

**Lay Worship Leader  
Concluding Session: 'Going Forward'**



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*In this session we will be covering ...*

**Review of the course**

What have we learned – what do we still need to learn?

**Preparing to be commissioned**

Written Reflection, Ministry Specification and Request to Commission

**Safeguarding**

Introduction to safeguarding requirements

**The Commissioning**

At your service!

## Welcome to the session

*We take a few moments to greet one another and catch up on any news*

## Worship Leader, we need you!

This extract from a blog about Worship Leaders by David Santistevan appeared on CHURCHMAG website (<http://churchm.ag>) dated July 18, 2011

I write worship songs. I sing worship songs. I lead worship services. I lead worship bands. I write a worship blog. I listen to worship music. I talk about worship. I attend worship conferences. I read worship books. I worship God. Some might even argue that I worship worship.

If Pastor Rick Warren suddenly announced that worship leading was no longer necessary and that churches should fire their worship leaders, I'd be a bit depressed. If that happens, you might find me hanging out under your local city bridge, scavenging for some grub, holding a sign that says 'Worship Leader For Hire'.

Help me out, please.

In all seriousness, why is worship such a big deal these days? We have a music industry surrounding it. We have worship pastors who have it as their job. We have songwriters who make a fine living because of it.

Why is worship leading such a big deal?

While being a worship leader isn't specifically mentioned in the Bible, you can bet your life it has Biblical precedent.

I believe worship leaders can function within any of the five-fold ministry gifts.

- Pastoral worship leaders – approach worship leading with a sensitivity to the people they lead. They have a heart for their development as worshipers.
- Evangelistic worship leaders – have a heart for those 'outside' the church. They may go where others won't in order to bring the lost into the presence of God.
- Teaching worship leaders – feel a strong sense of the "why" behind the "what". They want to ensure the congregation understands what they are doing – the meaning behind corporate worship.
- Prophetic worship leaders – clearly hear the voice of God for their congregation and speak or sing it over them.
- Apostolic worship leaders – break new ground and release other worship leaders into their calling.

Let's face it.

As long as we have the Church, we'll have worship leaders.

As long as God is glorious on the earth, we'll have worship leaders.

It's a sacred privilege and responsibility.

But life is too short and God too glorious for us to merely entertain the Church with our talent.

**We need leaders who:**

- Direct our focus to Jesus
- Write songs that give expression to the church
- Love Jesus with all their hearts
- Have a passion for spreading Christ's fame
- Help us experience God in a deeper way

**We don't need leaders who:**

- Steal God's glory
- Distract people's attention
- Worship worship
- Don't know God
- Are all about themselves

Worship Leader, we need you. We need you to rise up in your holy calling – to decrease as the glory of God increases through your ministry.'

What is your reaction to this blogpost? Which of the fivefold ministry gifts mentioned in the bible do you think are important for Lay Worship Leaders and why?

## Prayer

*The course leader prays for the group and asks God's blessing on the session*

*Then we pray together*

**Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Review of the course

### What have we learned?

In pairs or threes or as a group, share experiences of the course.

What was easy?

What was difficult?

What were the most important things you learned?

Did anything surprise you? About worship leading? About yourself?

You might like to take this opportunity to fill in a feedback form or you can do it later. Course Participant and Course Leader Feedback Forms are available to download on the Diocesan website.

## What do we still need to learn?

The Lay Worship Leader training course is an introductory course designed to get you started. If you go on to be Commissioned, we hope you will want to go deeper into some areas, depending on the kind of ministry you are going to exercise. Details of Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) opportunities are on the Diocesan website. These are provided free of charge for all those exercising a licensed or commissioned ministry in the name of the Diocese. Each year there will be some events which are particularly relevant to Lay Worship Leaders, including more about the Bible, prayer, liturgy and music or new areas such as taking school assemblies, starting Messy Church etc.

Have a look at what's available. We would be glad to hear any suggestions for things you would like to see in the programme in future.

## Using feedback to support ongoing learning

As you begin to lead worship on a regular basis don't forget the importance of listening to and learning from feedback. You might like to re visit Session 4 where we talked about feedback and about setting up a small group to offer feedback.

As you grow in confidence and understanding and become more aware of your own distinctive gifts you may even feel drawn to explore a further call to ministry. Your incumbent or someone from the Diocesan Vocations team will be happy to help you reflect on this.



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## Learning checklist

Not every Lay Worship Leader will get involved in every kind of worship leading activity. Much depends on the needs of the church or churches where you serve. Below are some of the things you could find yourself doing – or perhaps you are already doing them? You may find it helpful to keep track of your experiential learning in this way.

Activity	Date and place	How did it go? <i>From my point of view</i>	How did it go? <i>Feedback from others</i>
I explained the role of a Lay Worship Leader  To someone I know  To a church group			
I joined my church worship planning team			
I set up a feedback group to help me with my ongoing learning			
I led  Morning Prayer  Evening Prayer  Prayer during the Day  Night Prayer			
I read the reading			
I planned/ led a 'SOTAS' slot ('something other than a sermon')			

Activity	Date and place	How did it go? <i>From my point of view</i>	How did it go? <i>Feedback from others</i>
I led the intercessions			
I chose the music for an act of worship  I taught the congregation a new song			
I planned/ led a multi-generational/ all age service			
I planned/ led a service on  Mothering Sunday  Harvest Festival  Remembrance Sunday  All Souls  Another community occasion			
I participated in a CMD event			
Other			

## Preparing to be commissioned

### Written Reflection and Commissioning Forms

We hope you will want to keep your copy of the Lay Worship Leader training material for future reference together with your preparation material for each session and any notes you took during the course. They are for your own use.

Right at the beginning of the ‘Taster’ Session we asked the question: ‘Is God calling me to be a Lay Worship Leader?’ Becoming a Lay Worship Leader is not just about taking on a responsibility or doing a job but it is about responding to a call to ministry. Hopefully taking part in the course has helped you to reflect further on this and to reach a deeper insight into whether or not you feel called to serve the Church in this way.



As part of this period of reflection you will need to meet with your incumbent and we suggest that a written reflection ‘**Why I believe God is calling me to the ministry of a Lay Worship Leader**’ would be helpful. This needs to be *up* to 2 sides of A4 and if this feels difficult for any reason feel free to use other formats. The important thing is that you have reflected with your incumbent concerning this potential ministry, so that you and your incumbent can decide whether it is now right for you to proceed. We also ask you complete a Ministry Specification with your incumbent. The purpose of the Ministry Specification is to scope and agree what kind of ministry you will exercise. It is important that you, your incumbent, the PCC, and members of the church community all understand what the expectations are. The Ministry Specification is to ensure that your ministry is regularly used but not over used, that you are appropriately supported through supervision and opportunities to carry on learning, and that your Commission is kept up to date.

Exactly what you are asked to do week by week is for you to negotiate with your incumbent and it may well be that your ministry evolves and changes over time. If the nature of your ministry changes in any major way you should draw up a fresh Ministry Specification but otherwise it is fine to renew it every three years when you need to be re commissioned.

## Safeguarding

As a Lay Worship Leader you are a public minister of the Church. You may come into contact with children and vulnerable adults as part of your ministry. You will be seen as a trusted person and people may bring their pastoral concerns regarding safeguarding to you. If this happens it is vital that you know what to do.

Remember you need to have a **DBS Enhanced Child and Adult workforce check** and also complete **Basic awareness (C0), Foundation (C1), and Awareness of Domestic Abuse** safeguarding training. The Diocese will keep a record on our central Database that you completed these requirements which also will be visible to your PCC via your **Safeguarding Officer** to ensure your DBS & safeguarding is kept up-to-date\*\*. **Remember you cannot be commissioned without a valid DBS and having completed Basic awareness and Foundation training.**

It is important to remember that at any time your Commission is only valid if your DBS check and safeguarding training are up to date and the Diocese has a record of this. If you have any questions or concerns, you should always speak either to your Safeguarding Officer or contact the Safeguarding Support Officer at Church House as soon as possible.

(email [safeguarding.admin@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding.admin@salisbury.anglican.org) or Tel 01722 411922.

\*\* As of 2022, your DBS needs renewing every 3 years, and safeguarding training by the refreshing your Foundation Safeguarding course every 3 years.

## The Commissioning Service

You may already have a date for the Commissioning Service or if not it will be arranged soon. Your group may be commissioned all together or this may happen more locally. There is an outline form of service for the Commissioning of Lay Worship Leaders with some opportunities for those being commissioned to contribute and also take part in the service. If there is time in this session the group may want to look at the service and think about what you might like to offer.

## Thank you and farewell

Course participants may like to take this opportunity to thank the course leader(s) and one another for the learning you have done together ...

Gives yourselves a round of applause!



*The course leader closes with prayer, ending with the Grace*

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God**

**and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

**be with us all evermore.**

**Amen**

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**Lay Worship Leader Training Course**