

Local Ministry

The Ethos of Local Ministry in the Diocese of Gloucester

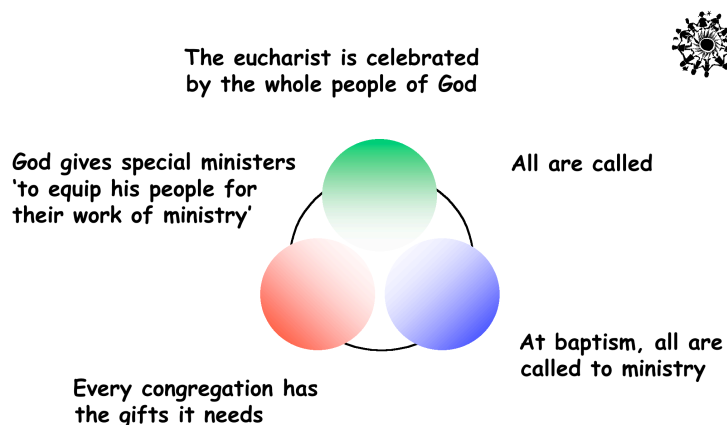
Gloucester Diocese began an active involvement in promoting and developing Local Ministry in 1992 with the aim that:

'every settlement should be encouraged to grow in its own 'local Christian focus'

In 1994 the Diocese established the Local Ministry Scheme in order to support those parishes exploring what it means for local congregations and their clergy to minister in partnership.

Local Ministry has developed based on the threefold belief that:

- 1. God calls every person, through their baptism, to discipleship and ministry.**
- 2. God equips each local church with the gifts that are needed for it to be the church in that place.**
- 3. God's mission is shared in partnership with the local church, with clergy and congregation alike.**



[The Trinity is collaborative](#)

Prepared by Local Ministry, Gloucester Diocese

The essence of Local Ministry in Gloucester Diocese is the explicit recognition of the ministry of the

‘laos’, the whole people of God, by virtue of their baptism. Local Ministry is rooted and expressed in specific parish/benefice-based localities. Each Local Ministry team acts as a tangible reminder of the ministry of the baptised. Each Local Ministry team encourages, as well as models, the enabling and sharing of ministry and the active engagement of the local church with its context.

Gloucester Diocese: Ministering Communities



Prepared by Local Ministry, Gloucester Diocese

It is important to emphasise that the Local Ministry team is there to encourage and enable the ministry of others. Local Ministry teams are not intended to do the ministry and mission on behalf of the local church. They are intended to be ‘ministry catalysts’.

In Gloucester Diocese Local Ministry takes shape through a parish/benefice expressing their commitment to enabling all member ministry, followed by ‘calling out’ a team to help them develop in ways that are congruent with their benefice mission statement.

In order for such ministry to be adequately resourced, the Gloucester Local Ministry Scheme was set up which formalised the selection, resourcing and authorisation of Local Ministry teams. This Scheme is recognised as providing training to nationally acceptable standards. Each Local Ministry team receives the Bishop’s mandate, which is renewed every 5 years, in a formal service of accreditation and authorisation.

Potential vocations to OLM are identified from within established Local Ministry teams. Thus OLM ordinands are grounded in collaborative patterns of ministry, are representative of the ‘local’, and have the active support and trust of the local congregation, other team members and their incumbent.

The potential OLM then undergoes the selection process in accordance with nationally agreed Ministry Division guidelines.

ACCM 22 Submission to House of Bishops 1999 (wording only)
Local Ministry in Gloucester Diocese