**

## What is a Lay Pastoral Assistant?

A Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) is trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church, working as part of a team of clergy and laity.

Each individual's ministry will vary according to their gifts and skills and according to the local situation. But in all cases, the ministry of an LPA calls for a loving and compassionate heart and a willingness to listen to and support those in need.

The ministry of an LPA holds a crucial place within the life of the local church, relying on good relationships with both clergy and the wider community.

For this reason, LPAs are invited into ministry by their parish priest and their calling is affirmed by the local church.

## What do Lay Pastoral Assistants do?

The ministry of an individual will depend on their skills and gifts and on their local context. However, the ministry of an LPA may include ...

- Visiting people at home or in hospital
- Working with children and young people
- Visiting and supporting the recently bereaved
- Helping to prepare people for baptism, confirmation and marriage
- Leading worship in sheltered and residential homes
- Administering the sacrament to people in their home or in hospital

## Could it be you?

Lay Pastoral Assistant ministry is a vocation not just a job to be done. There are three tried and tested ways of discerning if this is what God is calling you to.

Do you have a sense of inner call? Is this call affirmed by others? Is there a need for this ministry in your church?

Lay Pastoral Assistants also need to be

- Able to demonstrate pastoral sensitivity with good listening skills
- Baptised, confirmed and a regular worshipper and communicant in their home church.
- Rooted and grounded in their local community, trusted by those around them
- Committed to work within the local team of clergy, ministers and LPAs
- Able to undertake an initial 10 session course of study and engage in continuing ministerial development

## 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? Are you someone with caring skills and a willingness to support 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](http://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.

