

Information for Parish Delegates

1. Overview

The Lay Conference will bring 1700 participants together on **Saturday 9 June 2018** at the **Harrogate Convention Centre**. It is designed to help lay church members fulfil their potential as they live out their faith at work, school and in their parishes.

This coincides with a national emphasis on celebrating and developing lay discipleship and ministry. Each parish is encouraged to send 2-6 delegates, depending on electoral roll size, nominated by their 'lead priest'. There will also be extra places for four young people (aged 14-17) per deanery and for people with disabilities or who are BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnicity), in line with national efforts to increase inclusion.

Each parish is asked to identify participants who between them cover the following:

- i) Potential to play a leading role in parish life over the next ten years
- ii) Strong interest in relating faith to day-to-day life
- iii) Already engaged in church-based ministry

Speakers include Mark Russell (Church Army CEO), Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells, Cal Bailey (ex-Director of Sustainability, NG Bailey), Kate Nicholas (journalist and author of *Sea Changed*), Bishop Toby Howarth, Nick Shepherd (author of *Faith Generation*).

2. What it means to be a parish delegate

- a. **Before the Conference:** Once parish delegates have been nominated by their 'lead priest', they will need to register online after 12 March. All adult parish delegates should arrange to meet together with their 'lead priest' by 21 May, to discuss questions provided in advance.
- b. **On the Day:** There will be a combination of all-together sessions in the main auditorium and smaller 'self-select' sessions, with opportunities for connecting with others sharing similar interests. There will also be a marketplace with stallholders. Delegates will be given guidance on how best to feed back to their parishes.
- c. **Afterwards:** Adult participants will meet together with their PCC afterwards to explore questions raised by their experience and share what they have learned.

3. Costs and travel:

Core costs are being covered by funding set aside when the new diocese was launched. Parishes are asked to provide £16 per parish delegate, to help pay for refreshments. Where possible, participants are encouraged to car share or use public transport. Parishes are encouraged to contribute to delegates' travel costs where needed.

4. Registration

Participants will be able to register online between 12 March and 23 April. This will involve online payment of the per capita charge for parish delegates and choosing preferences for self-select sessions (details of options will be on the Conference webpage). Each parish will need to make arrangements for reimbursing registered delegates. The registration fee is not refundable, but if a registered participant finds they can no longer attend, it will be possible in certain circumstances for parishes to arrange a substitute.

5. Further Information

Updates and further information can be found on the webpage:

www.leeds.anglican.org/lay-conference

If you have any queries about the nomination and registration process, please contact Charlotte Scott (general enquiries) on layconference@leeds.anglican.org.