



GOD
IS CALLING

'THE GLORY OF GOD IS
A HUMAN BEING FULLY ALIVE'
ST IRENAEUS



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IS GOD CALLING YOU
TO BE A LICENSED LAY
MINISTER?

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What is a Licensed Lay Minister?

A Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) is a lay man or woman who has the Bishop's Licence for a preaching and teaching ministry within the parish where he or she lives or works. The national title for this office is "Reader", but several dioceses have now adopted the title of Lay Minister as being more readily understood by today's society.

The office of Reader is an ancient one, with roots in the early church office of 'Lector', who read the epistle at the Eucharist. Modern Reader ministry began in 1866 and there are now over 10,000 Readers in the Church of England with 100 licensed in the Diocese of Salisbury. Salisbury LLMs are trained and authorized locally to national standards, and once licensed are able to exercise their ministry within their own team or benefice, or, with permission, in the wider diocese. If they move they can ask for a new licence in the diocese where they settle.

What do LLMs do?

The ministry of an LLM is focused on supporting the work of the mission of the parish in preaching, teaching and leading or assisting in the public worship in church.

However, an individual LLM's ministry will be influenced by the pastoral and educational needs of their parish. They can be involved in schools, in study and prayer groups, parish visiting, baptism and confirmation preparation, as well as leading funerals and caring for the bereaved. Many are now finding fresh opportunities for ministry and witness in their workplace and in the wider community.

LLMs do not preside at the Eucharist, or officiate at baptisms or marriages. When robed, they can be distinguished from their ordained colleagues by their distinctive blue scarf.

Could it be you?

If you feel a desire to share your experience of faith through public preaching and engagement with individuals wherever you are, then God may be calling to offer yourself for LLM ministry.

After consultation with your parish priest and with the LLM Discernment Secretary, candidates attend a Discernment Day in Salisbury.

Your training will build on the qualifications, skills and life experiences you already have and enable you to relate everyday experiences to the Gospel message and the life of faith, helping others to do the same.

Each prospective LLM has an individual training plan to take into account their particular circumstances. The study programme is both academic and practical and is delivered using the Salisbury Learning for Discipleship modular programme. It will include some Saturday study days and residential weekends.

What can I do next?

Ask God in prayer ... how you may become all that God intends you to be and how best you may serve him.

Reflect on your gifts ... are you able to engage with people and share your faith? Are you someone with caring skills and a willingness to support others? Do you enjoy reflecting on Scripture and sharing what you learn with others?

Talk to your parish priest or chaplain ... who will be able to advise you and put you in touch with a Vocations Adviser or the LLM Discernment Secretary.

Attend a Diocesan Vocations Day ... held regularly throughout the year. Details are available from your parish priest or from the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Team at the address or telephone number overleaf.

