



Diocese of Bristol | Ordained Local Ministry

Guidelines for Selection, Training and Initial Deployment

Ordained Local Ministers are those who exercise a public ministry of word and sacrament within the context of a collaborative ministry team. They are people whose calling to this specific form of ordained ministry is recognised by their own local Christian community to be a focus of that community's ministry and mission. They are people who are firmly rooted in their community. This is usually understood to mean the context in which they worship. The distinctive and defining feature of Ordained Local Ministry is its locally contextualised, collaborative and team based character. The financial support of Ordained Local Ministers comes from sources other than their work as ministers. They receive no direct salary or stipend for their work as ministers.

1. In the Diocese of Bristol, Ordained Local Ministers (OLM) are normally over the age of 55 at the time of their ordination. They should be settled in the community and not have plans to move in the foreseeable future. However, if circumstances mean they have to move they can apply to have their licence transferred only after having worshipped for a minimum of six months in their new parish. If they move to a different Diocese then the transfer of their licence will have to be in consultation with the Bishop of that Diocese. The main focus of their ministry will be the context which sponsors them and to which they will be licensed by the Bishop at Ordination. They should not expect to exercise their ministry outside this local context but may be permitted to do so on an exceptional basis.
2. It is important that Ordained Local Ministers have the full support of the Incumbent and PCC both at the time of sponsorship and throughout their ministry. The PCC will need to have identified its mission priorities and the kinds of ministries that are important as a result of these. The Ordained Local Minister must be part of the ministry team of the parish where clergy and laity work collaboratively and where there is a true sharing of responsibility as well as delegating of tasks. A set of ministerial specifications shall be drawn up, setting out clearly the duties and role of the OLM and the amount of time to be spent on parish activities. This will be reviewed annually.
3. All candidates will be expected to provide references, attend a Diocesan Selection Day, be interviewed by the Bishop of Swindon as the Sponsoring Bishop for the Diocese and attend a national residential selection panel. For those selected for training the course will be part-time for two years at Trinity College.
4. Area Deans should ensure that at least half of their Deanery Chapter meetings in any year are arranged at times that Ordained Local Ministers can attend.
5. All OLM training curates are expected to attend IME 4-7 sessions provided by the Diocese and this is considered to be mandatory.
6. All Ordained Local Ministers are part of the Ministerial Review Scheme.
7. All Ordained Local Ministers are full members of the Diocesan CME provision.

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