



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Loving.
Living.
Learning.

Diocese of Leeds

Support Teams



Helping our churches and schools to flourish

Confident Christians

Growing Churches

Transforming Communities



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Children & Youth

The Children, Young People and Families Team support parishes in developing mission and ministry with children, young people and their families. This includes Goal 5 of the Diocesan Strategy: Growing Young People as Christians

- Areas of support include specialist advice, facilitating discussions, guidance on practical issues and training.
- Individual team members cover specific areas, including ministry with families, advice on employing and developing paid workers, support for those with disabilities and additional needs, participation of children and young people the whole life of the church.
- Each team member acts as a first point of contact for an Episcopal Area.
- The team also provides updates on resources; and details of the latest research and thinking in the areas of mission, ministry and spirituality.
- To make best use of time and resources, the team works to make sessions for training and resourcing available to as wide a group as possible.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/children-youth

Email: childrenyouth@leeds.anglican.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsCandY/

Diocesan Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/children-youth/>



Church Growth

The Church Growth Team provides practical support and encouragement for growing churches, one of the main strands of the diocesan vision. This spans three dimensions of church growth: spiritual, missional and numerical.

- A core diocesan resource is 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG), a residential course for clergy and lay leaders, followed by local gatherings and extra resources.
- The team oversees provision of 'Growth Companions', which function as friends, mentors and fellow-travellers for local churches.
- 'Fresh Expressions' and pioneering are enabled through gatherings, training, and practitioner networks, including the Mission Shaped Ministry (MSM) Course and linkage with national initiatives.
- Focussed support is provided for developing confidence in sharing faith with others and for church growth in particular contexts, such as urban estates, rural areas and 'two churches one vicar' parishes.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/church-growth

Email: churchgrowth@leeds.anglican.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/leedschurchgrowth/

Diocesan Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/church-growth/>



Clergy Development

The Clergy Development Team helps clergy to continue to grow and learn in changing times, as they play a leading role in furthering the diocesan vision for confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities.

- The team offers support at key stages in ministry: first incumbency; changing to a new role; becoming a training incumbent; mid-ministry; and pre-retirement.
- Training opportunities are provided across the diocese in the light of priorities identified in Episcopal Areas, clergy Ministry Development Reviews and initiatives relating to diocesan strategic goals.
- Training events beyond as well as within the diocese are collated and circulated monthly to clergy.
- Training for clergy and lay together is provided jointly with the Lay Ministry Team.
- The team oversees training for curates, developing expertise and providing a learning forum for reflecting on current practice.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/clergy-development

Email: cmd@leeds.anglican.org

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/clergy-development/>



Lay Training

The Lay Training Team supports the work of parishes in nurturing lay discipleship and resourcing lay ministry. Through courses, events and resources, the team helps to further the diocesan vision for confident Christians who use their gifts in the life of the church and make a difference wherever they find themselves.

- Training opportunities are provided across the diocese in the light of needs discerned in Episcopal Areas and the strategic goals of reimagining ministry and nurturing lay discipleship.
- The team oversees delivery of an expanding range of lay ministry pathways, covering Reader ministry, Lay Worship Leaders, Pastoral Assistants and Lay Pastoral Ministers.
- Training for clergy and lay together is provided jointly with the Clergy Development Team.
- The team oversees the development of learning communities using the Digital Learning Platform, bringing together Christians with similar ministries or workplace contexts for mutual support.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/lay-training

Email: laytraining@leeds.anglican.org

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/lay-training/>



Social Engagement

The Social Engagement and Urban Renewal Team assists churches in transforming communities, caring for creation and promoting inclusion and participation in church life. Through Wellsprings Together, a joint venture with the Church Urban Fund, opportunities are provided for engaging collaboratively in initiatives which enable communities to flourish and tackle deprivation and injustice.

- The team facilitates dynamic partnerships for addressing challenges such as food poverty, homelessness, asylum seekers, becoming a 'Place of Welcome' and grassroots cooperation in religiously and ethnically diverse communities.
- Practical assistance for caring for the environment is provided, in line with the diocesan environment policy, covering church buildings and activities, churchyards, becoming an 'Eco-church' and parish environment reps.
- Churches can be resourced in their efforts ensure activities and buildings are welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities.

For more information:

Web:

www.leeds.anglican.org/social-engagement-urban-renewal

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/social-engagment/>



Vocation

The Vocations Team contributes to the shared task of inspiring every church member to consider God's call on their lives. In particular, it gives dedicated attention to promoting and supporting the call to ordained ministry, as the Church of England prays for a 50% increase in those training for ordained ministry.

- The Vocations Team is responsible for guiding those who feel they may be called to ordained ministry. The core team is supported by Assistant Directors of Ordinands who are parish clergy spread across the Diocese.
- Team members welcome invitations to preach on vocation at Sunday services and to lead sessions on vocation at parish events, such as parish weekends and youth group evenings.
- The team provides and promotes resources for developing a culture of calling, both lay and ordained.
- The team helps enable appropriate support to be offered to those seeking to respond to God's call.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/vocations

Email: vocations@leeds.anglican.org

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/vocation/>



Prayer & Spirituality

The Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Team offer support and encouragement for deepening all aspects of prayer and spirituality. A core part of the Team's work is to support the diocesan Community of Spiritual Directors.

- The team includes representative laity and clergy in each Episcopal Area, who organise Area-based events.
- The team gathers information about events and initiatives to deepen prayer and spirituality in the Diocese, promoting them on the Digital Learning Platform.
- The diocesan system for arranging Spiritual Directors is overseen by the Team, using the diocesan website.
- The team provides supervision and resourcing for Spiritual Directors. Opportunities are also provided for training as a Spiritual Director.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/prayer-spirituality

Email: spirituality@leeds.anglican.org

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/prayer-spirituality/>



Safeguarding

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team helps to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place across the diocese. Through Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers and information on the Diocesan website, the Team supports parishes with advice and access to resources.

- Safeguarding advisers act as a point of contact to assist with safeguarding concerns, including those where someone may appear to pose a risk to a church community.
- The team offers practical advice on policies, procedures and practice guidance.
- Safeguarding training is offered in line with the national safeguarding programme.
- Advice is offered on safe recruitment and Disclosure and barring Service (DBS) issues where there are blemished disclosures.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/safe

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/safeguarding/>



Communications

The Communications Team enables the sharing of news and relevant information throughout the diocese. This is achieved through a variety of media, with a strong emphasis on the diocesan website.

- The team gathers inspirational stories of *Loving Living Learning* from parishes, schools and institutions across the diocese.
- A fortnightly E-news bulletin is produced for 5,500 subscribers; Leeds Diocesan News is circulated as a monthly paper bulletin.
- Good stories and images are shared on three constantly updated social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Media advice and crisis management support are offered to parishes.
- Social and digital media training courses are run in Episcopal Areas.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/communications

Email: communications@leeds.anglican.org

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/media-money/>



Resourcing Parishes

The Resourcing Parishes Team helps parishes with practical resourcing, especially in financial matters.

- The team works with teams in Episcopal Areas, deaneries and parishes to release resources required for funding local ministry and mission.
- Training courses are provided for helping improve local levels of giving.
- Opportunities for securing grants are signposted.
- Advice for managing parish finances is offered, including digital and planned giving, legacies, card readers and claiming gift aid.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/finance

Email: resourcingparishes@leeds.anglican.org

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/media-money/>



Education

The Leeds Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is a statutory body. It has responsibility for formal education, including compulsory schooling, further and higher education, education chaplaincy and specifically for 240 church schools, serving 64,000 children.

- DBE officers provide support to our primary and secondary schools and Church Multi Academy Trusts.
- The team also work with clergy and parishes as they seek to develop and extend their mission and ministry to schools and families. All of this work is rooted in the Church of England's Vision for Education.
- Our team includes former head teachers and leaders in education, including a specialist RE adviser. Tailored training events can be provided.
- Schools and academies can access support through our Enhanced Service Plan (ESP), facilitating regular adviser visits, education training events and practical advice for school leaders, governors and clergy.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/education

Email: info.ed@leeds.anglican.org

Digital Learning Platform:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/about/education/>



Care of Churches

The Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) provides advice to parishes on the care and development of church buildings. This covers matters relating to architecture, archaeology and churchyards.

- The DAC Team helps parishes develop churches as centres of worship and mission that are adapted to contemporary needs.
- Help can be given on accessing specialist advice on a range of topics, such as heating, audio-visual equipment, bells, organs and conservation.
- Assistance can be given for larger projects such as a reordering scheme or improving physical access, through advice and church visits.
- Where changes to church buildings are being considered, guidance can be given on faculty applications and Archdeacon's permissions.
- Guidance can be provided on regular care and maintenance, including working with inspecting architects.

For more information:

Web: www.leeds.anglican.org/dac

Email: dac@leeds.anglican.org

For further details of assistance and resources
provided by Diocesan Support Teams, please visit:

www.leeds.anglican.org
<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org>