

# Learn with Guildford's Local Ministry Programme

Training for your calling



Diocese of  
**Guildford** 

Transforming **Church**  
Transforming **Lives**



## Training pathways

LMP has three strands or tracks, that you could follow:

- The Theology Hub
- The Foundations in Ministry Programme
- Training for Licensed Ministry in the Church of England (for ordination, to become an LLM and our new Caleb Stream).

Our courses have been crafted for you to explore ministry, mission and leadership. We build local leaders for local ministry. Whatever route you follow, your training will give you a supportive, expert local forum for emerging leaders, ordinands and LLM candidates.

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# Message from the Dean

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**The Reverend Dr John Valentine,  
Dean of the Diocese of Guildford's  
Local Ministry Programme**

Hello! Our community is a warm and welcoming place to be. We see good and life-giving theology as an engine for the flourishing of the local church, and for leadership and mission.

We believe that every Christian should have the opportunity to explore faith, purpose and theology deeply. Every person who joins our community has that opportunity while being rooted in the Diocese of Guildford.

We are building on 15 years of local theology teaching at the service of our local churches. While our theology training is robust and taught to the highest standards, our aim is formation and development of ministers of the gospel and the church. We, staff and students, see ourselves as a community being formed by Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit for leadership and mission.

All of the training we offer prioritises:

- Prayer and worship
- Fellowship in the student community
- Partnership with local churches in the Diocese
- Support and encouragement.

Those training do not leave their churches, and do not have to move house or uproot their life. We focus on building partnerships between the students' parish, incumbent, the training and the student themselves to offer a holistic and well-rounded experience.

We serve the whole Diocese. We get the honour of working with different types of churches and church traditions. Our aim is that all students will feel more confident in their faith, and better equipped to serve the Lord in whichever context they find themselves.

In this brochure you will find details of the training we offer. I am delighted you have chosen to find out more about what we offer, and I very much hope we will see you soon.

With all good wishes,  
John



# Everyone is called

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It's people like you that make a difference in the world.

We believe that every individual possesses unique skills and talents, and the church is a place where leaders are empowered for transformative ministries.

The journey begins with a simple nudge, where we sense that God is calling us to something. But we may not yet really know what. Along the way, we may recognise God's call to some form of leadership in the church. Or we might recognise God's call in the life of someone we know and help nudge them along.

Our thoughtfully designed training fits into your life. Whether you're starting out or are a seasoned leader, you choose a training path that will equip you with the essential tools for your calling.

Next steps would be to talk to your church's vicar. At the back of this brochure there is a list of other people at the Diocese to talk to.

Together, we'll become agents of the transformative love of God, navigating challenges and inspiring others to leave a lasting impact. Take a step towards your calling and make a significant difference in a world yearning for hope, healing, and empowerment.

# Foundations in Ministry

Introductory course – certified by  
Guildford's Local Ministry Programme

## Overview

Foundations in Ministry (FiM) trains and equips lay leaders in local churches. Local churches appoint leaders (actual, emerging and potential) as Lay Associate Ministers, or LAMs, and send them on the Programme. LAMs join a supportive community to explore what leadership might be like and grow in confidence. It is based on a robust theological framework.

The first year lays the theological and leadership foundations. Study includes:

- The Bible
- Theological doctrines
- Leadership – self-awareness, leading others and growth
- Spirituality – spiritual disciplines, evangelism and mission

The second year offers practical skills training in a chosen specialism:

- Children's and families ministry
- Youth ministry
- Community outreach
- Digital church and online media
- Discipleship, preaching and teaching
- Ecology and creation
- Pioneering, church planting and evangelism
- Church management and safeguarding
- Pastoral care and chaplaincy
- Sports ministry
- Contemporary sung worship
- Service Leader

## Programme duration

Part time, 2 years.

The programme is spread over the course of a school year from September to July, with six Saturdays in person, and small group meetings online in between.

## Entry requirements and assessment

There are no requirements of preparation or assessment.

LAMs must be aged 18 or over.

There is no interview process. Each applicant will need to give evidence of support from their church's incumbent and complete the Basic and Foundation Safeguarding Training. The expectation is that each LAM will either already be serving in or beyond their parish, or that clear and real opportunities to serve will be available to them. The course fee is £360 each year, which is usually covered by the sending church.

Over the course, students are encouraged to journal, to share their learning with others, and to pursue reading and further development.

The programme is led by Matt Grove  
([matthew.grove@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:matthew.grove@cofeguildford.org.uk)).



# Our experience

"I've enjoyed the chance to meet and chat with people on a similar journey. FiM is helping me explore ministry in the Church of England and is part of a discernment for me."

Tom, FiM Student

"FiM has offered a mixture of things that I can use not just in my church role but also my secular role. It's already making a difference as I'm not waiting until the end of the course to implement the things I'm learning."

Lade, FiM Student

"This has been perfectly suited for me as someone with disabilities."

Jan, FiM Student

# Dive deep into theology

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"I really enjoyed the Theology Hub evening with Professor David Ford - he opened up John's gospel in such an inspiring and meaningful way - I could have listened to him for hours! He both spoke with knowledge and integrity and engaged with questions from the audience - a wonderful evening.

"My only criticism was that it wasn't long enough - I would have liked a full day! I look forward to more Theology Hub evenings in the future."

Alison, attendee at our first Theology Hub lecture.



# Theology Hub

Theological community

## Overview

We are building a community for theologians and the theologically curious. Whether you are just somewhat interested or have spent years studying, we have a series of events and opportunities designed to gather people around theology. And we would love you to join us!

## Lectures

Open to everyone, our lectures dive deep into theological topics, and are presented by highly regarded theologians. We were delighted to host Professor David Ford OBE for our inaugural lecture in 2023.

Our lectures are in partnership with Guildford Cathedral and also with the support of our friends at the University of Surrey. All events are listed on the Diocese of Guildford website calendar and can be booked online. We host these events three times a year.

## Network

An informal network of those actively involved in theological research and teaching. We know this can be lonely and demanding so we are hosting a forum for friendship, shared learning and encouragement.

The Theology Hub is headed up by Stephen Squirrell ([stephen.squirrell@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:stephen.squirrell@cofeguildford.org.uk)).



# Training for Licensed Ministry in the Church of England

## Ordination and Licensed Lay Ministry

We offer training for both ordinands and Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) in the Church of England. It is an exciting, demanding, faith-stretching and equipping programme.

Ordinands and candidates for LLM train together. LLMs are licensed after 2 years (with a strong encouragement and warm invitation to stay on for a third year) and ordinands study with us for 3 years. We also offer the Caleb Stream, which is a fast-track course for those between 60 and 69, but must be ordained by the time they are 70.

## Overview

We focus on leadership, multiplication, and being agile, yet faithful, in the light of the contexts in which we serve and the changes in society and the church. Modules include:

- Preaching
- Theological reflection
- Foundations for mission and ministry
- Christian worship and spirituality
- An introduction to the Bible and more in depth work on the New and Old Testaments
- Mission and evangelism, apologetics and church planting
- Historical, systematic and pastoral theology

## Cost

Most of the costs are met by the Church of England, and the sending church contributes £1,250 per year of the programme.

# Studying and staying in the diocese

"Being on LMP [the Local Ministry Programme] was one of the greatest privileges of my life.

"I joined LMP having previously experienced a module as an auditing student (something I can hugely recommend). The opportunity to both study in the diocese and remain in my parish was a big attraction.

"Studying at LMP has challenged me in myriad ways. I've been blessed by so many wonderful and rewarding experiences, from the practical ministry opportunities to the wide variety of tutors and opinions/viewpoints that broadens perspective. And perhaps LMP's biggest asset is its feeling of community. There is a very real and genuine sense of fellowship and support, from both tutors and students, which engenders a happy, encouraging atmosphere in which to learn.

"If I had to choose an LMP moment that stood out over the past three years, it would be the very first residential. It was both exhausting and enriching. More importantly, it broke the ice (or what little remained of it) between my year group peers and also the tutors. I knew then that I had companions to sustain me on the road to ministry. Whom God calls, God equips.

"Ordination awaits but I shall miss LMP when I leave."

James Luckey, student on the Ordination Training Pathway.

# LLM training

Undergraduate course – certified by  
Durham University

## Overview

Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) are trained for lay leadership in their local church and are authorised by the Church of England to teach, preach, lead worship and give pastoral care. They are leaders in mission and ministry in their parishes and personal life.

LLMs are selected for LLM training by the Diocese of Guildford.

LLMs will study for a certificate in Higher Education in Ministry and Mission. Some continue to complete a BA(Hons) after they are licensed.

## Programme duration

If selected, training usually lasts two years and is designed to develop theological understanding and practical ministry skills. Most people stay on for a third year of study following their licensing.

## Contact

If you would like more information on Licensed Lay Ministry please contact Ros Fox, our Warden of Licensed Lay Ministers ([WardenofLLMs@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:WardenofLLMs@cofeguildford.org.uk)).

# Ordination training

Undergraduate course - certified by  
Durham University

## Overview

Ordinands are training to be ordained in the Church of England. On LMP we train ordinands who know that their calling is primarily local, and who see their ministry as sharing in the leadership of their parish church and local area. Ordination training is for those who have been recommended for training by a Church of England bishop.

The diploma offers the opportunity to expand and deepen thinking in subjects such as biblical studies, leadership, and historical and systematic theology.

Students complete the course with a Diploma in Higher Education in Ministry and Mission. Some continue to complete a BA(Hons) after they are ordained.

## Programme duration

If selected, training usually lasts three years and is designed to develop theological understanding and practical ministry skills.

## Contact

If you would like more information on ordination please contact Craig Holmes, our Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and his team ([ddo@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:ddo@cofeguildford.org.uk)).

# Studying and staying in the diocese

"The course fits beautifully with my lifestyle. I am nearly retired and the part time aspects of the course allows me to study locally and still participate in my church life. The course allows us to complete our degree in Mission and Technology which I fully intend to do.

"This course is immediately practical. Through the grace of God, the academic knowledge across a wide range of subjects from mission to scripture to ethics, builds my ministry in church, the services I lead, the sermons I deliver and the pastoral care I give.

"The debates in the lectures and weekend studies with fellow students are wonderful to expand your knowledge. The course includes many outside speakers as well as tutors that provide different perspectives of christian faith to grow the mind. It takes your journey in faith to a whole new level.

"I will be ordained in June 2026 and continue my ministry in my local church as well as being a resource to the wider diocese."

Andy Wells, student on the Ordination Training Pathway.

# Caleb stream

Training new mature clergy into mission and service in our diocese

## Overview

The Caleb Stream is a national, one year scheme for Christians over 60 (and able to be ordained by the time they are 70), who feel called by God to be ordained in the Church of England to serve in their own churches and parishes.

The year combines discernment and training for ordination as Deacon. Over the academic year, the course includes:

- One day of guided personal study each week
- One day of group teaching and learning each week
- Up to six residential weekends
- A parish placement (normally in their own parish, supervised by their incumbent)

Students are not guaranteed to be ordained.

## Cost

Each Caleb student contributes £750 for the year.

## Programme duration

Training is one year and includes discernment.

## Contact

If you would like more information please contact Craig Holmes, our Diocesan Director of Ordinands ([ddo@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:ddo@cofeguildford.org.uk)) or John Valentine, Dean of the Local Ministry Programme ([John.Valentine@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:John.Valentine@cofeguildford.org.uk)).

# Taking your next steps

## **Take a module**

If you would like to dip your toe in the water, do come along and sit in on some individual Modules on a Monday evening (which usually last for a term). The cost is £120 per module.

## **Take a short course**

The Local Ministry Programme is just one of the training and vocations services at the Diocese of Guildford. Other learning opportunities include short courses for Occasional Preachers, Pastoral Visitors and Worship Leaders. For more information visit our website or contact our Training Lead, Sarah Slater ([sarah.slater@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:sarah.slater@cofeguildford.org.uk)).

## **Come to a Theology Hub lecture**

Be part of the LMP community by coming to a Theology Hub Lecture. It's a low commitment way to get your foot in the door.

## **Explore your options**

Talk to your vicar, chaplain, or to a member of the vocations team in our Diocese about what training options you are interested in.

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[www.cofeguildford.org.uk](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk)