**Authorised Lay Ministry FAQ**

**GENERAL**

**What is an Authorised Lay Minister?**

ALMs are ‘authorised’ by the Bishop to exercise a particular ministry within their local parish. Their authorisation does not extend beyond the parish into the wider diocese but may be exercised in other parts of a Team Ministry with the agreement of the PCCs and Team Rector. They do not hold the Bishop’s licence and their authorisation is not automatically transferable to another diocese.

**What is the difference between ‘authorisation and licensing?**

***Authorisation***

- Diocesan and episcopal

- Authorisation by the Bishop on advice of diocesan staff

- For ministries which under supervision represent the church in the wider community and the church

- Local supervision by the local minister and final accountability to the Bishop

- Training and support through diocesan programme and through the local team

- Regular review, including for renewal on behalf of the Bishop

- Diocesan responsibility to ensure that safeguarding training and checks are completed.

***Licence***

- Episcopal licence as required by Canon and nationally recognised

- Diocesan appointment/selection

- Admission and licensing by a Bishop

- For ministers of the Word exercising a representative or leadership role in the church and/or community in a parish/mission area or wider, and holding responsibilities such as for evangelism, mission enabling, teaching, catechizing, preaching, leading of worship, community outreach.

- Local supervision by the local minister and accountability to the Bishop

- Diocesan training where required. Continuing ministerial development through diocesan programmes/provision

- Annual ministry review by or on behalf of the Bishop

- Diocesan responsibility for safeguarding training and checks

**VACANCIES and TRANSFERRING**

**Can a parish nominate a candidate for ALM Training during a vacancy?**

The PCC can consider nominating while in a vacancy but nominations should not be put forward without prior agreement from the Rural Dean / Archdeacon. Parishes should be able to show that there will be support and care for the ALM candidate while in training.

**What happens to ALMs in a Vacancy?**

• In a vacancy (of incumbent), the ministry of ALMs may continue as normal, under the authority of the Churchwardens and PCC, as part of the Ministry Team in the parish, and with the support of the Rural Dean.

**Can a person transfer from another diocese?**

•If someone has been an ALM or equivalent in another diocese they can seek permission to transfer to the new parish within which they worship. They should have become settled as a member of the new church for six months before seeking re‐authorisation. It is for the incumbent and PCC to support their request. They should have a reference from their previous parish and / or from the training course they have done, and they will require a new DBS clearance. If these are in place and there is the support from the Parish, the recommendation would be put to the Bishop for the person to be commissioned. They would also be invited to the next Commissioning Service where they would be formally welcomed.