



LOCAL WORSHIP LEADER MINISTRY



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

WHAT IS A LOCAL WORSHIP LEADER?

A local worship leader may assist at Eucharistic or other services led by ordained or licensed ministers; they may devise and lead Services of the Word, (BCP or Common Worship), special services such as crib services, new forms of worship such as Café or Messy Church, under the authority, scrutiny and guidance of their Incumbent. They are not licensed to preach but can deliver a reflection/talk or use the time creatively. A local worship leader will have a sense of their own calling to this ministry.

WHO CAN BE A LOCAL WORSHIP LEADER?

The church community will have some expectations of those who take up this ministry. A Local Worship Leader:

- Will be one who is seeking to live a life of Christian discipleship rooted in worship;
- Will be a person of prayer;
- Will be supportive of the leadership of the church;
- Will act in ways respected by the church and the worshipping community
- Will respond positively to what is asked of them, be committed to the work and accept support and training.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You may have received this leaflet either because your priest would like you to consider becoming a LWL or because you have expressed an interest in this yourself. In order to become a Local Worship Leader you will need to undertake the following:

- Complete 'The Recommendation for training as a Local Worship Leader' form on which you can state why you feel called to this role; it will then be signed by your Incumbent and Lay Chair of the PCC (and minuted) then forwarded to the Lay Ministries Development Officer.
- You complete a Sunday Plus course. The eight-session course will cover the core skills needed for leading worship, including the structure of different types of worship, prayer and scripture reading, learning styles, seasonal worship, resources, traditional and contemporary forms of worship, the choosing of hymns and use of technology. Courses are delivered either in person or on Zoom dependent on location of participants.
- Although you do not require a DBS check, you are required to complete and keep up to date leadership level safeguarding from Truro Diocese.

COMMISSIONING

On completion of Sunday Plus, and the completion of a portfolio/scrapbook, you are commissioned by an Archdeacon or Bishop. The commissioning is for a period of three years, and may be renewed at the request of the Incumbent and PCC in agreement with yourself.

There is an expectation that you will meet with your Incumbent at the beginning of your ministry to draw up an agreement which states the frequency and which type of services that you would prefer to lead. This agreement should be revised annually, particularly in response to changed circumstances and as ministry develops.

The agreement should also indicate that you will meet regularly with your cluster/benefice worship team, and continue to develop your own discipleship and learning through regularly Bible study, prayer and attending development opportunities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Worship Matters and a regular newsletter is provided to help resource commissioned Local Worship Leaders.
- Additional training modules are offered where a need is identified eg leading prayers and intercessions, preparing a talk, creating different styles of worship.
- From time to time there will be an opportunity for training events on specialised topics. Recent topics have included Intergenerational Worship and EveryDay Faith.
- Please note that Local Worship Leaders are not licensed to preach; if Local Worship Leaders have a sense of calling to preach, they should speak to their priest about exploring Reader ministry.

If you feel you are being called to ministry but are unsure in what capacity and would like to explore the options, you are encouraged to take the 'Foundations in Christian Ministry' course. Information on this course can be found on the Diocese website.

THE DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

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