# Local Worship Leaders’ Process for Recommissioning

# August 2022

Since 2012, on completion of the Sunday Plus training course, Local Worship leaders have been commissioned for a period of five yearsat a time. However, since 2022 Local Worship Leaders are to be commissioned every three years.

At the end of commissioning period this may be renewed, at the request of the incumbent and PCC in agreement with the Local Worship Leader.

Those Local Worship Leaders seeking to continue their ministry at the conclusion of their current commissioning are required to:

* Meet with their Incumbent to review the agreement stating the frequency and which type of services they will lead. The agreement should be revised, if appropriate, in response to changed circumstances and/or ministry developments. (If an agreement has not previously been drawn up, this is the opportunity to do so).
* The Agreement will also indicate Local Worship Leaders’ commitment to meeting regularly with their Cluster/Benefice worship team, and to continue to develop their own discipleship and learning through regularly Bible study, prayer and attending development opportunities.
* As a result of this review, the Incumbent and Local Worship Leader may agree:
  + the Local Worship Leader should go forward for re-commissioning
  + due to changed circumstances, it is appropriate for the Local Worship Leader to step down from this ministry. (The Incumbent is asked to inform the Lay Ministry Development Officer of such withdrawal).
* For situations of recommissioning: a ‘Recommendation for re-commissioning as a Local Worship Leader’ form should be completed, and signed by the incumbent, and forwarded for approval at the next PCC meeting (and the outcome minuted).
* Completed recommendation forms are to be forwarded to the Lay Ministries Development Officer who will arrange for the candidate to be invited to a re-commissioning service with an Archdeacon or Bishop.
* Safeguarding Training to Leadership level should be up to date before recommissioning can occur. Any LWL without in date leadership level safeguarding training will not be recommissioned. Should they not attend a course in a timely manner they will be asked to step down from being a LWL.
* The primary opportunity for recommissioning will be at a yearly ‘Celebration of Lay Ministry’ service.
* Other options for recommissioning may include;
  + A yearly ‘Celebration of Lay Ministry’ service which will include a recommissioning.
  + An online service of commissioning for new LWLs that LWLs requiring re-commissioning can be invited to attend.
  + A local service of commissioning for new LWLs that LWLs requiring re-commissioning can be invited to attend.
  + If sufficient numbers in a local area a local service may be arranged at an appropriate time and place.
* Certificates will be supplied by the Lay Ministries Development Officer.
* Local Worship Leaders may take some responsibility for devising and leading some of the re-commissioning service; commissioning liturgy can be supplied.
* Local Worship Leaders waiting for re-commissioning will be able to continue with their ministry until such a time that they can attend a recommissioning service once recommended by their Incumbent and PCC.
* It remains a requirement for a Local Worship Leader to complete Sunday Plus (or other recommended course) if they have not already done so before re-commissioning. (Anyone commissioned after January 2012 will have completed Sunday Plus.)