

# Harrogate Deanery Synod – Speaker Notes

## 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – All Saints’ Church, Kirkby Overblow

### Speaker: The Revd Canon Dr Hayley Matthews – Director of Lay Training

#### Diocesan Lay Training

Hayley was appointed Director of Lay Training in the Diocese of Leeds five years ago.

The purpose of her presentation at Synod was two-fold:

- To inform about the range of lay training being offered
- To ascertain what lay training members of Synod would like in their parishes

#### **The Current Offer**

Hayley was keen to emphasise that Lay Training has been designed using a blended approach to learning. This blended approach combines face-to-face learning with online technology learning.

- **Face-to-face.** This takes place in person with either a trainer at your church, or at the training Hubs in Mirfield or Bingley
- **Online.** This is either directed or self-paced using the resources on the Diocesan Learning Platform <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org>

Hayley explained that the digital platform allows people to access the learning and resources at a time to suit them, thereby making the learning fit around people’s own personal circumstances. She introduced the following Lay Ministry courses:

#### **The Discovery Course**

This is a foundation course for Lay Ministry. This on-line self-paced course helps you to discover how and where God is calling you to serve. The course material requires approximately 10-12 hours of individual study. As a participant, you interact with others and the course tutor through discussion forums, by typing comments and questions and ‘posting’ them in the forum. The outcome of this course is a clearer understanding of how your personal style can play a part in where you would be best placed to serve. <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/self-paced-discovery-course-2021/> An in-person version of this course is also available: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/resource/the-discovery-course/>

#### **Lay Pastoral Minister Course**

Hayley explained that there are three levels of training for those called to pastoral ministry

##### **1) Level 1 – Lay Pastoral Visitor**

This is a stand-alone two hour taster course. It is designed for people who have little experience or training in having **pastoral conversations**. It is beneficial for anyone wishing to be a hospital visitor, part of a congregational pastoral care group or undertake home visiting.

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/ministry/pastoral-worker/>

## **2) Level 2 – Lay Pastoral Assistant**

This is a 10 week course. It expands on pastoral conversations and is designed for people who wish to go deeper into pastoral conversations, understand more about grief and loss, have the tools to handle sensitive topics and understand human and spiritual development.

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/pastoral-assistant-training/>

## **3) Level 3 – Lay Pastoral Minister**

This is 10 month course. It is designed to develop advanced skills and leadership skills for those involved in providing pastoral care and support within their parish. The course takes place over three terms. During the final term, Lay Pastoral Ministers are commissioned in their parish during Pentecost season. The following year, Lay Pastoral Ministers are active in their parish and receive an additional six mentoring and training sessions.

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/lay-pastoral-ministry-course-22-23>

## **Lay Worship Leader**

This is 10 month course. It is designed to develop the skills and knowledge required to lead worship in a parish under the supervision of the incumbent. Those who complete the course will have an in-depth understanding of the theology of worship and worship in the Bible. They will also gain practical knowledge of how to prepare worship using a range of resources available within Common Worship. The course takes place over three terms and in the third term, Lay Worship Leaders are commissioned in their parish during Pentecost Season.

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/lay-worship-leaders-course-21-22>

## **Licensed Lay Minister**

This is a 2-year academic qualification. It is designed to provide people with the skills to have conversations with people in their parish, which are grounded in good theology. On successful completion of the course, participants are licensed by their Bishop to preach, teach, lead worship, and assist in many other areas of the mission and ministry of church life. The qualification has three aspects to it, following the recent review of Reader Training (now LLM)

- i) Mission enabler
- ii) Leader in church and society; providing a bridge between church and community
- iii) Preachers and teachers of God; teaching the Word of God

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/ministry/licensed-lay-minister>

## **Occasional Preachers Course**

This comprises eight evening zoom sessions, plus one full day of practical preaching experience. This new diocesan Lay Ministry pathway is designed for lay people who are unable to commit to becoming Licensed Lay Ministers but still feel called to be preaching ministry on an occasional basis.

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/occasional-preachers-course-summer-2022>

## **Rhythm of Life Venture**

This is designed to develop spirituality in a holistic way. The 'Rhythm of Life' initiative is offered as a way of helping each of us adopt new rhythms of life, as our circumstances change. It is designed to work with and add to the rhythm of any good things we are already doing. It pays special attention to 7 key areas: Praying, Encouraging, Reflecting, Celebrating, Resting, Sharing and Creating. It explores which aspect of our spirituality is God wanting us to develop and grow.

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/rol/>

## **Supporting Videos**

Hayley's presentation was supported throughout by three video clips to illustrate the kind of learning participants have experienced. These are available to download on the Learning Platform.

Helen Jackson, LLM: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/resource/helen-jackson-llm-ministry-and-training/>

Fiona Pearman, Lay Pastoral Worker: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/story/fiona-pearman-pastoral-student/>

Nigel Priestley, This Time Tomorrow: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/story/nigel-priestley-this-time-tomorrow/>

## **What does your parish/benefice need?**

Hayley concluded her presentation by asking, 'If you could have one lay training course, which one would it be?' She invited email responses [Hayley.Matthews@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:Hayley.Matthews@leeds.anglican.org)

**Question:** Dr Sue Atkin, pointed out that there are a lot of volunteers who are already doing some of these roles, and asked how does this align with those how would like to become lay ministers?

**Answer:** By undertaking and completing the Lay Ministry training modules, participants will have greater understanding, increased depth of knowledge and enhanced skills to perform these roles effectively.

**Question:** Mr Brian Shipman, St Bartholomew Church, Arkendale, asked where safeguarding fits into the training Hayley described.

**Answer:** All participants are required to go through the safer recruitment procedure, and everyone engaged in the above ministries is subject to safeguarding training – which is now provided at a national level.