

## Outline of training programme

### Unit 1 – all participants cover unit 1

#### God, Mission & the Church (4 weeks)

- Connect ministry with the kingdom and mission of God
- Working in the Body of Christ
- Using the Bible wisely
- Understanding how we learn

#### Core Listening - (4 weeks) each week will include time to listen to one another

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

### Unit 2: The following sets are available.

#### Pastoral set (over seven Tuesday evenings)

- Understanding the motivational nature of a compassionate God
- Learning 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
- Recognise the importance of a team in pastoral work

#### Worship set (over seven Tuesday evenings)

- Understanding the dynamics of worship and liturgy
- Some awareness and practice in different forms of worship
- Resourcing the 'sermon slot'

#### Mission set (2 Saturdays – 9<sup>th</sup> May & 13<sup>th</sup> June)

- Understanding the context for mission
- Sharing our faith in communities and with individuals
- Learning from good practice

#### Children & Young People set (details tbc)

- Distinctiveness of children's and young people's faith and
- Basic skills and knowledge to help develop their relationship with God
- To be willing to speak up for and encourage children and young people in the church

The Final session is held with all participants, together with their incumbents/responsible ministers



# Recognised Parish Assistants



Developing  
lay  
ministry

Sharing in the  
ministry of  
your local  
Church

Enabling  
your  
ministry  
to grow



York Diocesan Office  
Tuesdays 7pm – 9.30am  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## 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. The Diocese wants to 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, but can be ratified by 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, unless the working agreement includes a provision for working across named benefices within a Deanery under the overall supervision of the Rural Dean. A simple working agreement is provided to facilitate good practice in supervision and a short liturgy which can be used to commission RPA's at a Sunday service.

## 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



**"This has encouraged us to build a pastoral care team"**

**"Now I'm a 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" (Bsp's Permission Letter)*



**"This scheme is intended to encourage and develop lay ministry from the ground upwards. It is a chance for parishes to opt into a wider training opportunity".**

of 8 weeks which are interspersed with breaks. It is a scheme to encourage the vision of every member ministry rather than simply 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 Scheme. We hope that PCC's would pay this fee as a sign of their support and continuing commitment to these lay ministers.

## 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.

## Where do I find out more?

More information and application forms are available at [www.ysom.org.uk/rpas.html](http://www.ysom.org.uk/rpas.html) or ring the YSOM Administrator at the Diocesan Office 01904 699529 or [YSOM@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:YSOM@yorkdiocese.org) For more details about this particular course, the local coordinator is Revd Canon Terry Joyce, the York Archdeaconry Training Adviser 01904 400811 [terry.joyce@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:terry.joyce@yorkdiocese.org)