

What's involved in becoming an LWA?

Discernment

Working out your calling is about listening attentively to God and reflecting with others.

If you feel called to this ministry;

- talk to your local clergy
- attend a Lay Worship Assistant course locally

During the course there will be an opportunity for discernment as to whether this is your calling.

Training

We want LWAs to feel equipped for the role. An eight session course, designed by the diocese, is available for parishes, benefices or deaneries to deliver locally.

The course gives LWAs confidence to go on to exercise their ministry on behalf of the church.

Becoming an LWA

Those who

- feel called to be an LWA
 - have completed the course and been discerned to be an LWA
 - have been approved by their PCC
 - have completed safeguarding requirements
- are then commended by the Bishop for this role and can exercise their ministry locally.

The role is for 3 years but is renewable.

Being an LWA

- All LWAs draw up a personalised ministry specification with their church, so that it is clear what their ministry involves.
- It is important for LWAs to continue to reflect and grow in their ministry so they will be encouraged to meet together and continue learning.
- There is an annual review of ministry with a member of the clergy as a way of reflecting on how things are going.
- LWAs take on the role for 5 years but are able to renew their commitment, with the agreement of the church.

How do I find out more?

First, have a word with your clergy about this role and about the scope for a course locally.

If you would like to find out about LWA course materials, please contact the Ministry Training Team via:

E: training@bathwells.anglican.org

If you would like help thinking about what God might be calling you to do, please contact:

Jill Perrett Lay Ministries Enabler

T: 01749 588909

E: jill.perrett@bathwells.anglican.org

For more information visit:

www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/local-ministries

Is God calling me to be a Lay Worship Assistant?

“

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4 v24

”



What is a Lay Worship Assistant?

Lay Worship Assistants contribute to the life of the church and their community by leading services like Morning and Evening Prayer and alternative non-Eucharistic forms of worship.

Lay Worship Assistants fulfil this role under the guidance of the incumbent. That guidance gives LWAs confidence: enabling them to use their gifts, supported by their incumbent's experience and theological knowledge.

Across the diocese, Lay Worship Assistants are increasing the flexibility of worship within our churches. They improve the range and number of services that can be offered and help to ensure that people can worship in their own communities.

Who can be a Lay Worship Assistant?

If you are:

- prayerful
- God-focused
- willing to do the preparation necessary for leading worship, including studying the Bible
- willing to stand up in front of people and yet not make yourself the centre of attention
- audible
- authentic
- prepared to learn to use any relevant technology

this may be a ministry for you to explore.

This is a ministry on behalf of the church, so you will operate under the guidance of the incumbent. This may involve becoming familiar with styles of worship that are not natural to you but are of benefit to your worshipping community.

Meet a Lay Worship Assistant

*I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry...
who will bear my light to them, whom shall I send?*

“ Having trained as a drama teacher it is in my nature to create images for people to respond to. So when the hymn above nudged me into offering myself to my local church, the role of Lay Worship Assistant immediately sprung to mind.

The Diocesan course, run by our Deanery, provided me with the guidance and inspiration I needed to fulfil this, producing themes and suggestions with material to dip into for expansion.

Sharing with others on the course opened my eyes to the vast possibilities of being able to lead our church families into the presence of Our God through words and music. For me it is an opportunity to bring a vision of His Kingdom into the lives of His Children.

*I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart*

Sally from Quantock Deanery

