



To: Prospective candidates for Licensed Lay Ministry
cc: EGP tutors, Anne Claar Thomasson, Derek Chedzey

October 29, 2009

Diocesan Discernment Days 2010

As you may already be aware, our Diocesan processes for the selection of candidates for Licensed Lay Ministry are changing. We have agreed with the Council for Lay Ministry that in 2010 we will be moving to a common discernment process for those putting themselves forward for Licensed Lay Ministry and for ordained ministry¹. The aim is to ensure that discernment is a corporate activity, led by the Holy Spirit and owned by the whole Church, and that we have an opportunity to assess the gifts needed for ministry in the Church in the 21st century, and in particular, gifts in leadership and collaboration, preaching, small group facilitation, mission and evangelism, emotional and spiritual maturity, and pastoral gifts.

Diocesan Discernment Days in 2010 for potential Licensed Lay Ministers will be as follows:

- Saturday 30th January; closing date for applications November 26th
- Saturday 22nd May; closing date for applications March 19th

The attached Paper sets out the structure of the day and the preparation that will be required for it. We are asking LLM candidates to provide the same paperwork in advance of the day and undertake the same activities on the day as we require of our Ordained Local Ministry candidates and this will mean that the requirements are slightly different than are required at a national level by Reader Council. However, we believe that it is important to recognize the increasing responsibility being placed on our Lay Ministers in this Diocese and have adapted the criteria accordingly. We are confident that this will improve our discernment processes but candidates for LLM should not find the changes unduly onerous.

To prepare for the day, we are encouraging EGP tutors to provide you with an opportunity to practice delivering short presentations and facilitating discussions during the EGP course. We would also strongly encourage you to talk to your vicar about having an opportunity to lead worship and/or preach before the Discernment Day. This will allow them to comment in an informed way on your aptitude in this area in your reference. Do talk to your EGP tutors or contact me if you foresee an issue in this area.

¹ Diocesan processes will be common, however candidates for ordained ministry will be required to attend a national selection conference in addition to our local discernment process.

I look forward to receiving applications from some of you shortly. If you have not already registered for our 'Hearing God's Call' programme you should complete parts 1 - 5 of the application form; if you have already registered you need only complete part 2 - 5. Included within this application pack are a Data Protection form, a Confidential Declaration form and a request to provide us with the names and addresses of four referees. All parts of the Application Form should be completed before forwarding to Stella. Finally, you should note that we will require a job description, parish profile and PCC motion of support to be completed and submitted to us at least three weeks before the Discernment Day – more details on this will be sent to you when we receive your application. All completed paperwork should be sent to Stella O'Brien in Church House as usual (by post or by email to stella.obrien@bristoldiocese.org)

If you have any questions or concerns, do please contact me; I shall be happy to help.

May God continue to bless you in your journey in ministry

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rushton', with a small flourish at the end.

Revd Sam Rushton
Adviser for Licensed Ministry
Email: sam.rushton@bristoldiocese.org