Mission and evangelism

Candidates should

▪ demonstrate a personal commitment to mission that is reflected in thought, prayer and action;
▪ show an understanding of mission and of the issues and opportunities within contemporary culture;
▪ be able to speak of Jesus Christ in a way that is exciting, accessible, and attractive;
▪ show potential for encouraging others in mission;
▪ show potential for enabling others to develop their vocations as witnesses of the good news.

*Before starting training for licensed lay ministry candidates will also be expected to apply for DBS (formerly CRB) clearance

Diocese of Worcester
Licensed Lay Ministry
Criteria for selection

Licensed Lay Ministry (also known as Reader ministry) is part of the nationally recognised, accredited public ministry of the Church of England. It is a deployable ministry – once admitted, Readers may exercise their ministry in other dioceses, subject to receiving a licence from the bishop of the diocese. For these reasons there are national guidelines concerning both the selection of candidates for training and for the exercise of Reader ministry.

The selection criteria also relate to the range of experiences, gifts, skills and qualities which candidates are expected to have, or show the potential for developing, at the point at which they enter training. The criteria do not seek perfection, but they do highlight the spiritual, personal and corporate values which underpin the demands and expectations of ministry in a public, representative role. As such, they offer a set of objective guidelines to help both the candidates and those who advise them assess their capacity to acquire and work with the resources needed to engage in a ministry of the word, to respond creatively to the changing needs of church and society, and to flourish in discipleship and ministry in order that they may help others flourish too.

As part of the discernment process, people enquiring into licensed lay ministry will be helped to explore these criteria in various ways in relation to their own sense of vocation, spiritual formation and capacity for ministry and continuing development.

LLM selection criteria, Sept 2017
Ministry in the Church of England
Candidates must
- be baptised and confirmed;
- be regular communicants of the Church of England;
- be familiar with its traditions and practices;
- must be willing to complete the necessary disclosure statement in connection with the House of Bishops’ policy on Safeguarding before undergoing the diocesan selection procedure.*

Vocation
Candidates should
- be able to speak of their own sense of vocation to ministry and mission;
- be able to refer to personal conviction and to the extent to which others have confirmed it;
- have a sense of vocation which is obedient, realistic and informed.

Faith
Candidates should
- show an understanding of the Christian faith and a desire to deepen that understanding;
- demonstrate personal commitment to Christ;
- demonstrate a capacity to communicate the gospel.

Spirituality and worship
Candidates should show
- evidence of commitment to a spiritual discipline which involves individual and corporate prayer and worship;
- that their spiritual practice sustains and energises them in their daily lives.

Personality and character
Candidates should
- be sufficiently mature and stable to show that they can sustain the demanding role of a minister;
- be able to face change and pressure in a flexible and balanced way;
- be seen to be people of integrity.

Relationships
Candidates should
- demonstrate self-awareness and self-acceptance as a basis for developing open and healthy personal and pastoral relationships as ministers;

Potential for training
Candidates should
- be capable of undertaking satisfactorily a course of study and ministerial preparation;
- have an open and enquiring mind.

Leadership and collaboration
Candidates should
- show the potential to offer wise leadership in the church community and to some extent beyond it;
- show ability and willingness to co-operate with other ministers;
- show ability and willingness to work as team members as well as leaders.

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