

## Unit 1 – all participants cover unit 1 – 8 weeks

### God, Mission & the Church

- Connect ministry with the kingdom and mission of God
- Working in the Body of Christ, understanding my call
- Using the Bible wisely
- Mission - sharing faith in our contexts

### Listening Skills

- Deepening Compassion for Listening
- Asking helpful questions
- Checking our assumptions
- Known by God

## Unit 2: A choice of 1 of 2 modules spread over 7 sessions.

### Worship module

- Understanding the dynamics of worship and liturgy
- Reading Scripture and leading prayers in public worship
- Some awareness and practice in different forms of worship
- Resources for creative prayer and Bible study in worship

### Mission module

- Sharing our Christian journey, telling our story
- Understanding the context for mission
- Sharing our faith in communities and with individuals
- Learning from good practice

### Pastoral Module

- Understand the motivational nature of a compassionate God
- Learn how to reflect theologically in the pastoral context
- Appreciate more fully how life changes affect people in the pastoral context
- Be able to apply informed listening to a variety of situations

The Final session is held with all participants, together with their incumbents/responsible ministers. See the Application form for full list of dates.

# Recognised Parish Assistants

Bridlington Deanery 2019

Starting 7pm, Tues Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>

Emmanuel Church, Bridlington YO15 3JT



Sharing in the  
ministry of  
your local  
church

Developing  
lay  
ministry

Enabling  
your  
ministry  
to grow



Reach – Grow - Sustain

## What are Recognised Parish Assistants?

In developing this role within the Diocese, the vision is to help to make real the Body of Christ, with gifts to share for the Christian community and in the wider mission to which we are called. As a Diocese we encourage and develop lay ministry from the ground upwards, affirming and giving confidence through 'recognising' a sense of call. The training currently seeks to develop lay ministry in the areas of either pastoral care, mission, planning and leading worship or work with young people. RPA's share in the public ministry of the local church, as they serve their local parishes, working with their parish clergy, and other licensed ministers (Readers and Church Army officers) seeking to encourage and develop the gifts of others.

## What does 'recognised' mean?

Recognition is at a local level, with the permission of the Suffragan Bishop, as is done for Eucharistic assistants. The recognition is for five years, and renewable at the end of that time. It is not transferable from one benefice to another, though there is a process for offering to be an RPA in a new parish if you move within the Diocese. A simple working agreement is provided to facilitate good practice in supervision, and short liturgy which can be used to commission RPAs at a Sunday service.

## Where do I find out more?

Courses usually take place in Deaneries, and are open to folk within travelling distance. Contact Angela Bailey, Diocesan Lay Development Adviser [angela.bailey@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:angela.bailey@yorkdiocese.org)



"Now I'm an RPA, others want to know more"

*"The above named has my permission and blessing to assist in this ministry in the Parish described and in the tasks mutually agreed"*  
*(Bishop's Permission Letter)*



"The training encourages and develops lay ministry from the ground upwards. It is a chance for parishes to opt into learning with others".

## What is the training?

The scheme is suitable both for those who are already engaged in ministry and need some further training, and for those who are about to take on ministry for the first time through the local church. Usually, it involves 16 meetings, typically in two units of 8 weeks which are interspersed with breaks when we put our learning into practice). It encourages the vision of every member ministry rather than simply being a course.

## Who can do the Course?

Participants should be commended by their incumbent and be supported by their PCC. They can come as individuals or as a small group from a church or benefice. There's a fee of £50 for each person towards the expenses of the course which we hope that PCC's would pay as a sign of their support and continuing commitment to these lay ministers. All RPAs are expected to complete the DBS process in their parish, and do at least CI module of the Safeguarding training (more if their role requires it).

## What's the difference between a RPA and a Reader?

Quite a lot! Readers typically train for 3 to 4 years, are licensed and deployed by the Bishop, wear robes, lead worship, preach regularly and can potentially share varied responsibilities with their clergy. After the 16 week course, RPA's are recognised by their parish or benefice for a specifically negotiated role. Those who opt for the worship stream will typically contribute to the planning of worship and be involved in leading worship alongside others.