



The Church of England  
Diocese of Ely

# Vocations

**Information for those  
accompanying explorers**

## Key contacts for our Lay and Ordained Ministry teams:

**Diocesan Director of Ordinands**, *Revd David Newton* -  
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**Assistant Director of Lay Ministry**, *Niki Whitby* -  
[niki.whitby@elydiocese.org](mailto:niki.whitby@elydiocese.org) (oversight of ALMs)

Operations Support Team

**Lay Ministry support**, *Sophie Smith* -  
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**Ordination support**, *Alison Baker* -  
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## Authorised Lay Ministry

Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) are selected by their incumbent and PCC and, after training, they are authorised and commissioned to exercise a particular ministry within their local parish.

ALMs are lay people active in church life, who have been identified by their parish as having a particular gifting, vocation or calling. They will run activities and events in the area of their specialism.



## Specialisms

- Worship Leader and Music
- Preacher
- Evangelist (Church Army)
- Children and Families
- Youth and Families
- Pastoral Assistant
- Anna Chaplain
- School Chaplain
- Social Justice
- Homelessness Chaplain
- Local Leadership

### Training

ALMs must complete two short courses on zoom. A specialism course (10 sessions) and either 'Growing as a Disciple' or 'Introduction to Theology for Ministry' (10/15 sessions respectively).

# Licensed Lay Ministry

Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) lead God's people in worship, preach, and equip the congregation to more closely follow Christ.



## LLMs can also train in the following specialisms:

Children and Families  
Community, Justice and Peace  
Pastoral  
Pioneer  
Youth and Families



### Discernment:

Conversations should start locally. An incumbent (or equivalent) should then refer the candidate to the lay ministry team. A candidate will explore their sense of calling with a 'Lay Selection Vocations Advisor' before attending a diocesan panel.

### Training

This is usually provided by Eastern Regional Ministry Course. Training is over two years, with sessions during term time in Chesterton on a Tuesday evening.



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# Ordained Ministry

## A variety of ordained ministries

Ordained Ministry can take a variety of forms.

A few may be called to **distinctive diaconate**, whilst most are likely to feel called to **priestly / presbyteral ministry**.

Some may want to explore a **potential specialism**, such as a pioneer, chaplain or potential theology educator.

Candidates will also want to think about whether they are hoping to minister as an **incumbent** (or equivalent) or as an **assistant**, and whether they are envisaging **self supporting** or **stipendiary ministry**.

## Discernment and Training

**Discernment** begins locally. The minister should then put the candidate in touch with the DDO.

**Training Is increasingly flexible and bespoke**, with maintenance grants usually available for those under 40 training full-time.



**Support for under-represented groups**

**The Mentor Directory** and **The Peter Stream** exist to encourage those from historically under-represented groups. More details on the website.



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