

May 2024

Licensed Lay Ministry

in the Diocese of Ely



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

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What is Licensed Lay Ministry?

Licensed Lay Ministers (referred to henceforth as LLMs) are lay people who come from all walks of life; they are licensed by their bishop to a teaching and preaching ministry, both within church and outside its traditional boundaries. Called by God and trained in theology, they bring their life experience, skills and knowledge to their Christian service. LLMs often have a role in equipping other Christians to grow as disciples in their places of daily living.

LLMs work together with ordained and lay colleagues, usually serving within a ministry team.

In addition to preaching and leading worship LLMs may:

- Lead study groups in a variety of contexts, e.g. Bible study, Lent courses, confirmation and discipleship courses.
- Work with children and young people.
- Exercise a caring ministry in their communities, including in the workplace.
- Conduct funerals.
- With further training, serve as chaplains in places like prisons, schools and hospitals.

LLMs also find many other ways of ministering by their presence, witness and listening at their places of work, at home, among neighbours and in their local communities.





Could it be you?

Trainee LLMs come in all shapes and sizes: can you say ‘yes’ to some of the following:

- You feel God’s call to ministry of some kind,
- Your gifts have been recognised and affirmed by others in your church or community,
- You seek to connect what you know of God’s word with what is happening in society.
- You are open to new challenges and willing to step beyond the familiar in following Jesus.
- You are willing to work as part of a team.

Remember that following God’s call is a process; it may take a while for the way to become clear.

Take a look at the Diocesan Website: elydiocese.org/llms to find out more about what Licensed Lay Ministry might look like for you.

More information on LLMs can also be found on the transforming ministry website: transformingministry.co.uk

Specialisms

Licensed Lay Ministry Specialisms in the Diocese of Ely include:

- Reader
- Children and Families
- Pastoral
- Pioneer
- Youth and Families
- Community, Social Justice and Peace
- Evangelist





Typical journey to Licensed Lay Ministry

Although it is unique for each candidate, the following timeline will give you an idea of what a typical journey to Licensed Lay Ministry might look like.

After an initial conversation with your incumbent to explore your sense of vocation, you may be invited to attend an Explorer's Evening, to contact the Mission & Ministry team and complete the enquirer forms.



Arrange to meet your Lay Selection Vocation Adviser (LSVA). Work with your LSVA for 4-6 sessions to discuss the various LLM pathways. You may be asked to attend the online *Foundation in Ministries* course (**1 year**).



Continue to work with your incumbent and LSVA to prepare for the LLM Selection Day which is in March each year.



If you are successfully recommended for LLM training, you will then start **2 years** of part-time training at a Theological Education Institution (TEI), normally ERMIC in Cambridge.



Licensing Service in the Autumn term at Ely Cathedral.

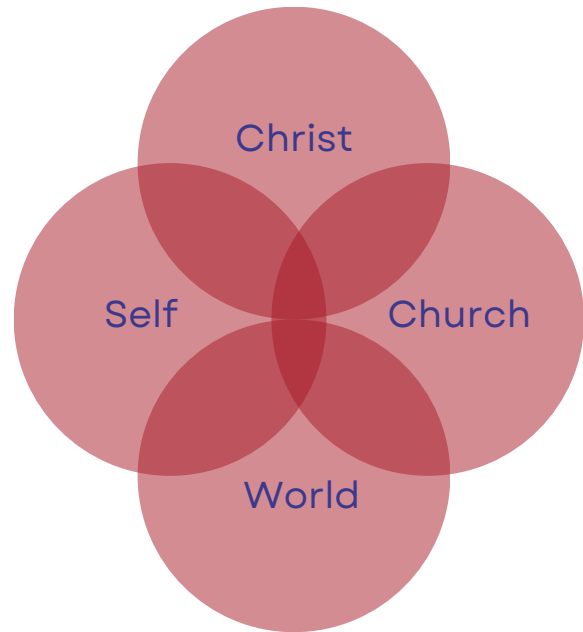


After Licensing, training continues for **2 years**.



The national framework for LLM (Reader)

The Central Readers' Council have worked to produce a national grid of seven 'qualities' - **Love for God, Call to Ministry, Love for People, Wisdom, Fruitfulness, Potential** and **Trustworthiness** - across four domains - **Christ, Church, World** and **Self**.



Reader/LLM	Christ	Church	World	Self
Love of God The Candidate...	Is reliant on God, and lives out an infectious, life-transforming, everyday-focused faith	Is rooted in Scripture, the worship of the Church and the living traditions of faith	Whole heartedly, generously, and attractively engages with God's world	Is prayerful and studies the Bible
Call to Ministry The Candidate...	Responds to the call of Christ to be a disciple	Understands and is excited by the nature of Reader/LLM (Reader) ministry	Is committed to public ministry rooted in God's world	Has a sense of call to lay Ministry
Love for People The Candidate...	Welcomes Christ in others and follows Jesus' example in listening, valuing and respecting others	Builds health relationship which are enabling of others in ministry	Seeks to serve their community and enable others to join in mission	Has empathy and is self-aware
Wisdom The Candidate...	Is open to life-long learning, reflection and growth	Can work collaboratively and embrace difference	Can connect gathered worship with being sent out into the world	Is a person of integrity and emotional stability, open to feedback
Fruitfulness The Candidate...	Shares God's story in a way that encourages others to follow Jesus' call in their lives	Can share the faith imaginatively, relevantly and well	Shares God's love for the world in mission	Recognises their strengths and weaknesses, and resources themselves with good self-care
Potential The Candidate...	Grow in faith and to be open to navigating the future in the company of Christ	Lead collaboratively as part of a local team within the wider church context	See where God is working in the world and spot opportunities to respond	Be adaptable, imaginative, and creative
Trustworthiness The Candidate...	Follows Christ in every part of their life	Leads maturely in a way which promotes safe and harmonious Christian communities	Lives a life that publicly and positively represents their faith and the church	Has a high degree of self-awareness

Training

Training is available through ERM (Eastern Region Ministry Course), at Ridley Hall or Westcott House Theological Colleges.

Training is around 2 years. Individual needs are assessed and supported. If you do not have an academic background or it is a long time since you have studied, you should be reassured the training will be accessible for you. Mentors are available to support you if needed.

Pre-requisites

Being part of four sessions of the **Ministry Discernment Group**, which run in January and September.

For more information on this, please contact:

vocations@elydiocese.org

Completion of the **Introduction to Theology for Ministry** course, starting in September. Mentors are available to support you if needed - if you think this is you, please contact:

layvocations@elydiocese.org.

Support on your journey

Once in receipt of your application you will be allocated a **Lay Selection Vocations Advisor** (LSVA) who will help with discerning your calling and help prepare you for selection.

Next steps

- Speak to your incumbent, or your Rural Dean if your parish is in vacancy.
- Complete and return an enquiry form, which is available from: layvocations@elydiocese.org.

Selection takes place in March each year either in person or on zoom, prior to training starting in September.



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Who's who?

The Diocesan Warden of LLMs (previously known as Warden of Readers) is Cathy Watts.

Among other duties, Cathy supports the discernment and selection of LLMs, as well as supporting LLMs across the Diocese in their ministry.

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Cathy Watts, Warden of LLMs



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