

What's involved in becoming an LPA?

Discernment

Working out your calling is about listening attentively to God and reflecting with others.

If you feel called to this ministry;

- talk to your local clergy
- Attend a Lay Pastoral Assistants' course locally

During the course there will be an opportunity for discerning as to whether this is your calling

Training

We want LPAs to feel equipped for the role. An eight session course, designed by the diocese, is available for parishes, benefices or deaneries to deliver locally.

The course gives LPAs confidence to go on to exercise their ministry on behalf of the church.

Becoming an LPA

Those who

- feel called to be an LPA
- have completed the course and been discerned to be an LPA
- have been approved by their PCC
- have completed safeguarding requirements

are then commended by the Bishop for this role and can exercise their ministry locally. The role is for three years but is renewable

Being an LPA

- All LPAs draw up a personalised ministry specification with their church, so that it is clear what their ministry involves.
- It is important for LPAs to continue to reflect and grow in their ministry so they will be encouraged to meet together and continue learning.
- There is an annual review of ministry with a member of the clergy as a way of reflecting on how things are going.
- LPAs take on the role for 5 years but are able to renew their commitment, with the agreement of the church.

How do I find out more?

First, have a word with your clergy about this role and about the scope for a course locally.

If you would like to find out about LPA training, please contact:

Lay Ministries Administration Team
T: 01749 588910
E: training@bathwells.anglican.org

If you would like help thinking about what God might be calling you to do, please contact:

Jill Perrett Lay Ministries Enabler
T: 01749 588909
E: jill.perrett@bathwells.anglican.org

For more information visit:

www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/local-ministries

Is God calling me to
be a Lay Pastoral
Assistant?

“

I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.

”

Matthew 25



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What is a Lay Pastoral Assistant?

Lay Pastoral Assistants have a pastoral ministry which has the focus on caring for the whole people of God, both in the church and local community where they serve.

Many people will show that care for others informally whereas Lay Pastoral Assistants have a specific ministry to do so on behalf of the church.

An individual's ministry will depend upon their gifts and skills, as well as the local context.

It can involve

- Visiting, on behalf of the church
- Care for the elderly
- Supporting those in pastoral need
- Working with all age groups
- Caring for young people
- Supporting schools
- A prayer and healing ministry
- Care for the bereaved

They play an important part in making a difference to people's lives and they do so as a practical sign of God's love for everyone.



Who can be a Lay Pastoral Assistant?

If you are:

- Good at listening
- Easy to talk to
- Good at not judging others
- Prayerful
- Compassionate
- Confidential

this may be a ministry for you to explore.

This is a ministry on behalf of the church, so you will operate under the guidance of the incumbent. You will need to be willing and able to visit all members of the community rather than just those who might form part of your own networks.

Meet a Lay Pastoral Assistant

“ About 15 years ago, we set up a small group to support those in need for whatever reason in our community. It was really a pastoral care group but I don't think we called it that!

I had always felt that in my retirement I wanted to deepen my faith and understanding of God and the Bible. So when I retired a few years ago, extending my role in the pastoral care group was a way of then using that deepened faith.

After mentioning the idea of some training to my incumbent, I did the LPA course. To do the training was very helpful: it gave me more confidence and validated my role, but more importantly it gave me the confidence to feel that I was able to serve my community and to serve God through the work I was doing.”



*Liz from Taunton
Deanery*