

## 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 and consider attending a Lay Pastoral Assistants' course locally.

Not everyone who does the course will decide to go on to become an LPA.

### Training

We want LPAs to feel equipped for the role. An 8 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

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

are then commended by the Bishop for this role and released into their ministry locally.

## 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:

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

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For more information visit:

[www.bathandwells.org.uk/layministries](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/layministries)

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 play an important part in their communities by visiting and caring for those in need. Many people will show that care for others informally but Lay Pastoral Assistants have a specific ministry to do so on behalf of the church.

Lay Pastoral Assistants fulfil this role under the guidance of the incumbent.

Lay Pastoral Assistants make a difference to people's lives by ensuring that they are not lonely or isolated in difficult times. They do this 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*