

## **Lay Ministry Survey – Executive Summary**

The purpose of this Executive Summary is to guide you through the set of information presented in advance of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November Diocesan Council Meeting. The information was collected in a pair of surveys responded to during March 2017.

Overall response was heartening, with interest clearly stirred by this Base Line Survey, which had been agreed at the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017 meeting of the Lay Ministry and Training Team. The Team planned to use this to suggest new directions and/or programs.

Essentially we **asked 4 questions:**

1. *what training would be useful?*
  - *offered a check list of some of the more obvious training options*
  - *invited respondents to add their own ideas on what training is needed/ helpful*
2. *what expertise the individual has and if they would be willing to share that expertise regionally*
3. *share stories of specific ministries that have been undertaken that have been successful and asked if they would be willing to mentor others considering a similar ministry*
4. *share stories of ministries that the parish would like to develop but hasn't and to identify what struggles they have encountered*

The first Survey (Clergy) was aimed at Ordained Ministers to ask basic questions about what Lay Ministries were active in their Parish, using both a check list and an open-ended response.

The second Survey (Lay + Clergy) was open to all, and asked questions about what Learning Opportunities might be useful, again in a check list and open-ended format. Specific success stories were also asked for, along with whether Parish expertise could be shared locally.

Each survey was available both on-line and in written format, although the questions asked in both formats was not identical, thanks to some editing glitches prior to publication. As far as was possible, data for both formats has been amalgamated, to give a consolidated response.

The first set of 4 files enclosed are blank copies of both surveys, in both formats. The remaining 9 files are numbered 1-9 and are described below.

### **Clergy Survey**

The first three tables give the results on this survey, which had 26 responses, analysed in Table 1 Clergy Positions held. The Check List (Table 2 Clergy Ministry Check List) showed a very wide range of current Lay Ministries in Parishes, with 27 of the 34 listed (79%) being checked by more than half of respondents.

The third table (3 Clergy Additional ministries) also showed the very wide range of “write-in” Lay Ministries out there, with 49 different responses, several mentioned 2 or 3 times.

## Lay + Clergy Survey

As with the Clergy Survey, the 79 responses (12 or 15% Clergy) covered a wide spectrum, with half classed as “Lay Leader” (not Treasurer or Warden, who are “Executive”, but with a defined role in Lay Ministry, such as Sunday School Leader) as shown in Table 4 L+C Positions held.

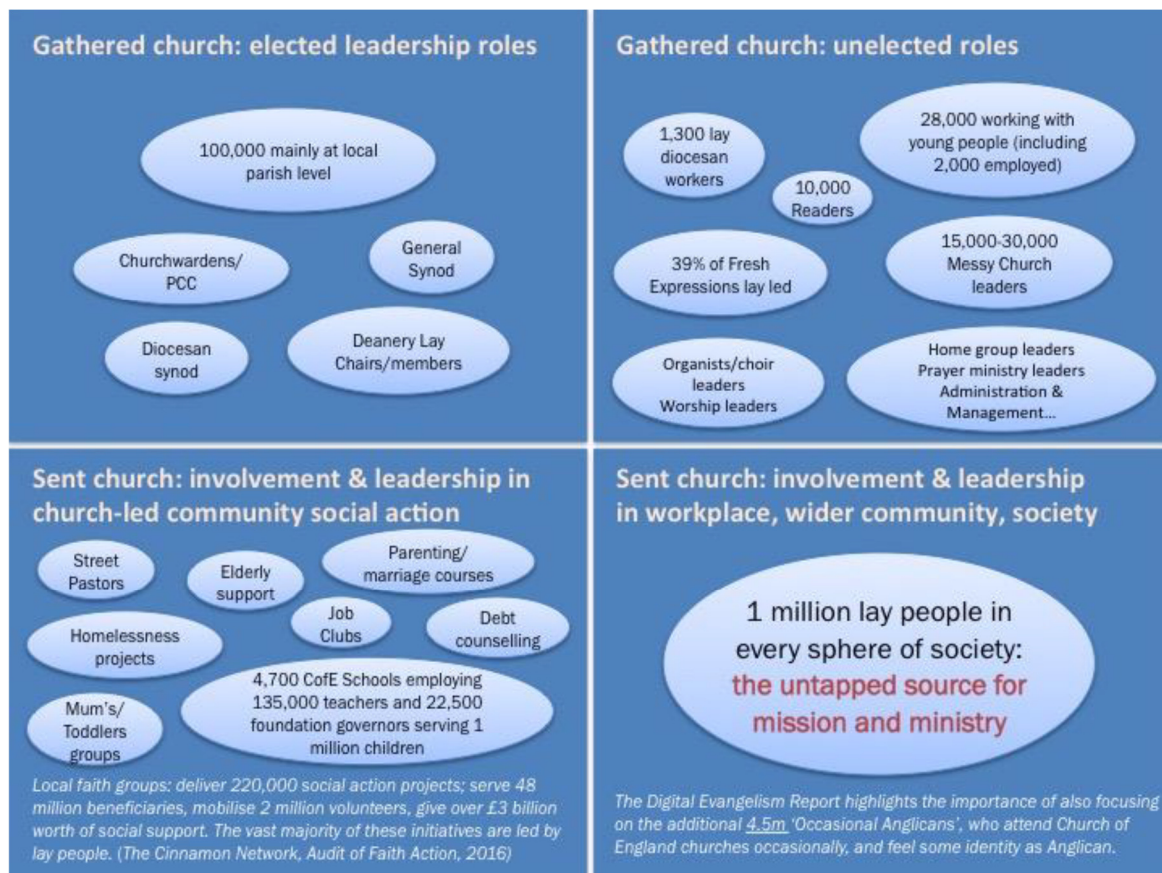
The Check List (Table 5 L+C Learning opportunities check list) was different to that in the Clergy Survey, but resulted in similarly very varied responses. None of the 26 offered ideas got more than 50% support, but half got between one quarter and one half of the votes.

When we asked for other ideas (Table 6 L+C Additional ministry opportunities), we again got a wide response (43 in total, with some offering more than one idea). With such a wide response, we sought a way to classify them which would be helpful in development of these ideas.

One respondent had not offered any detailed answers, but suggested we look at the Church of England paper <https://www.churchofengland.org/renewal-reform/setting-gods-people-free.aspx> which had just been endorsed by their General Synod in February 2017.

This paper by their Lay Leadership Task Group takes a fresh look at lay ministry, but it is not an exhaustive exploration of the role of the laity or of lay discipleship. Rather, they see the report as marking the start of a vital journey.

In particular, we found their classification of lay involvement and leadership (see pages 9-10 of their comprehensive report) to be helpful in reviewing the results of our survey. In summary they present their ideas in tabular form, as follows (NOTE: data is for the Church of England):



In Table 6 L+C Additional ministry opportunities, we used their distinctions between Gathered and Sent Church, as shown in the table above, to show again the wide diversity of suggested ministries.

In Table 7 L+C Expertise willing to share, we did not use the C of E classification, as responses were about skill sets rather than uses for them. The 38 specific offers again covered a wide range of skills, applicable in many Lay Ministry workshops or mentoring opportunities.

In Table 8 L+C Successful specific ministries, the C of E classification was again very useful. The Gathered – Non-elected included 26 (44%) of the 59 reports, and Sent – Church-led had 31 (53%), leaving just 2 (3%) for the Sent – Work/Community classification. This may speak to how we as a church conceptualize ‘ministry’. Over 2/3 of respondents are prepared to mentor others

The last Table (9 L+C Undeveloped ministries) produced a “wish list”. People waxed eloquent as they mused about what they had perhaps tried, but failed to implement. Responses were more evenly spread across the C of E classifications than for Table 8, showing encouraging ambition in Parishes.

The presentation at D.C. will not repeat the detail of these tables, which is why we are sending them out to you in advance. Any detail questions to Brenda O’Brien or David Buckman, please.