



GOD IS CALLING

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Is God calling you
to be a
Lay Worship Leader?

What is a Lay Worship Leader?

A Lay Worship Leader (LWL) is trained and authorised to assist in the planning and leading of worship in the parishes where they live.

The worship they lead will be as varied as the pattern of worship in their parishes, from traditional services like Matins and Evensong to fresh expressions like Messy Church.

In the Diocese of Salisbury we warmly encourage the participation of lay people in all aspects of the Church's mission and ministry including leading worship where appropriate. We also want anyone who leads worship, whether lay or ordained, to do it excellently. With this in mind we offer training, commissioning and ongoing support for Lay Worship Leaders so that they can feel confident in the ministry that has been entrusted to them.

Receiving the Bishop's commission means that you are formally recognised as a minister of the Diocese. Like Lay Pastoral Assistants, Lay Worship Leaders are chosen by their incumbent and PCC and minister under their direction.

What do Lay Worship Leaders do?

This will depend what services and acts of worship your incumbent would like you to assist with, It may include:

- Leading liturgy in church
- Preparing and leading prayer and intercessions
- Using music in worship
- The Daily Office
- Exploring ways of opening up the Word of God
- Leading services in a more missional context like Cafe Church or 'Messy Church'.

Could it be you?

Lay Worship Leader ministry is a vocation not just a job to be done. There are three tried and tested ways of discerning if this is what God is calling you to.

- Do you have a sense of inner call?
- Is this call affirmed by others?
- Is there a need for this ministry in your church?

Lay worship leaders also need to be:

- Baptised and confirmed
- A regular worshipper & communicant in their home church
- Rooted and grounded in their local community, trusted by those around them
- Able to undertake an initial 10 session course of study and engage in continuing ministerial development.
- Prepared to work under the supervision of their incumbent and alongside others

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 stand up in front of others and speak? Can you prepare prayerfully for services? Are you able perceive the needs of others in worship and point them to God?

Talk to your parish priest or chaplain ... who will be able to advise you and put you in touch with the Vocations Team.

Take a look at our website - salisburycalling.org

Attend a Vocation Enquiry Day ... held regularly throughout the year. Details of the next one is available on our website, from your parish priest, or from the Vocations Team.

