

## One OLM tells her story:

Having been nurtured by Christian parents, I have always known that Jesus loves me, and therefore my faith and being a part of St Mary's Church in my home village of Greenfield has always been the focus of my life. The move from attending Sunday School at the age of 14, to teaching (for the next 35 years!) seemed a natural progression on my journey of faith and others around me may have recognised where it might lead before I did myself.

As I became busy with administrative roles in the church, such as PCC Secretary, Foundation Governor at St Mary's School and Treasurer of the parish magazine, I also became more involved with worship and pastoral care, leading intercessions, administering the wine at Communion and taking the reserved sacrament to sick and housebound people.

I used to think I spent years ignoring God calling me to the ordained ministry, but now I believe that he was preparing others to recognise my calling and preparing me to accept his call when the time was right. Indeed, I am sure that it has all happened at the most appropriate stage in my life.

As an OLM, I feel blessed serving the people in my parish and congregation, many of whom I have known all my life, and also ministering within paid employment, which has always been with Social Services. For the last fifteen years I have been a Team Manager, working with staff supporting adults with physical and sensory disabilities.

Our faith must be evident in and influence all aspects of our lives. I am constantly amazed by the power of God's love and how he uses me and others to fulfil his purpose. I'm also amazed at how, because of and despite my busy-ness, God enables me to manage on so little sleep!

Recently, I have been setting up and leading a pastoral care team, which allows me to combine my social work skills with my faith. Working with the pastoral carers and the people we support is one of the joys of ministry – seeing how together we can put God's love into action. Preaching the Word and being with people at the critical points in their lives, such as baptism, marriage and bereavement is also a real privilege and extremely rewarding.

Being an OLM is indeed a calling and a gift from God, for which I thank him every day.



The Revd. Barbara Christopher

# Ordained Local Ministry

A Guide



## What is Ordained Local Ministry?



## What do OLMs do?

## How are OLMs selected?

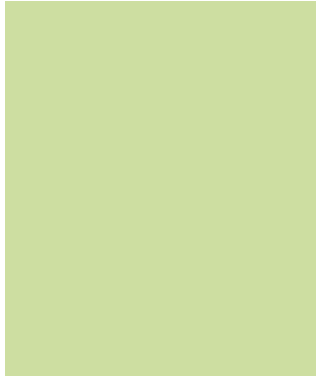




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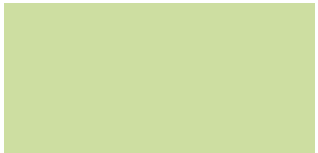
Ordained Local Ministry is one of the ways in which ordained ministry in the Church of England operates. It is an unpaid ordained ministry with a special local focus. Ordained Local Ministers work in their local setting, in their 'home' parishes. Their ordination is exactly the same as those who are ordained to stipendiary ministry, or Non-Stipendiary Ministry (NSM). Ordained Local Ministers (OLMs) serve as part of a team of lay and ordained ministers in a parish or community setting.

All church communities model their life on the shared ministry patterns begun in the early Church. More and more we are beginning to recognise the value of lay and ordained ministries working together, sharing skills and insights, valuing the distinct contributions which both make for the health of the body of Christ - the Church. We are growing into shared, or collaborative ministry. God may be calling people to Ordained Local Ministry in parishes where lay and ordained are already working closely together in patterns of shared ministry. OLM should also be one of the ways in which shared ministry will develop further.



## What do OLMs do?

Because OLMs are not paid by the Church they continue in their normal employment after ordination. Like all clergy they are called to a ministry of Word and Sacrament. But in addition, each OLM has a particular task within the parish, called the Ministry Profile (a sort of 'Job Description'). This covers an area of work, identified by the PCC, for which the OLM will have a special responsibility. This might, for example, be in the area of baptism preparation and follow-up; or, at the other end of life, in bereavement counselling. An OLM might liaise with local youth groups, or have a particular ministry in the schools of the parish. Always, though, the OLM serves as part of a team of lay and ordained ministers in the parish or community setting.



## How are OLMs selected?

One major difference between the OLM and other ordained ministers is in the area of calling to ordination. Prospective candidates for OLM do not offer themselves for ordination. Instead, the Parish nominates and calls them, as being suitable people to undertake the particular area of work that the PCC has identified. Before this can happen a parish must have been accredited for collaborative ministry by the Diocesan team responsible for accreditation. Full details of this process can be found in the leaflet 'Ordained Local Ministry and your parish' (see further information below) Once a parish has nominated a candidate that person's call to ministry is 'tested' in a similar manner to all candidates for ordained ministry, through a local and national selection process.

## Further information

For more information about selection and training please see the leaflets 'Ordained Local Ministry and your parish' and 'Training for Ordained Local Ministry.'

All our leaflets can be downloaded from the OLM pages of the diocesan website; [www.manchester.anglican.org](http://www.manchester.anglican.org),

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To explore OLM ministry further, speak first to your parish priest  
or, for general enquiries about parish accreditation for OLM contact the Revd Jayne Prestwood  
on 0161 828 1456  
or by e-mail at [jprestwood@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:jprestwood@manchester.anglican.org)

