

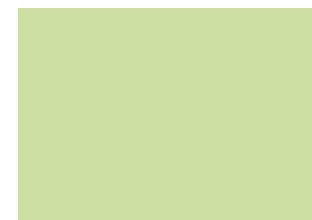
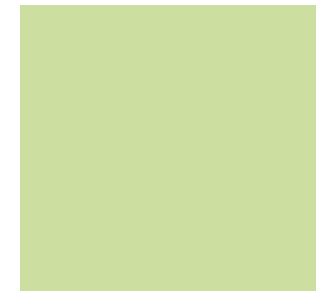
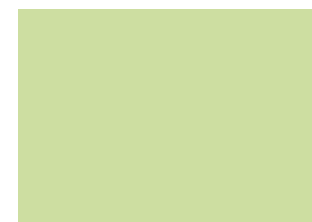
// God has proved that He doesn't abandon you after He has called you. //

For more information please contact:

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Ordained Local Ministry
Training to be an Ordained Local Minister





Training to be an Ordained Local Minister

What does it involve?

Christian ministers are people who draw close to God and help draw others closer to God. There needs to be a spiritual depth (e.g. Prayer-life), a level of learning / understanding (e.g. knowledge of Bible and doctrine and how these connect with the modern world) and various key skills (e.g. communication, pastoral care). "Training" is both the initial preparation for being an OLM, but it is also a life-long attitude which wants to keep fresh and alive to what God is doing. OLM candidates train on the regional "Learning for Mission and Ministry" Course of the Southern North West Training Partnership for three years (part-time) prior to licensing. This is a Foundation Degree Course validated by the University of Chester and Liverpool Hope University.

Each year is 3 terms of 8 week-night sessions (venues in Bury or S Manchester), and 6 residential weekends. There is also a week long residential. Assignments are designed to be practical and useful and to develop the skills needed in ministry. Students are expected to learn in and from their parish setting, and will have other placements in the second and third year.

You will have the support of your parish and incumbent, a pastoral tutor assigned to you, and the support of the Director of Studies. Training is designed to stretch you, but our commitment is to support you. You will also have support from those teaching the modules, and from the Course Principal and staff.

You should expect to give about 12 hrs a week to the training but this includes time in the parish, as well as your reading and class time. Read the stories of real students, and give us a ring if you have any concerns or questions.

Training, Tutors, the whole Ministry Training Team, and support staff. They all give strong support and encouragement.

As one of the original 'Guinea pigs', I am now in the final year of training on the SNWTP course, or as christened by the students SNoWToPs. It certainly at times has been a hard journey but the highs have far outweighed the lows. The course challenges, questions, develops and inspires you in so many areas of your faith and formation but deepens your calling.

It has been a long journey, one I never expected to start never mind finish. If you have a sense of calling, please don't avoid exploring it. Remember, you are a gift from God and he has called you by name and you are His.

“
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Janet Lyssejko

'You must be off your rocker. You can't possibly mean me' was my response to the Vicar when he suggested I go forward for OLM training. I gave every good reason I could think of to convince him he was wrong.

However, the seed had been planted. It was strange how sermons appeared to be about my calling and me. The number of people who said they were so pleased that I was going for training, not bad considering I hadn't said anything to anyone as I was still mulling it over.

After discussions with my husband, John, as a team we went to see the Vicar to discuss the next step. It was marvellous that the PCC affirmed my calling. Off I trundled to see the DDO. Forms filled, interviews done with VA and EC, and recommendation to go forward for my BAP. Unfortunately I was unsuccessful at my first BAP. Taking that phone call from the then Bishop of Bolton was heartbreaking and the decision was so hard to come to terms with. I decided I could never put myself through the process again!

I avoided my Vicar for a year. Eventually I could hide no longer and we discussed my calling. It took me a long time to decide if I could put myself forward again. Obviously it wasn't my choice, and in the end God's will for me took over and He doesn't let things get in the way of his plans. Something my teenage daughter said to me encouraged me to fill in the forms, and the rest, as they say, is history.

It has been hard trying to juggle family life, a full-time job, studying but the support I have received from family, friends, church and work has been a godsend. Also the strong new friendships gained on the course, their support and the bonding with fellow students will last a lifetime. No one wants you to fail, least of all your Director of Discipleship & Ministry



//
we've
developed
strong bonds
that will be with
us well into our
active ministry



Further information

For more information about selection for OLM and a guide to OLM please see the leaflets 'Ordained Local Ministry and your parish' and 'A Guide to Ordained Local Ministry.' All our leaflets can be downloaded from the OLM pages of the diocesan website; www.manchester.anglican.org,

For questions about training for OLM ministry, contact the Revd Peter Reiss, Director of Studies for Ordinands in Training, on 0161 828 1455 or by e-mail at preiss@manchester.anglican.org

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.



Simon Wright

I felt a nagging call that grew in me for some years. Originally I thought of applying to be a Reader but when I asked my incumbent he suggested I considered OLM training.

My preparation for the selection conference increased and confirmed the calling to me and it was a blessing when the conference confirmed it.

I'm now in my first year of training and thoroughly enjoying it. I'm regularly challenged and my horizons have been expanded. The group I'm training with is very friendly and mutually supportive and cover the whole spectrum of Anglicanism.

I work fulltime but with planning (and a supportive wife) the course can be fitted in though you must consider that the course is part-time not spare time. If you feel you may have a calling I strongly urge you to test it; anything else would be a denial.

As St Paul put it 'God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.'

Jane Greenhalgh

It's a good job God is patient and understanding or I wouldn't be training for OLM!

God spent 3 years quietly prompting and 'nagging' me to consider OLM (sometimes directly, often through other people); I spent the same 3 years swinging between sticking my fingers in my ears refusing to listen, and telling Him exactly why I couldn't possibly become a vicar! The more people suggested I train for OLM, the greater my feeling of

Some stories from students in training about their experience of calling and selection:



// I began to feel a growing sense of urgency to say "yes" ... //

// the course is 'part-time' - not 'spare time'! //



disquiet, and the more desperate my reply of "no" began to sound in my ears. I developed a long list of, what I thought were very good, reasons why I couldn't become an OLM.

Then, as God and I rehashed this list again and again I began to realise it had somehow changed into a list of reasons why I couldn't become an OLM now! – at which point I knew I had lost the argument. God continued to remove the barriers I threw in the way of my call, and I began to feel a growing sense of urgency to say "yes". The sense of peace when I finally did say "yes" to God was phenomenal. It took me another couple of weeks to pluck up the courage to talk to the Rector about this, only to find that God had already paved the way there and the Rector was waiting for me to say something!

It was all a bit of a whirlwind then – seeing the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Vocations Advisor, Examining Chaplain, and then....BAP!... the Bishop's Advisory Panel (aka Selection Conference) – some people tell me they found that quite stressful, I actually thought it was a ball and I would have happily gone again; though fortunately I didn't have to.

I'm in the second year of training now and I am absolutely loving every minute of it (though maybe not those 10 seconds when I read what the next assignment is!). The learning is fantastic; the other students are really supportive (we've developed some very strong bonds that I think will be with us well into our active ministry); and the tutors are friendly and helpful (though don't tell them I said that!), and they treat you like adults (so not like being at school).

It is hard balancing a very full-time job, a social life, other commitments and doing the course – but it's possible! And so far God has proved that He doesn't abandon you after He has called you – He has been there supporting me through the last two years, and I hope enjoying it with me!