

LICENSED LAY MINISTRY

The Diocese of London encourages the involvement and leadership of lay people in the ministry and mission of the church. One of the ways it does that is through appointing Licensed Lay Ministers, which this leaflet will tell you more about.



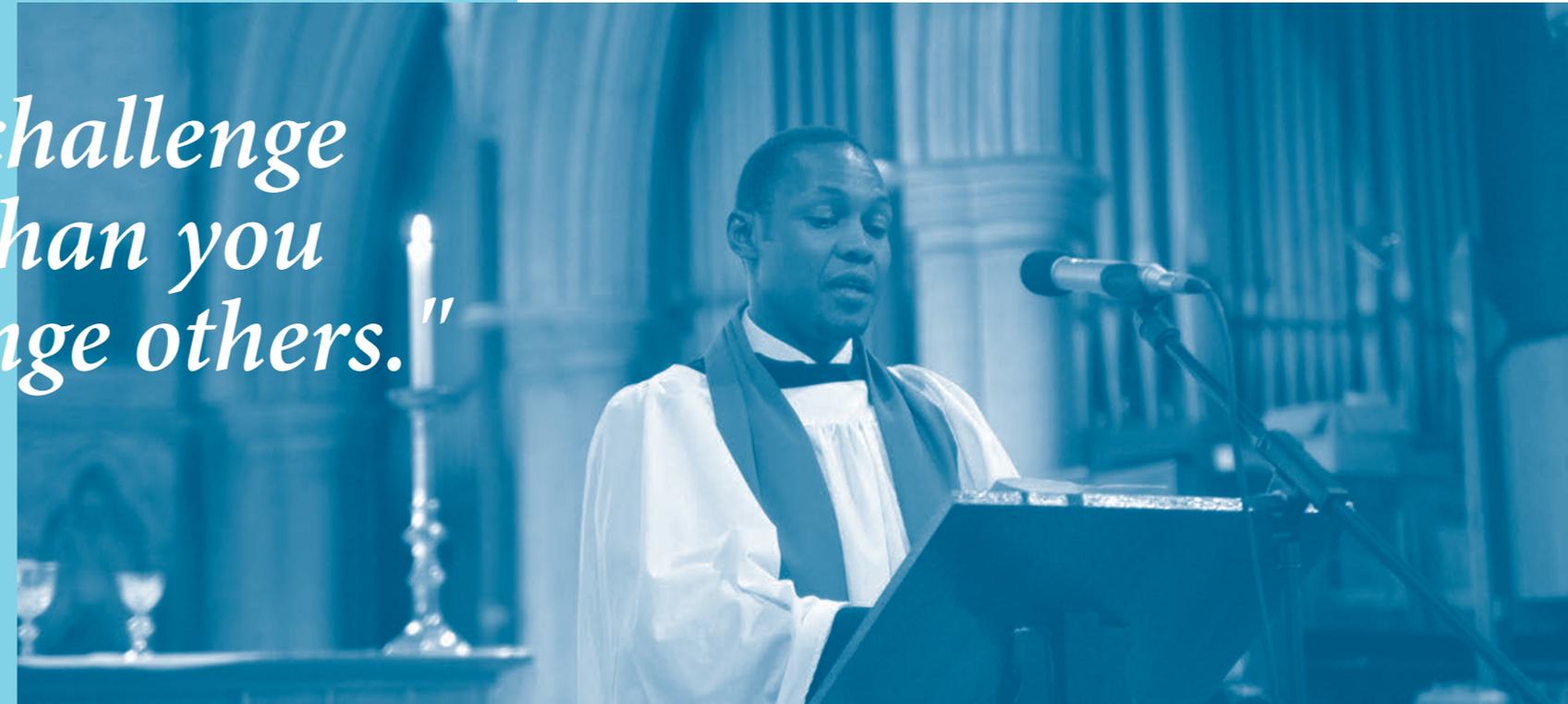
What is a licensed lay minister (LLM)?

LLMs are licensed which means that they are given responsibility by the bishop, and they are accountable to him or her. As public representatives of the bishop LLMs also represent the Church. As lay people they are well-placed to offer ministry outside of the traditional confines of church. As ministers they serve the church and its people.

This service may take different forms, and may involve:

- ♦ Teaching and helping people of all ages grow in faith or come to faith for the first time.
- ♦ Offering pastoral care, taking Holy Communion to the house bound, conducting funerals.
- ♦ Preaching and leading worship.

"God will challenge you more than you will challenge others."



What is the training?

In London training for LLMs normally takes three years of part time study, attending an evening a week and occasional Saturdays in central London and undertaking assignments and reading in between, along with some other commitments. Further information is available through the London Diocese website.

How much does it cost?

No-one is prevented from training on the grounds of cost. Candidates and sponsoring parishes are encouraged to consider contributing to the cost of training if they can, enabling the widest number to benefit from the training.

Next steps

Talk it over with your parish priest or chaplain, who can advise on next steps. Further resources can be found National website for LLMs.

– *National website for LLMs (LLMs are also called Readers):*
www.readers.cofe.anglican.org

– *Diocese of London:*
www.london.anglican.org/mission/lay-ministry/

Who might become a licensed lay minister?

People from all walks of life become LLMs, what matters is that God calls you to this ministry. The church will help you to discern this call. Discernment is a process, and it will probably take time to discover the answer. If you can say yes to some of the following, then this may be for you:

- You feel God might be calling you to ministry of some kind.
- Your gifts have been recognised by others in your church or community.
- You seek to connect God's word with what is happening in society.
- You are willing to step beyond the familiar in following Jesus.
- You are willing to work as part of a team.
- You are willing to study now and carry on learning in the future.

Where does licensed lay ministry take place?

LLMs minister in parishes, hospitals, schools, prisons and places of work, in communities and among families. Each LLM also has a particular place where they are licensed, usually a parish, where they work in collaboration with the incumbent and other lay leaders.



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