

**"I have called you by name,  
you are mine"  
Isaiah, 43:1**

# **LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT**



**Diocese  
of Salisbury**  
Making  
Jesus Known

# 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. Your ministry might 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

Some LPAs specialise in ministry with older people, and may become Anna Chaplains or Anna Friends ([Anna Chaplaincy Website](#))

# ***“Ministry as a Lay Pastoral Assistant is a vocation, not just a job to be done.”***

The ministry of an LPA 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:**

- 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 plus online safeguarding training and engage in continuing ministerial development

# 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.

Your parish priest could contact the Lay Ministry Team through [parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org) to find out where and when training courses are being offered or register to lead one themselves.

## Contact us

Parish Support

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