



LOCAL PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAMS

WHAT IS LOCAL PASTORAL MINISTRY?

All who would follow Christ are called to love our neighbours but God also calls some, through their gifts of inspired listening and understanding, to public ministries of care. The Diocese of Truro recognises that in parishes, benefices and clusters of parishes groups of people may be called to exercise just such a public ministry by visiting those in need, as well as offering other ministries of care and welcome.

WHO CAN BE A LOCAL PASTORAL MINISTER?

The church community will have some expectations of those who take up this ministry. They include:

A Local Pastoral Minister:

- will be someone who is seeking to live a life of Christian discipleship rooted in worship;
- will be a person of prayer, able to listen to and care for others;
- will act in ways respected by the church and the wider community;
- will respond positively to what is asked of them, be committed to the work and accept support and training;
- will treat what they are told by



others with confidentiality and discretion;

- will be supportive of the leadership of the church;

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You will have received this leaflet either because your priest would like you to consider becoming a Local Pastoral Minister (LPM) or because you have expressed an interest in this yourself. In order to become a pastoral minister you will need to undertake the following.

- Complete a Recommendation for Training form on which you can state why you feel called to this role. This will then be taken to your PCC for it to confirm that it is happy for you to take on this role. (This is for insurance purposes.)
- Attend the Key Skills for Pastoral

Training course which is run by the diocese. The seven-session course will cover the core skills needed in Christian pastoral work, those of: listening to others, understanding our own feelings and needs, reflecting on the Christian significance of what we are doing, working in a team and understanding confidentiality. It also includes a session on the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. Attendance at all seven sessions is required

- Complete a DBS check. Because of the nature of the work we do ask all LPMs to do this.



COMMISSIONING

Following completion of the course you will be commissioned by either a Bishop or Archdeacon. Commissioning lasts for five years after which time you can review your position and decide if you

wish to continue. If you do wish to continue you can undergo recommissioning. There is an expectation to commit to ongoing training and maintaining a current DBS check

ADDITIONAL TRAINING MODULES

In addition to the initial Key Skills training the diocese also offers stand-alone training sessions on specific areas that might be encountered in pastoral work.

Currently these are:

- Encountering Depression
- Introduction to Home Communion
- Bereavement
- End of Life Care
- Listening Skills
- Dementia & Our Church
- Refresher Training
- Pastoral Team Co-ordinator Training

Please note - the diocesan training does not enable LPMs to act as counsellors but will enable them to exercise their God-given gifts in helping individuals and supporting the further work of their parish.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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