



DIOCESE OF  
**YORK**

# THE DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP PROJECT

## Course Guide

*including Guidance  
for Mentors*

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September 2023  
*Pilot Cohort*



THE DEEPENING  
DISCIPLESHIP PROJECT

*Growing like Jesus where you are*



He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

Ephesians 4: 11-13 (The Message)

# THE DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP PROJECT: KEY FACTS

Welcome to The Deepening Discipleship Project, a new accompanied learning community beginning in **September 2023** to support the growth and development of the ministry of God's people in local churches across our Diocese.

## **Called to be a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)?**

In the Autumn term there will be a drop-in sessions to discover more about what it means to be a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader).

If you wish to go on to Licensed Lay Ministry (Reader) then there will be 10 months of compulsory modules to complete before licensing.

Please see the Diocesan website for details.

This learning community is the first step for those who are interested in developing their ministry and would like to explore their calling to either:

- **Authorised Lay Minister**
- **Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)**

There may also be members of the cohort who considering what their calling might be or who are also exploring a call to ordained ministry. .

At the end of The Deepening Discipleship Project and on completion of your Safeguarding Training you **will be eligible to become an Authorised Lay Minister.**

## **Ongoing Learning and Support**

After authorisation you will be welcome to join a number of **short courses** (which will be open to anyone).

## **Cost**

There is no cost for joining the Deepening Discipleship Project. *However* we expect your context to support you in your formation journey. This should include:

- Providing an appropriate mentor (further details on the next page)
- Funding your travel to the gathered sessions
- Providing you with a budget for your practical tasks

**There may also be other ways in which you can be supported in context (such as access to digital) please speak to your leadership team.**

**We will be asking your context to give an undertaking to support you as part of the Application Process**



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**Course Leader (Cohort 1)**  
**Julia Robertson (Start of Lay Ministries Adviser)**  
**[julia.robertson@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:julia.robertson@yorkdiocese.org)**

When?			What?	Where?
Autumn 2023	Tuesday September 19th 2023	7-8.30pm	Vision Evening*	Zoom
	Sunday October 8th 2023	10am – 4pm	Gathered session 1	Wydale Hall
	Tuesday November 28th 2023	7-8.30pm	Online Reflection Group	Zoom
Spring 2024	Tuesday January 30th 2024	7-8.30pm	Online Reflection Group	Zoom
	Sunday March 3rd 2024	10am – 4pm	Gathered session 2	Wydale Hall
	Tuesday March 19th 2024	7-8.30pm	Online Reflection Group	Zoom
	April 30th April 2024		Deadline for applications to LLM (Reader) Formation	
Summer 2024	Sunday April 21st 2024	10am – 4pm	Gathered Session 3	Wydale Hall
	Saturday 8th June 2024		Discernment Day for LLM (Reader) ministry	Wydale Hall
	Tuesday June 18th 2024	7-8.30pm	Online Reflection Group	Zoom
Autumn 2024	tbc		Celebration of Lay Ministries Service*	York Minster

\*these events include mentors and supporting leadership

The Deepening Discipleship Project *Pilot* Cohort begins in **September 2023** and has four key components. We will also utilise Moodle, a Virtual Learning Environment where we can share resources and ideas. Help will be given on how to use this.

**Dates can be found in the Key Dates page in this booklet**

**Please note that it is our expectation that you attend all sessions.**



**Applied Learning  
Project**

Your **Applied Learning Project** is the key component of the Deepening Discipleship Project.

**Each person's ministry journey is unique.** The aim of these practical tasks are to enable you to grow in confidence in your ministry. We encourage your context to be permission giving and allow you to 'have a go'.

*The learning objectives grid shows which objectives will be met through structured practical tasks (purple shading) and each person will negotiate their own tasks with their mentor.*

The one day **gathered retreats** are one of your two learning and reflection spaces across the course.



**Three one-day  
gathered retreats**

They are based at **Wydale Hall** the Retreat and Conference centre for the Diocese of York.

We will gather together to explore the qualities we would wish to see Lay Ministers in the Diocese of York inhabit. In the gathered sessions we will explore how these relate to **Christ, ourselves, the Church and the World.**

**There may be some light preparation work to be done for these sessions in the form of a bible study, questionnaires or online activities.**

The course will begin with a **Vision Evening on Tuesday 19th September on Zoom.**

Please contact Julia Robertson for further details  
[julia.robertson@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:julia.robertson@yorkdiocese.org)





**Mentor in Context**

Your mentor who will walk alongside you in your context and will form a key part of your formation.

As part of the application process you will need to identify a suitable mentor. *This does not need to be your vicar.* Resourcing and equipping will be available for mentors.

Please see the section about/for mentors later in this Course Guide for more details.

The **online reflection sessions** are designed to gather the whole cohort together to reflect on your practical experience so far and to learn from each other.

We will be using the time to explore further the Key Themes identified below and the learning outcomes on page 7.

There may be some light preparation tasks to do in advance of these sessions and you will be encouraged to discuss, develop and explore further your learning from these sessions with your mentor in context.



**Online Reflection Sessions**

We believe that the foundation of all our calling to ministry is in our Discipleship. The Key Themes for the project draw on this belief and are based around **seven qualities** we would wish to see Lay Ministers in the Diocese of York inhabit.

**The focus is on character, values and growth *rather than* on skills and knowledge.**

	<b>Key Theme</b>
<b>Autumn 2023</b>	<b>Call to Ministry Love for God</b>
<b>Spring 2024</b>	<b>Love for People Wisdom Trustworthiness</b>
<b>Summer 2024</b>	<b>Fruitfulness Potential</b>



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Focus	Learning Outcomes			
	Christ	Church	World	Self
<b>Love for God</b>	Explore my own faith journey and my relationship with Christ	Use scripture to reflect on worship and faith	Connect my personal faith to my everyday life	Commit to deepening daily spiritual life and faith and becoming more Christlike
<b>Call to Ministry</b>	Reflect on what it means for me to be called by Christ to be a disciple	Understand and explore the nature of lay ministry	Explore the example that Jesus models in Scripture of world-facing ministry	Consider my own gifts and calling (including as recognised by others)
<b>Love for people</b>	Consider Jesus' example of listening and valuing others	Explore biblical examples of healthy relationships	Seek to serve the community and enable others in mission	Reflect on how I can manage expectations appropriately in ministry
<b>Wisdom</b>	Demonstrate a positive approach to lifelong learning, reflection and growth	Develop skills for working collaboratively	Reflect on the connection between gathered worship and being sent out into the world	Consider what energises me, and how can I use this in God's service
				Make good use of feedback
<b>Fruitfulness</b>	Explore ways of sharing God's story in a way that encourages others to follow Jesus'	Commit to find ways to speak out about my faith imaginatively, relevantly and well	Share God's love for the world in mission	Consider my own strengths and weaknesses.
				Resource myself with good self-care
<b>Potential</b>	Reflect my own faith and ministry	Consider biblical models of leadership and accountability	See where God is working in the world and spot opportunities to respond	Develop my ability to be adaptable, imaginative and creative
<b>Trustworthiness</b>	Grow and reflect theologically as a minister of Christ	Understand, articulate and commit to the importance of keeping people safe*	Engage in mission, showing growing understanding and sensitivity to different cultures, faiths and environments	Exemplify the importance of appropriate boundaries
				Reflect on how personal experiences and hard times in life affect our ministry



In the Deepening Discipleship Project, mentoring is all about building a relationship with the person you are mentoring on the course. Your mentor will walk alongside you in your context and will form a key part of your formation.

Through this relationship the Mentor enables the person to reflect on what they are learning and then helps them to land that learning into their life. It is an intentional, prayerful, and supportive relationship with regular contact for the duration of the course.

God will be at work, and the mentor is there to help the person on the course to see what God is doing in their life and encourage them to step into that in practical ways.



## **Core tasks that you will be doing:**

- Praying for the person you are mentoring.
- Connecting well with the person relationally and building an open trusting relationship.
- Clarifying the expectations and explaining what you will be doing together.
- Pursuing the mentoring relationship by meeting regularly.
- Evaluating with the person you are mentoring and adjusting as you go.
- Participating in the resourcing and review sessions for mentors

## **Key results – what are we expecting:**

- The person you are mentoring grows closer to Jesus and in likeness to Him.
- They apply what they have been learning and grow in skills and stature as a leader.
- Their confidence increases and they lead with joy.

Further guidance on expectations of mentors can be found in the **Guidance for Mentors** document



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## **Mentoring process with expected time commitment:**

- The Project will begin with an online Vision Evening
- There will be a resourcing evening for all mentors with some follow up material for review
- You will be expected to meet regularly with your mentee, this will be by negotiation and agreement with them but we would hope this would take place around once per half term
- You will be have access to the Diocese of York Learning Platform where you will be able to review the group's learning before you meet.
- There is a bit of admin, planning ahead with the person you are mentoring and arranging all the meetings.
- We will have a review evening to catch up toward the end of the course for you to feedback how you feel your mentee has developed
- Regular attendance at practical tasks. Again this will be by negotiation and agreement with them but we would hope this would take place around once per half term
- We will have a celebration service after the project has finished

As well as your **mentor** in context Lay Ministry Encouragers may be available to walk alongside those who are being formed on the various Lay Ministry pathways.

This might include mentoring, delivery of resourcing sessions or hosting of online reflections sessions according to the individual's own gifts and calling.



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Resourcing events for mentors will be held online at the beginning of each cohort.

Please contact Julia Robertson for further details  
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He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 4:16: New Living Translation

