

Lay Pastoral Ministry

The Diocese of Leeds provides a program of Pastoral Ministry training across three levels: Pastoral Visitors (LPV), Pastoral Assistants (LPA) and Lay Pastoral Ministers (LPM). Each role is outlined below along with a training overview and the levels of responsibility possible.

Depending upon previous Diocesan training and experience, individuals may enter training at different levels. Those with little training or experience would begin at the Pastoral Visitor level. Have a chat with your incumbent and the Lay Training Team to help you figure out which is best for you.

Pastoral Visitor

Complete the [Pastoral Conversations](#) course (2 hour course) (Y1 Autumn term).

For anyone wishing to join a pastoral care team and for

- Home visitors
- Hospital visitors
- Pastoral care of a congregation/group

On successful completion you will receive a certificate. Your parish (PCC and incumbent) may then consider you for the role of **Lay Pastoral Visitor** within your parish pastoral care team depending upon the needs and priorities of the parish at that time. If they do, your ministry will be acknowledged in prayer at a regular Sunday service within your parish most likely at, or during the season of, Pentecost.

Pastoral Assistant

Complete the [Pastoral Assistant Training](#) (10 week course) (Y1 Spring term)

For those:

- wishing to go deeper into pastoral conversation
- wishing to understand grief and loss
- wishing to have the tools to handle sensitive topics
- wishing to understand human and spiritual development
- wishing to gain a basic understanding of dementia and mental health.

On successful completion you will receive a certificate. Your parish (PCC and incumbent) may then consider you for the role of **Lay Pastoral Assistant** within your parish pastoral care team depending upon the needs and priorities of the parish at that time. If they do, your ministry will be acknowledged by your incumbent praying for you at a regular Sunday service within your parish most likely at, or during the season of, Pentecost.

Working under your incumbent's supervision you will have a Local Working Agreement (annually renewal/revised). Lay Pastoral Assistants may lead a local team within a parish but will not supervise anyone.

Lay Pastoral Minister

Complete the [Lay Pastoral Ministers](#) course (ten month academic study with coursework (Y2) followed by a practical experience year with six mentoring/training sessions (Y3)).

For those:

- Able to supervise other LPWs
- Able to mentor other LPWs
- An understanding of transference, dependence
- Significant understanding of disclosure of safeguarding issues
- Significant understanding of all topics previously taught but in greater depth
- Significant understanding of the theological implications of human flourishing
- In some cases: Able to teach, train Levels 1 and 2 locally (parish or Deanery) (on successful completion of the Train the Trainer course).

On successful completion you will receive a certificate. Your parish (PCC and incumbent) may then consider you for the role of **Lay Pastoral Minister** within your parish pastoral care team depending upon the needs and priorities of the parish at that time. If they do, your ministry will be acknowledged by your incumbent praying for you at a regular Sunday service within your parish most likely at, or during the season of, Pentecost.

Working under your incumbent's supervision you will have a Local Working Agreement (annually renewal/revised). Lay Pastoral Assistants may lead a local team within a parish will be able to supervise LPVs and LPAs at your incumbent's direction. For example you may lead your parish Pastoral Ministry and deliver further Lay Pastoral Visitor training within your Deanery by request.

Taking this further

1. Have a chat with your incumbent to begin exploring how God is calling you to serve
2. Find out when the next [Pastoral Conversations](#) course is running (they run in different episcopal areas each year to ensure the whole Diocese is covered) [here](#).
3. Complete an application form and send the Reference Sections to your incumbent and PCC.
4. Contact your local Lay Training Officer (see the [Lay Training Page](#) for contact details) if you would like to discuss the courses and their levels prior to completing an application form.