

FOUNDATIONS IN MINISTRY

COHORT 6
Wyzdale

SEPTEMBER 2025 - JULY 2026



The Foundations in Ministry course is for anyone who is interested in exploring a sense of a call to ministry in the church and beyond the church walls. The course includes face to face and online resourcing sessions to help you reflect on your development as a disciple of Christ and as a public minister. Supported by an accompanied learning community and your local mentor, you will grow in confidence in exercising your ministry in your local context or church setting.

This learning community is the first step for those who are particularly considering a call to either authorised or licensed ministry. Those who successfully complete the course and have the support of their local church and incumbent will be eligible to become an Authorised Lay Minister (ALM). For those who feel a call to licensed ministry there will be additional support as you prepare for the relevant discernment process to either Reader ministry, Church Army or ordained ministry.

What can I expect?

The course runs for 10 months and includes a mix of local gathered days and online sessions. You can expect an informal and relaxed learning environment that aims to build up the confidence of all participants and affirm them in their ministry development.

Are there written assignments?

There are no formal academic assignments on this course. There will be a variety of preparatory tasks each month which will help you to engage fully in the gathered and online sessions. A key element of the course involves reflecting on your own ministry and self-development, and you will be encouraged to keep a simple journal to help you capture your thoughts as the course progresses.

How much will it cost?

There is no cost to the participant for the course; however, we hope that your PCC will support you in your formation journey. This may include:

- Providing an appropriate mentor - see the 'Working with Your Mentor' section.
- Providing opportunities for you to engage with the set learning tasks and develop your ministry skills.
- Funding your travel to the gathered sessions.
- Providing you with access to IT and internet.
- Praying for you as you explore God's call on your life.

How do I apply?

If you feel that this course may be suitable for you please do get in touch with the Lifelong Learning team via email (layministry@yorkdiocese.org) or download the application form from the Diocese of York website.





**Practical
Ministry Experience**

The key focus of this course is supporting each individual in their unique ministry journey, enabling them to grow in confidence. Using reflective practice, we hope that you will be able to discover your strengths and find areas that you can develop. We encourage your context to be permission-giving and allow you to 'have a go'. This will hopefully give you the opportunity to discern God's calling to you in a safe environment.



Gathered Days

The gathered days are designed to equip you with the tools you will need in your ministry. There will be input from experienced tutors, practical group work, community worship and space for fellowship.

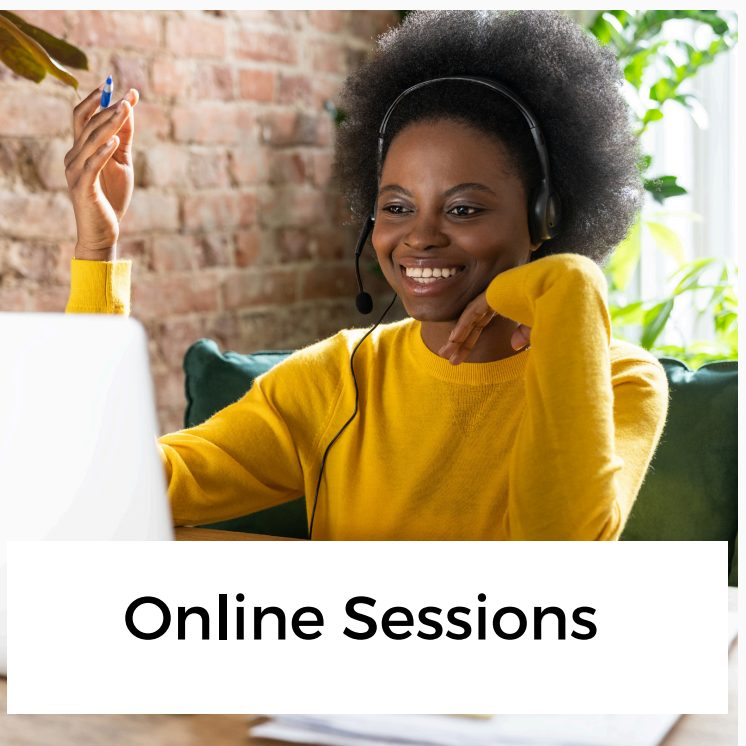
These days are based in different locations for different cohorts across the Diocese to ensure that we are offering local and accessible training.



Mentor in Context

Your mentor will be someone who has ministry experience, understands your own church context and holds a current licence or Bishop's permission to officiate. They will walk alongside you and be a key part of your formation.

Mentors will be resourced and equipped to support you in a meaningful and helpful way. Please see the section about mentors later in this Course Guide for more details.



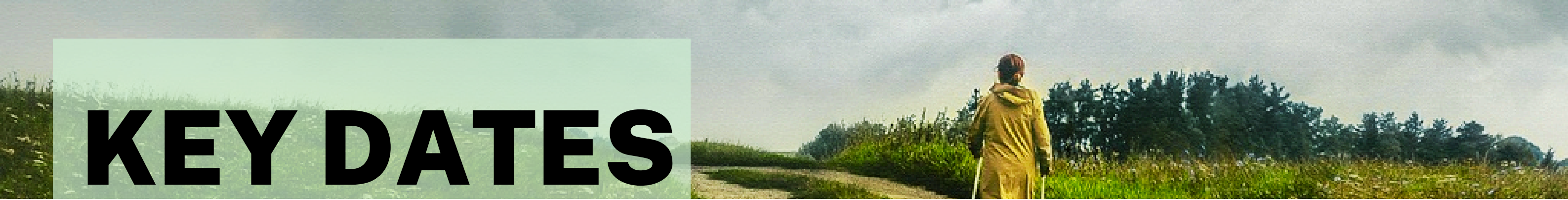
Online Sessions

The online sessions are designed to provide the opportunity to engage with topics that will enhance your knowledge and understanding of some of the key areas of ministry.

You will also have access to a variety of resources on the Diocese of York Learning Hub, including online lessons, chat forums and other interactive tasks to help you in your learning.

**10 months
Space to explore
your calling and gifts**





KEY DATES

Dates and Times		Sessions
Tuesday, 16th September	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 1 - Welcome & Introduction to the Course and Formation Plan
Wednesday, 1 st October	12.30pm-1.30pm Online	Mentor Forum (Mentors only)
Saturday, 18th October	9.30am - 4.30pm Gathered Day	Session 2 - Exploring Discipleship & Vocation Session 3 - Lay Ministry Today
Tuesday, 11th November	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 4 - Foundations of Worship
Tuesday, 9 th December	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 5 - Reflective Practice in Ministry
Tuesday, 13th January	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 6 - In God’s Image: Fostering a Safer Culture
Saturday, 7th February	9.30am - 4.30pm Gathered Day	Session 7 - Listening to God, Self and Others Session 8 - Leading Gathered Worship
Friday 13 th February	12.30pm-1.30pm Online	Mentor Forum (Mentors Only)
Tuesday, 10th March	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 9 - Chosen and Called: Next Steps
Tuesday, 14th April	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 10 - The Kingdom of God: Diversity and Inclusion
Tuesday, 12th May	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 11 - The Story of the Bible
Tuesday, 9th June	6.30pm - 8.00pm Online	Session 12 - Foundations of Our Faith
Saturday, 18th July	9.30am - 4.30pm Gathered Day	Session 13 - Sharing Our Faith with Others and the 5 Marks of Mission Session 14 - Course Conclusion and Next Steps

Annual Celebration of Lay Ministries Service

There will be a Celebration of Lay Ministries Service in Autumn 2026 in which new ALMs will be recognised along with other lay ministers, including Licensed Lay Ministers and Church Army Evangelists. We encourage mentors and incumbents to support their ALMs and LLMs at this service. The date will be published in due course.



Working with Your Mentor

Your mentor will act as a guide and companion as you explore and develop your ministry in the church and community contexts, helping you to see what God is doing in your life at this time. A key part of your formation journey, mentoring will provide you with support and feedback on the ministry activities you engage in and help you to make connections with your learning from the gathered and online sessions. It is an intentional, prayerful, and supportive relationship with regular contact for the duration of the course.



Core tasks for your mentor:

- Building an open and trusting relationship.
- Developing the mentoring relationship by regular communication.
- Praying regularly for you and with you .
- Working with you to evaluate your learning and adjusting support as you go.
- Providing you with feedback on your development during the course.

What are we hoping for as a result of a good mentoring relationship?:

- That you both deepen your discipleship and faith, becoming more Christlike.
- That you both apply your learning and grow in skills and experience.
- That you both gain confidence in yourself and your ministry.

What does being a mentor involve?:

- Attending the introductory and follow up sessions for mentors (Oct and Feb).
- Arranging regular meetings. This will be by negotiation and agreement between you, but we would hope this would be a minimum of 6 times across the 10 months.
- Observing you in action in your local ministry context and engaging with set tasks in order to provide feedback which enables you to grow in confidence and competence.
- Accessing the online Diocese of York Learning Hub to review session content in order to help make connections with your context.
- Meeting with you at the end of the course to reflect together on how you have developed over the duration of the course and to support your next steps.
- Attending the Celebration of Lay Ministries Service, which will take place in the September after full completion of the course.

Key Contacts

Warden of Lay Ministry and Head of Lifelong Learning

Lynn Comer

Diocese of York. Amy Johnson Way,
York, YO30 4XT

email: lynn.comer@yorkdiocese.org
tel: 01904 699525 or 07871 958807



Start of Lay Ministries Adviser

Currently vacant
Diocese of York, Amy Johnson Way,
York, YO30 4XT
email:
Tel:



Lifelong Learning Senior Administrator

Ehren Mierau

Diocese of York, Amy Johnson Way,
York, YO30 4XT

email: layministry@yorkdiocese.org
tel: 01904 699525



Lifelong Learning Assistant Administrator

Currently vacant
Diocese of York
Amy Johnson Way,
York, YO30 4XT

email:



Lifelong Learning Tutor and Continuing Ministerial Development Advisor

John Hoyland

Diocese of York
Amy Johnson Way,
York, YO30 4XT

email: john.hoyland@yorkdiocese.org
tel: 01904 699527

