

Could I be a Lay Pastoral Assistant?

A close-up photograph of two hands, one from a person with a dark blue sleeve and the other from a person with a dark plaid sleeve, reaching towards each other with palms facing up. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, creating a sense of connection and offering.

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

What is a Lay Pastoral Assistant?

A Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) is trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church, working as part of a team of clergy and laity.

Each individual's ministry will vary according to their gifts and skills, and the context in which these are used. But in all cases the ministry of an LPA calls for a loving and compassionate heart and a willingness to listen to and support those in need.

The ministry of an LPA may include:

Visiting people at home or in hospital

Working with children and young people

Visiting and supporting the recently bereaved

Helping to prepare people for baptism, confirmation and marriage

Being a listening ear in a community outreach project

Administering the sacrament to people in their home or in hospital

The ministry of an CPA holds a crucial place within the life of the local church, relying on good relationships with both clergy and the wider community. For this reason, LPAs are invited into ministry by their parish priest and their calling is affirmed by the local church.

Lay Pastoral Assistants need to be:

Able to demonstrate pastoral sensitivity with good listening skills

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

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

Committed to work within the local team of clergy, ministers and LPAs

Able to undertake an initial 10 session course of study and engage in continuing ministerial development

Lay Pastoral Assistant ministry is a vocation not just a job to be done.

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

There are three
tried and tested
ways of discerning
if this is what God is
calling you to.

1

Do you have a sense of
inner call?

2

Is this call affirmed by
others, especially your
parish priest?

3

Is there a need for this
ministry in your church?



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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