
Lay Ministry Courses



Prospectus

2026

Foreword

From Bishop David

I've been involved in lay training schemes of one sort or another since my own days as a parish priest in Rotherham in the 1990s. The take-off of interest in such schemes in more recent years here in the Diocese of Manchester has been a marvellous sign of how the Holy Spirit is equipping men and women for service and ministry in the Church.

I can promise anyone interested in these courses that any such training will be demanding and stretching but that it will inevitably draw you deeper into Christ. You will learn from each other as well as from those charged with leading the course. You will grow in knowledge, in experience and in confidence.

To put it more bluntly you'll be growing more closely into the likeness of Christ for which you and all of us are destined.

Yours ever,



The Rt Revd Dr David Walker

Bishop of Manchester



Contents

General Information

Introduction	4
Course Aims, Goals and Expectations	5

Lay Ministry Training Courses

Ecology and Creation	7
Parish Administration	10
Prayer and Spirituality	13
Leading Small Groups	15
Mission and Evangelism	16
Worship and Liturgy	19
Growing Younger Stream	22

How to Apply	26
---------------------	----

Frequently Asked Questions	27
-----------------------------------	----

General Information

Introduction

What are Lay Ministry Courses?

Our Lay Ministry Courses are part of the broader Lay Ministry Pathway which covers all our training for Lay people across the Diocese of Manchester.

Lay Ministry Courses cover a variety of areas and are open to everyone. Their aim is to refresh and equip you in your chosen ministry area and enthuse and inspire you in something new.

To apply there is a simple Application Form and a requirement that you have support from your Church, through an appropriate parish representative. After the course has been completed we encourage your parish to celebrate or mark your achievement in some way. It will also be the responsibility of the local parish to ensure that the appropriate safeguarding training and DBS checks are in place for any resulting ministry roles or duties

What courses are on offer for 2026?

There are currently 9 courses available for application, which will run between April and July at a variety of venues around the diocese. For more information and details on each course please refer to the following outlines.

Courses on Offer for 2026

Ecology and Creation

Parish Administration

Prayer and Spirituality

Leading Small Groups

Mission and Evangelism

Worship and Liturgy

And as part of our Growing Younger Stream:

Ministry with Early Years

Children and Families Ministry

Youth Ministry



Please note that we do our best to make the training courses as accessible as possible to all participants. However, if there are not enough candidates to run selected venues then alternative arrangements may need to be made or courses may be cancelled. This is so we can make our training

as rich and good as it possibly can be.

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

The application closing date for general lay training applications is Friday 27th March 2026.

Lay Ministry Courses: Aims, Goals and Expectations

Aim

To empower, enable and equip lay leaders to become courageous and missional whole life disciples, capable of ministering effectively and collaboratively in their local parish churches, communities and frontlines.

Goals

- To provide participants with a safe and unique learning environment where they can develop and grow alongside fellow Christians from a variety of different church traditions and backgrounds.
- To empower participants to develop their calling and gifts as lay leaders and to deepen their ongoing journey of faith as missional whole-life disciples in the everyday stuff of life.
- To enable participants to grasp the importance of mission, including the knowledge and skills they will need to minister effectively, courageously and collaboratively in their own local contexts and frontlines.
- To equip participants with the tools they will need to grow and thrive in their ministries and the resources and support required to remain healthy and fruitful.

Expectations

Attendance

To be eligible for a course completion certificate, all participants must maintain a minimum attendance rate of 75%. This is to ensure that a base level of training has been met and that all participants are equally equipped.

Leading Opening Prayers/Reflections

During the course we encourage participants to take turns in planning and leading a short

time of opening prayers/reflections in any style. Further guidance and support for this will be provided.

Learning Journal

Participants are encouraged to keep some form of reflective learning diary/ journal. This is intended to take no longer than 15-20 minutes after each session and is part of developing the skills of reflective practice. Further support and guidance on this will be provided.

Reading

There is no expectation for course participants to do lots of extra reading. However, for those wanting to delve a little deeper there will be suggested resources and recommended reading lists provided. Participants will also be given full access to the borrowing library at St Johns House.

Learning Task

As part of the course, participants may be given the opportunity to prepare and submit a short learning task set by the tutor. This could be a short book review, a presentation or a similarly related task in the parish. Guidance and support for this will be provided.

Parish Visitation(s)

As part of reflective practice and personal development we ask that all participants arrange at least one parish visitation during the course. This tends to work best if it is to a parish that is different from their own context in terms of tradition and practices. Guidance and support on this will be provided.

Lay Ministry Training Courses

Ecology & Creation Elective

Learning Goals

To equip people with the resources to enable them to engage with creation care in a way that is missional and transformative for their churches and local communities.

Session 1: Introduction- Looking at Our Local and Global Contexts

Monday 13th April, 7-9pm Online via Zoom

In this introductory session, we will find out about each other and hear from Danielle and Francine, previous course participants, about their elective journey. Grace will then look at some of the science which underpins the reason for engagement in creation and climate mission

Sessions 2, 3 & 4: Creation, Ecology & The Bible (Eco Retreat Day)

Saturday 18th April, 10am-3.30pm St John's Church, Pendlebury

In the morning, Grace will lead sessions looking at creation theology and ecological grief. The afternoon will take the form of a short, quiet space, with reflections led by Danielle and Francine. It will conclude with a 'Green Communion'

Session 5: Mission and Action

Monday 27th April, 7-9pm Online via Zoom

Grace will lead a session on how creation care is mission and look at some practical actions for churches to take, such as Eco Church and the Energy Footprint Tool

Session 6: Community and Global Engagement

Monday 11th May 7-9pm Online via Zoom

This session will look at Fairtrade in churches, led by Hilary and Mandy, two former course participants. Grace will then discuss engagement with children and schools

Session 7 /8: Field Trip- A Rural Eco Church

Monday 18th May, 7-9pm St Paul, Constable Lee, Rossendale

Led by previous course participants, this is a chance to see eco mission in action

Session 9: Worship and Liturgy

Monday 8th June, 7-9pm Online via Zoom

Grace will lead a session looking at different music and worship materials that can be used for all ages and contexts, throughout the year

Session 10/11: Field Trip- An Urban Eco Church

Monday 15th June 7-9pm Christ Church, Brunswick, Manchester

Led by previous course participants, this is a chance to see eco mission in action.

Session 12: Eco Stepping Stones & Next Steps

Tuesday 13th July, 7-9pm Online via Zoom

Kath, a previous course participant will lead us in an Eco Stepping Stones session, before we conclude by looking at what happens next. We will be joined by Gordon and Nick, eco champions, about how to connect with eco champions across the diocese.

Course Delivery and Venues

For ease of convenience and to reduce travel, most of the sessions will be delivered online via Zoom on a Monday evening. However, the elective will involve some field trip visits to some key eco projects around the diocese and a special Saturday Eco Retreat Day.

Course Tutor

For more information and details about the course, please feel free to contact:



Revd Grace Thomas

Canon Missioner at Manchester Cathedral and

Diocesan Environment Officer

revgracethomas@gmail.com

Going Deeper

If you would like to get a flavour of this course and learn a little bit more about what we will be covering, then please feel free to check out some of the following books and resources.

Books

Robert Bauckham, *The Bible and Ecology*

Church of England Liturgical Commission, *A Time for Creation*

John Bimson, *The Book of Job and Environmental Ethics* (Grove Booklet)

Grace Thomas & Mark Coleman, *Climate Action as Mission* (Grove Booklet)

Websites

A Rocha Eco Church: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Christian Climate Action: <https://christianclimateaction.org/resources/>

Green Christians website: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/>

Diocese of Manchester, Net Zero Carbon: <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/net-zero-carbon/>

Parish Administration Elective

Learning Goals

- To help participants understand the importance of administration as a ministry and the vital role it plays in supporting God's work in the parish and wider diocese.
- To enable and resource participants to feel more confident in managing and dealing with matters of church governance, and to understand where support and assistance can be found.
- To equip participants with an understanding of how parish and diocesan finances work and to highlight the support and resources available.
- To highlight the importance of generous giving as part of supporting the Church's mission, including fundraising, gift aid and the support available to assist this work.
- To resource participants with the information and guidance required to manage other key parish issues such as health & safety, safeguarding, GDPR and publicity.

Course Delivery and Venues

To give the fairest possible opportunities for participation and engagement this course will be delivered via a hybrid mix of in person and online sessions. Most sessions will be delivered online (via Zoom) on a Thursday evening with the addition of 3 Saturdays placed at different venues around the diocese.

Session Dates

Sessions 1-3: The Ministry of Administration, The Who's Who of Church Governance & All Things PCC

Saturday 16 May, 10am-2pm @ St John's House, 155-163, The Rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Session 4: An Introduction to Faculties and Church Law

Thursday 21 May, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 5: Looking After Your Church Building, Including a Brief Introduction to Health & Safety and Church Insurance

Thursday 28 May, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 6: An Introduction to Diocesan & Parish Finances

Thursday 4 June, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 7: An Introduction to Parish Data & Statistics

Thursday 11 June @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 8: Dealing with Life Events- Births, Deaths & Marriages

Thursday 18 June, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 9: An Introduction to Generosity and Thanksgiving, including Financial Giving & Fundraising

Thursday 25 June, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 10: An Introduction Church Communication, Publicity & the Diocesan Website

Thursday 02 July, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 11: An Introduction to Electronic Giving, Online Resources, Data Sharing and Storage

Thursday 16 July, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 12: Parish Visitation: An example of Repair and Reordering

Saturday 18 July, 10am-2pm @ Christ Church, Brunswick

Course Lead

For more information and details about the course, please feel free to contact:



Carolyn McGloughlin

Parish Support Officer (Finance)

CarolynMcGloughlin@manchester.anglican.org



Rob Chilton

Parish Support Officer (Transformation)

robertchilton@manchester.anglican.org

Going Deeper

If you would like to get a flavour of this course and learn a little bit more about what we will be covering, then please feel free to check out some of the following books and resources.

Books

Church Representation Rules: 2022, Church House Publishing

A Handbook for Churchwardens & Parochial Church Councillors, Kenneth MacMorrison

The Churchwarden's Handbook: A Practical Guide, Ian Russell

Churchwardens: A Survival Guide, Martin Dudley

An ABC for the PCC: A Handbook for Church Council Members, John Pitchford

Websites

Manchester Diocese, Finances: <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/parish-finance/>

Church Representation Rules (online toolkit) <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/church-representation-rules>

The National Church: Generosity and Learning Hub:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/webinars-and-training/generosity-learning-hub>

Parish Resources: <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/>

Prayer and Spirituality Elective

This is a brand new, freshly shaped course for 2026! This course will help participants have a better understanding of their own prayer journey, practical skills and resources to begin to enable others in prayer.

Learning goals

- To explore together elements of prayer tradition, drawing on prominent figures in Church History such as Ignatius, Columba and Benedict and to see ways that this inheritance can be a prayer resource, for us as disciples and for those we encourage in prayer.
- To be encouraged to broaden our own personal rhythms of prayer and to see ways of facilitating others in beginning and sustaining a life of prayer.
- To undertake bridging activities between sessions to grow and deepen our own understanding, and to plan the delivery of a prayer activity in our churches, in liaison with the incumbent or others in ministry.

Course Delivery and Venues

The Course is run over three Saturdays. In between the Saturday Sessions there will be tasks to continue learning, and the opportunity to put together a project or activity in the parish to support others in prayer, in conversation with the Incumbent or others in ministry.

Session Dates

Day 1: Saturday 16th May 2026 9.30am – 3.00pm, with Bishop Mark.

Our Prayer Tradition and me.

Day 2: Saturday 06 June 2026 RETREAT and REFLECTION Day (Venue to be confirmed)

Building and developing my spiritual practice.

Day 3: Saturday 20th June 9.30am – 3.00pm

Beginning to develop prayer and spiritual practice with others.

Course Tutors

For more information and details about the course, please feel free to contact:

Kim Morgan-Jones Head of Lay Development

KimMorgan-Jones@manchester.anglican.org



Beverley Angier Lay Ministry Officer

Beverleyangier@manchester.anglican.org



Going Deeper

If you would like to get a flavour of this course and learn a little bit more about what we will be covering, then please feel free to check out some of the following books and resources.

Books

Stephen Cottrell, How to Pray: Alone, With Others, at Any Time, in Any Place

Margaret Silf, Landmarks: An Ignatian Journey

Evelyn Underhill, Evelyn Underhill's Prayer Book

Pete Grieg, How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People

Timothy Keller, Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God

Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, The Little Book of Prayer Experiments

Web Resources

Pray as You Go: <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

Pathways to God: <https://pathwaystogod.org/>

Church of England, Service of Daily Prayer: <https://tinyurl.com/w8frb6r>

Northumbria Community (Daily Office): <https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/>

Lectio 365- Devotional Resource App: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

Sacred Space, Daily Guided Prayer: <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Leading Small Groups Elective

Learning Goals

- To develop a practical understanding of small group leadership: equipping participants with the skills to confidently plan, organise and confidently lead small groups.
- To equip and release participants to lead small groups that are intentionally focused on the forming and releasing of missional disciples.
- To enable participants to work collaboratively in running non-established and established small group courses, e.g. Lent, Alpha, #MoreThanSunday etc.

The course runs in two parts:

Part 1: A practical introduction to Small Group Leadership

Part 2: *Leading Specific Small Groups* – In these Sessions participants will revisit the basic skills from part-one and adapt them to lead small groups in specific situations, such as Enquirers Groups, Bible Study Groups, Prayer Groups, Pastoral Groups and Missional Groups.

Course Delivery and Venues:

These sessions will be at: St Johns House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Tuesday 21st April Session 1: 7.00pm -9.00pm

Tuesday 28th April Session 2: 7.00pm -9.00pm

Tuesday 5th May Session 3: 7.00pm -9.00pm

Tuesday 12th May Session 4: 7.00pm -9.00pm

Tuesday 19th May Session 5: 7.00pm -9.00pm

Half Term

Tuesday 2nd June Session 6: 7.00pm -9.00pm

Saturday 13th June Session 7 & 8: 10.00am – 2:30pm

Tuesday 23rd June Session 9: 7.00pm -9.00pm

Tuesday 30th June Session 10: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Mission and Evangelism Elective

Learning Goals

- To explore what mission and evangelism are and where they sit within the context of our diocesan and parish vision strategies.
- To develop a deeper understanding of what the Good News is and how it can be shared confidently and appropriately in different contexts.
- To increase participants confidence in planning for mission and enabling evangelism to happen within their own local church contexts and communities.
- To support participants in how to identify, engage and train others to get involved in mission and evangelism.
- To explore the different ways of embedding and sustaining a culture of mission and evangelism within our church communities.

Course Delivery and Venues

To give the widest possible chance for engagement, this course will be delivered via a hybrid mix of in person and online sessions. 4 sessions will be delivered online (via Zoom) on a Wednesday evening, with the addition of 2 in person Saturdays (in Little Lever, Bolton) and 2 field trips to different venues around the diocese.

During the course, participants will also be asked to work towards developing an action plan for mission and evangelism in their parish. Guidance and support will be provided for this.

Session Dates

Sessions 1-3: Introducing Mission and Evangelism, The Joy of the Good News, Prayer and Worship as Evangelism

Saturday 02 May, 10.30am-4pm @ St Matthew, Market Street, Little Lever, BL3 1HH

Session 4: Moving Our Churches From 'Maintenance' to 'Mission'

Wednesday 06 May, 6.45-9pm @ Online via Zoom

Session 5: Embedding and Sustaining a Missional Culture in Our Churches

Wednesday 13 May, 6.45-9pm @ Online via Zoom Guest speaker to be confirmed.

Session 6: Mission, Evangelism and Inclusion (Field Trip)

Date and venue to be confirmed. Week commencing 1 June 2026.

Session 7: Mission and Evangelism with Children and Families (Field Trip)

W/c 08 June, date, time and venue (tbc)

Session 8: The Church's Sacraments and Life Events as Marks of Mission

Wednesday 17 June, 6.45-9pm @ Online via Zoom

Sessions 9: Beyond the Traditional Church: Evangelising on the Fringes

Wednesday 24 June, 6.45-9pm @ Online via Zoom

Sessions 10-12: Leaders is Mission, Catching Fish, Action Plans and Next Steps

Saturday 04 July, 10.30-4pm @ St Matthew, Market Street, Little Lever, BL3 1HH

Course Lead

For more information and details about the course, please feel free to contact:



Revd Fr Robert Eloff OC (and Guests)

Incumbent at St Matthew, Little Lever (Benefice)

E: reloff@outlook.com

Going Deeper

If you would like to get a flavour of this course and learn a little bit more about what we will be covering, then the main two books we will be focusing on are by James Mallon:

- Divine Renovation: From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish
- Thriving Faith: Discipleship in Uncertain Times

Please note that you don't need to buy these books as short readings will be provided in preparation for each week's session.

Books

Mark Greene, Fruitfulness on the Frontline: Making a Difference Where You Are

Neil Hudson, Scattered and Gathered: Equipping Disciples for the Frontline

Jeffrey John, Living Evangelism: Affirming Catholicism and Sharing the Faith(Out of print but available second hand)

David Make and Paul Weston, The Word's Out: Principles and Strategies for Effective Evangelism Today

Stephen Cottrell, From the Abundance of the Heart: Catholic Evangelism for All

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)

Robin Gamble, Jesus the Evangelist: Doing it HIS WAY in my World

Online

Sacramental Evangelism Network: <https://sacramentalevangelism.wordpress.com/>

London Institute of Contemporary Christianity: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/>

Missional Leadership Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/@MissionalLeadershipPodcast>

Divine Renovation Podcasts: <https://www.youtube.com/@divinerenovationministry>

NT Wright on The Mission of God in the Gospel of John: <https://youtu.be/KhXaxkgaKjs>

Worship and Liturgy Elective

Learning Goals

- To reflect on worship being connected to, and being authentic with, the rest of our lives.
- To explore the breadth and depth of Christian worship, from its biblical roots through to modern day expressions. To gain an understanding of how liturgy can provide a framework for encountering the Divine.
- To gain practical knowledge around different styles and contexts of worship – service of the word, contemplative, all age, healing etc.
- To support participants understanding of, and their creating and leading of, appropriate acts of worship within their own churches and communities.

Course Delivery and Venues

The majority of sessions will be delivered in person on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays at a variety of venues around the diocese, including St John's House in Bury. Sessions will be made available on-line if you can't get to the venue, but the preference is in person.

Towards the end of the course, participants will be asked to create and submit an Order of Service for a service of their choosing. Guidance and support will be provided for this with more details to follow upon application.

Session Dates

Session 1: Orientation & Session 2: Worship and the Biblical Context

Saturday 23 May, 10am-3pm @ St Johns House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Session 3: The Seasons in Anglican Liturgy & Session 4: Using music and songs.

Saturday 30 May, 10am-3pm @ St Johns House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Optional Session: Ecology, Creation & Worship (Joint with Ecology course group)

Monday 8 June, 7-9pm @ Online (Via Zoom)

Session 5: Worship in Care Homes, for older and younger people.

Wednesday 10 June, 7-9pm @ on Zoom

Session 6: Putting together a Service of the Word & Session 7: Leading a Service Well

Saturday 13 June, 10am-3pm @ St John's House, 155-163 The rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Session 8: Making worship accessible & Session 9: Intergenerational Worship.

Saturday 20 June, 10 - 3pm @ St Johns House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Session 10: Healing & Wholeness

Wednesday 24 June, 7-9pm @ St Johns House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Session 11: Taize, Using Art & Poetry, Anything 'Parked' and Next Steps

Saturday 4 July, 10 -3pm @ St Johns House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0NE

Course Tutors

For more information and details about the course, please feel free to contact:



Ian Banks

Reader at Walmersley Road, Bury (Benefice)

E: ian.banks150@talktalk.net



Revd Sarah Riding

Curate (SSM) at St Cross with St Paul, Clayton (Benefice)

E: sarahriding@sky.com

Going Deeper

If you would like to get a flavour of this course and learn a little bit more about what we will be covering, then please feel free to check out some of the following books and resources.

Books

- Earey, M. & Myers, G. eds, (2001). Common Worship Today - An Illustrated Guide
- Earey, M. (2018). Liturgical Worship / (2000) Producing Your Own Orders of Service
- Giles, R. (2004). Creating Uncommon Worship / Times and Seasons. Creating Transformative Worship Throughout the Year
- Leach, C & J. (2008). How to Plan and Lead All-Age Worship (Grove Booklet)
- Lloyd, T. (1999). A Service of the Word (Grove Booklet)
- Moger, P. (2009). Crafting Common Worship: A practical, creative guide to what's possible.
- Page, N. (2004). And now let's move into a time of Nonsense: Why worship Songs are Failing the Church. Paternoster.
- Thomas, P. (2018). Using the Book of Common Prayer
- Tarrant, I. (2012). Worship and Freedom in the Church of England: Exploring the Boundaries (Grove Booklet)
- Ward, P. (2005). Selling Worship: How what we sing has changed the Church
- Wells, S. Ed. (2018). Liturgy on the Edge

Web Resources

- Church of England, Common Worship: <https://tinyurl.com/y2gv2coq>
- Church of England, Book of Common Prayer: <https://tinyurl.com/y287st42>
- Church of England, New Patterns for Worship: <https://tinyurl.com/yg7q9w4f>
- Northumbria Community: www.northumbriacommunity.org
- Wild Goose Resources: <https://www.ionabooks.com/>
- All Age Worship Resources: <https://www.allageworshipresources.org/> and <https://engageworship.org/>
- Diocesan Worship & Liturgy (Facebook Group): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/167024153908590>

Growing Younger Stream:



Growing Younger in the Diocese of Manchester is more than a strategy, it's about recognising that children, young people, and their families are not just the future of the Church, but its vibrant present.

Through our Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) and General Leadership Pathway (GLP) training, we invite you to be part of a journey that nurtures faith from the earliest years, builds relational bridges with families, and walks alongside young people as they discover their place in God's story.

Whether your heart is drawn to toddlers and their carers, to messy church and school assemblies, or to mentoring teenagers navigating life's big questions, there is a place for you in this vision. Each course is designed to equip you with theological depth, practical tools, and a supportive community—so you can minister with confidence, creativity, and compassion.

In 2026 we are offering an ALM in Early Years ministry, Children's and Families ministry and Youth ministry. You will find more details for each in the following pages.

We are looking forward to you joining us on the journey.



Susie Mapledoram: Youth ALM Lead
susiemapledoram@manchester.anglican.org



Rick Otto: Children & Families ALM Lead
rickotto@manchester.anglican.org



Jo Haslam: Early Years ALM Lead
ioannehaslam@manchester.anglican.org

Growing Younger Learning Goals

Faith Development

- To equip and train participants in specialist areas of early year's ministry, children's ministry and youth ministry, in how a child develops in their faith at key life stages.
- To equip participants in rethinking their contextual approach to mid-week services for securing secondary school places, confirmation, transitional times from nursery to reception & primary to secondary school. We also explore other areas such as mental health.

Inspiring Vision and Leadership

- To make space for participants to dream and get excited about the potential for how the ministry can develop across all specialisms.
- Participants will also learn how to lead sessions, lead teams and develop others to further the ministry to children and young people.

Outreach and Discipleship

- To explore and understand some of the key principles of outreach and discipleship in relation to all aspects of children's and youth work. This could be from setting up Parent toddler to be intentionally Christian to a Youth Sacred Space. Participants will have opportunity to explore and work through what may work in their local parishes, projects and communities.

Best Practice & Resources

- Participants will be able to identify key resources and have the skills to use different resources and develop them for their context.
- Participants will be brought up to date to understand current guidelines and best practice in children's work.

Course Delivery and Venues

The EQUIP programme offers a precious opportunity to learn from your fellow ministers, deepen your understanding of youth and children's ministry, and sharpen essential skills. We've thoughtfully designed a curriculum that serves both children's and youth leaders, ensuring a rich, collaborative learning environment. Moreover, we'll provide focused sessions addressing the unique challenges and opportunities of specific age groups, allowing you to customise your learning experience to your ministry's needs.

Our flexible course structure is designed to fit your busy diary. 2 sessions will be online and the venues for our in-person sessions will be secured once applications come in, ensuring that participants won't have to travel too far and that any travel restrictions can be taken into consideration.

Early Years Ministry Elective

This elective is designed to: equip lay leaders to minister confidently with children under 5 and their families, recognising toddler ministry as a primary mission field and a gateway into lifelong discipleship. This course builds practical skills, theological grounding, and creative imagination for engaging with under-5s and their carers, from first encounters to building sustained pathways of faith.

By the end of this course, participants will:

- understand the theology and missional importance of toddler ministry.
- confidently lead toddler groups, worship, and storytelling.
- build relationships with families and create accessible discipleship pathways.
- work as part of a parish team to embed toddler ministry into the wider mission of the church.

Children and Families Ministry Elective

This elective is designed to: equip lay leaders to minister with confidence and creativity to children and their families, nurturing faith that lasts a lifetime. This course offers practical skills, theological depth, and innovative approaches for engaging children in ways that are fun, meaningful, and transformative—from missional encounters to building strong foundations for discipleship and community.

By the end of this course, participants will:

- grasp the theological foundations and missional significance of ministry with children and families.
- lead creative and engaging worship, storytelling, and activities that inspire faith.
- cultivate strong connections with families and design practical pathways for discipleship.
- build and lead confident, collaborative teams that embed children's ministry into the wider life and mission of the church.

Youth Ministry Elective

This elective is designed to: equip lay leaders who long to see young people encounter Jesus and flourish in faith. This course equips you with practical skills, theological insight, and ways creative to engage teenagers in ways that are authentic, relevant, and life-changing. From building trust and creating sacred spaces to guiding young people through pivotal life moments, you'll learn how to shape discipleship pathways that empower the next generation to lead, serve, and live boldly for Christ.

By the end of this course, participants will:

- have a solid understanding of the impact of the holistic development of young people today on your own youth ministry
- be equipped in using theory, research and shared best practice to inform and improve your own youth work
- to gain confidence in being an advocate for young people in every setting; ensuring that their voices are heard, acknowledged and acted upon in our churches and local communities
- to share your own experience and youth work knowledge with others and be proactive in building confidence and skill in your team of leaders.

Session Dates for all Growing Young Electives

The Growing Younger Programme meets at the same time, with separate sessions for each of the different electives.

Launch Night: Thursday 05 April, 6.45-9pm *Online*

Equip Weekend: Friday 8th May (Evening), Saturday 9th May (Full Day) and Sunday 10th May (Half Day) Venue: *St John's House, Bury*

Follow Up: Saturday 27th June, 10am-4pm Venue (*TBC*)

Final Gathering: Thursday 10th September, 6.45-9pm *Online*

How to Apply

Further Information and Application Forms

Please apply using the Application Form which can be picked up on the Website or by asking for a copy via the contact details below.

For further information and details on the various courses or any other matters relating to lay training and development, please contact:

Beverley Angier

Local Ministry Officer

M: 07423 711298

E: BeverleyAngier@manchester.anglican.org



Application Forms

Application forms can be downloaded from the diocesan website.

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/development-and-training/general-lay-courses/>

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

The application closing date for general lay training applications is Friday 27th March 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do Lay Ministry Courses involve any assignments, tests or exams?

There are no assignments, tests or exams on the courses. There may be a limited amount of prep work that is optional between sessions, but the ethos of the course is more focused on group discussions, reflective practice and real-life application. However, for those wanting to take things deeper there will always be suggestions for further reading, resources and ongoing development.

How much do the courses cost?

There are no training costs as all course fees are met by the diocese. However, parishes are expected to support their candidates if help is required with basic costs such as travel expenses. Where finances are a barrier to participation, parishes are encouraged to contact the Local Ministry Officer for further advice and support.

Do the courses have an age limit?

The training has no age limits but special consideration would need to be given to anyone applying under the age of 18 to ensure that they are appropriately supervised and have the full permission of their parent/guardian.

Can you still apply if your parish is in vacancy?

Yes, during vacancies/ interregnums the application reference required from the parish can be completed by the Churchwarden, Licensed Reader, Team Rector, Mission Community Leader, Area Dean or another suitable minister/ church leader.

What do I get at the end of my training?

In recognition that all lay training is something that should be encouraged and celebrated, participants will receive a course completion certificate signed by the Diocesan Head of Lay Training and Development. It is then up to the participant and the local parish to discern how best to utilise the training in terms of potential ministry roles and duties. Further support for this will be provided by the Local Ministry Officer.

How are Lay Ministry Courses different from Authorised Lay Ministry training?

Participants may find themselves training alongside Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) on the same course. ALM is a different lay training pathway that includes a more in-depth application process, extra training requirements and a recognised higher level of leadership and safeguarding responsibility. After training ALMs are authorised by the Bishop of Manchester to carry out a mutually agreed ministry role back within their local parish context. An ALM's authorisation lasts for 3 years after which time it can be reviewed. For more details about ALM please see the diocesan website: <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/development-and-training/alm/>

After completing a Lay Ministry Course, you may feel that you would like to formalise your learning by moving on to another role, such as an ALM. If this is you, please get in touch for a conversation.

Who is responsible for DBS checks?

As for all other unlicensed church officers, it is the responsibility of the parish and PCC to ensure that any required DBS checks are completed and kept up-to-date. If you require any further advice or support with this please contact: hr@manchester.anglican.org

Who is responsible for safeguarding training?

As for all other unlicensed church officers, it is the responsibility of the parish and PCC to ensure that any required safeguarding training is completed and kept up-to-date. If you require any further advice or support with this please contact: safeguardingtraining@manchester.anglican.org

When is the application closing deadline?

The application closing date for Lay Ministry Courses is Friday 27th March 2026.

Our Vision

To be a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community.