

Ad Clerum 3e.1

The authorisation of Lay Leaders of worship in the local congregation

There is an increasing emphasis in the Church on the value of lay ministry coupled with a recognition of the diversity of Christian vocation.

The Diocesan Vision of Living God's Love allows and encourages development of this expression of ministry as an example of the way in which God's mission and ministry should be shared by all who are baptised.

Worship is at the heart of our Christian discipleship and witness, yet some churches across the Diocese do not hold a service every Sunday because they do not have licensed ministers to lead. In some churches circumstances require that services are held at different times each week. In other churches worship is led by lay people who feel ill-equipped or have little training.

As a result, an initiative has been established to address these concerns and to help make it possible for public worship to take place in every church every Sunday. It enables parishes across the Diocese to discern the gifts of lay people as local Lay Leaders of Worship (LLWs) and provides agreed training for them, on completion of which they receive a letter of permission from the Bishop recognising them as Lay Leaders of Worship in their parish church. This is not designed to replace ordained ministry but to work alongside it to enable a sustaining and development of worship within a community.

To enquire about the scheme, please contact the Revd Jeanette Gosney,
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Issued April 2015.