

Three types of support and permission-giving for lay ministries

RECOGNITION

- Local (Parish, benefice, chaplaincy, Fresh Expression, mission)
- Recognition by the local minister and people
- For supporting ministries such as visiting, pastoral care, assisting with children and youth ministry, home group leading, prayer and listening, chaplaincy assistant
- Supervision by the minister or delegated to a responsible person authorized or licensed to lead an area of work
- Training and support in the local context
- Regular local review for renewal of recognition
- Local responsibility for safeguarding training and checks

AUTHORISATION

- Diocesan and episcopal
- Authorisation by the Bishop on advice of diocesan staff
- For ministries which under supervision represent the church in the wider community e.g. pastoral assistants or have responsibility under supervision for leading worship, teaching, preaching, pastoral care e.g. worship leaders, occasional preachers, assistant children and youth ministers, chaplains, funeral ministers
- Local supervision by the local minister and final accountability to the Bishop
- Training and support through diocesan programmes and through local team
- Regular review, including for renewal on behalf of Bishop
- Diocesan responsibility for safeguarding training and checks

LICENCE

(for canonical lay ministries: Readers and Licensed Lay Workers/Ministers)

- Episcopal licence as required by Canon and nationally recognised
- Diocesan appointment/selection
- Admission and licensing by the Bishop
- For ministers of the Word exercising a representative or leadership role in the church and/or community in a parish/mission area or wider, and holding responsibilities such as for evangelism, mission enabling, teaching, catechizing, preaching, leading of worship, community outreach
- Local supervision by the local minister and accountability to the Bishop
- Diocesan training, where required. Continuing ministerial development through diocesan programmes/provision
- Annual ministry review by or on behalf of the Bishop
- Diocesan responsibility for safeguarding training and checks