



# WHAT'S YOUR CALLING?

**Licensed Lay Ministry**

## WHAT IS LICENSED LAY MINISTRY?

The Church in the 21st century needs a wide range of ministers to serve God and his people. In particular, we need a new generation of people, taking both an active role as Christians in society and fulfilling ministry and mission within the Church.

Rochester Diocese is at the cutting edge of a culture change across the Church of England, recognising the importance of formation for lay ministry and exploring new models of complementary and collaborative leadership.

We are looking for lay ministers who will have a vision for ministry, see opportunities, take initiative, and build the capacity to see things through.

You might take responsibility for a major area within the worshipping life of a church,

such as youth work or music, or become the focal minister for a congregation under the oversight of a cluster or benefice priest.

You might head up a church-supported community project, or be the main church or deanery link with local schools and pre-schools, clubs or community groups.

## COULD I BE A LICENSED LAY MINISTER?

Throughout history God has called people of all ages, ethnic groups and educational backgrounds, to play their part in building His kingdom. We are all given uniquely precious gifts — not to be stored up, but to be shared for blessing others.

Discerning your gifts and choosing to nurture and develop them in God's service could be the beginning of a lifelong journey of ministry.



Licensing isn't an end but a landmark in both my training and journey of discipleship, both of which I trust will continue for the rest of my earthly life.



Les Jackson,  
Licensed Lay Minister,  
Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom





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...All things are possible for those who believe. With my licensing I wish to particularly encourage minority ethnic members, but all Christians and church members to become more involved and to use their gifts.

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Funmi Makanju,  
Licensed Lay Minister, Christ Church, Erith

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

Rochester Diocese has developed a two-stage programme for those wishing to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and the call to leadership. The goal is to nurture reflective practitioners with a firm grounding in theology, well-equipped to engage fully in God's mission and ministry. Throughout this process God will be forming and transforming you for his service.

The first stage is to undertake the Bishop's Certificate in Christian Ministry. This is open to anyone who has an active involvement in their local church and who wishes to gain knowledge and skills to give a firm foundation to their Christian life and service.

Licensed Lay Ministry is the second stage. Entry follows a selection and interview process, through which the candidate is recommended for formation for Licensed Lay Ministry.

## TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

The courses involve teaching sessions on eight weekday evenings and three Saturdays each term. There is also an annual compulsory residential weekend.

In addition students are expected to allocate a significant amount of personal study time to get the most out of the course. Assessment is through written assignments and presentations.

### LICENSED...

EXERCISING A MINISTRY  
WITHIN THE CHURCH UNDER  
THE BISHOP'S AUTHORITY

### LAY...

AN ORDINARY CHRISTIAN  
DISCIPLE WITH GIFTS OF  
LEADERSHIP

### MINISTER...

THEOLOGICALLY EDUCATED  
AND WITH A DEVELOPING  
CALLING FROM GOD.

# What can I do next?

## Pray...

With an open mind and an open heart, ask God how you might become all that He intends you to be and how best you can serve Him.

## Get some advice...

Talk about your sense of calling to your family and friends, parish clergy and to the lay leaders in your church community. Find out more about LLMs in your parish or deanery. If you don't know any locally we can put you in touch.

## It's Your Calling...

Come to an It's Your Calling day. These are run by our team of vocations advisers in different venues throughout the year. You'll have a chance to meet people on a similar quest and have time and space to reflect on what exciting plans God has in store for you.

## Apply for training...

To apply for the course, please request an application form at [training@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:training@rochester.anglican.org). The course starts in September each year.

## Who can I contact?

If you would like to discuss this further, speak to a member of the Vocations team at an It's Your Calling day or contact:

Email                      [vocations@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:vocations@rochester.anglican.org)

Phone                      01634 560000

Web                         [www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/discipleship-amp-lay-ministry-/licensed-lay-ministers](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/discipleship-amp-lay-ministry-/licensed-lay-ministers)

