



**Director of Mission and Ministry to Diocesan Synod
8th of March 2025 - an update on ALM**

For nearly a decade authorised lay ministry (ALM) in the diocese has encouraged discernment in worshipping contexts that might enable a broader base of lay service and leadership. As part of the collective discernment at the heart Year of Seeking, an invitation was made to Church Wardens, Incumbents and Area Deans to encourage people in their localities to undertake an 8-week course with other existing ALMs and prospective ALMs, as well as a small number of people who are undertaking vocational discernment journeys in the diocese. Participants are supported in discernment by parishes, sent to participate in both core and elective formation programs and are received back into parishes where they will serve.

The purpose of a core formational program for those interested in or already serving in Authorised Lay Ministry seeks to:

- Enabling fellowship between ALMs in the diocese
- Encouraging reflection on vocation and learning for ALMs
- Enhancing the diocesan orientation of Seeking, Sharing, Sending by offering explicit avenues of discernment and exploration: “where are we noticing God with us/others?”

The course is being hosted across the following locations each week (2.5 hours each):

- Monday (AM): Church House (on-site and on-line hybrid)
 - Tuesday (EVE): Benwell, St James (onsite)
 - Thursday (EVE): online only
 - Friday (AM): Corbridge
- + 2 Saturdays at Longframlington and North Shields in February and March that deliver the course in two “long” days*

The course follows the following structure:

1. What is God doing? Authorised Lay Ministry in Newcastle Diocese
2. Bowls, Vessels and Rafts: three images for faithful mission in our contexts
3. Exploring the Old Testament - mapping the places God is at work
4. Exploring the Gospels - scripture and God’s work in Jesus
5. Exploring the Pauline Epistles - scripture and participating in God’s work
6. Exploring Revelation - when and where is heaven on earth?

7. Anglican Ethics - “what we have done, and what we have failed to do”
8. Sharing Mission and Ministry: worship and witness

Alongside this core course, new ALMs can also take elective formation:

- 2025: Pastoral Care and Leading Public Worship
- 2026: as 2025, plus formation for facilitating New Worshipping

Communities

- 2027: as 2026 plus formation for Community Mission