

A close-up photograph of two hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, reaching towards each other over an open book. The hands are positioned as if about to clasp or hold something together. The background is dark, and the book's pages are visible in the center.

Could I be a Lay Worship Leader?



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

What is a Lay Worship Leader?

In the Diocese of Salisbury, we warmly encourage the participation of lay people in all aspects of the Church's mission and ministry including leading worship where appropriate. A Lay Worship Leader (LWL) is trained and authorised to assist in the planning and leading of worship in the parishes where they live.

We want anyone who leads worship, whether lay or ordained, to do it excellently. With this in mind, we offer training, commissioning and ongoing support for Lay Worship Leaders who have been chosen by their incumbent and PCC so that they can feel confident in the ministry that has been entrusted to them.

The worship they lead will be as varied as the pattern of worship in their parishes, from traditional services like Matins and Evensong to fresh expressions like Messy Church. It will depend what services and acts of worship your incumbent would like you to assist with and might include:

Leading part of the liturgy in church

Preparing and leading prayer and intercessions

Exploring ways of opening up the Word of God

Leading services in a more missional context like Cafe Church or 'Messy Church'.

Using music in worship

The Daily Office

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, especially your parish priest?



Is there a need for this ministry in your church?

Could it be you?

Ministry as a Lay Worship Leader is a vocation, not just a job to be done.

Lay Worship Leaders need to be

Baptised, confirmed and a regular worshipper and communicant in their home church.

Rooted and grounded in their local community, trusted by those around them

People who enjoy communicating with others in a sensitive and responsive way.

Committed to work under the supervision of their incumbent and within the local team of clergy, ministers and other worship leaders

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. What are the gifts and experiences God has given you that could be used for the Kingdom?

Speak to people who know you well and who you trust. Speak to your parish priest or chaplain and begin to explore your vocation with them.

Look to see what vocations events are running. These will be advertised in Grapevine and on the Diocesan Website.

Contact the Diocesan Vocations Coordinator to hear about other ways we can support you to further explore your vocation.

Your parish priest could contact parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org to find out where and when training courses are being offered or register to lead one themselves.



The Ministry Formation Team exists for:
Resourcing all God's people to flourish in
Christ's ministry through trustworthy and
godly discernment.

Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

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