

## the story so far

- 35 parishes or groups of parishes in Hereford diocese have now formed Local Ministry Development Groups.
- Almost 50% of the parishes of the diocese now have groups working in them.
- More than 280 people are involved in Local Ministry projects, only 1 in 5 of whom is ordained.
- Groups are establishing their priorities in response to local needs, as they seek to discern God's call.



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**SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY**  
RESOURCING GOD'S PEOPLE FOR MISSION



**local ministry  
development  
groups**

# what is local ministry?

Local Ministry can be spotted by looking out for the following marks:

- local communities of faith **discerning God's call** to mission over the years ahead and obeying that call;
- all Christians **being enabled** to realise their gifts as they share in discipleship and ministry;
- lay people and clergy **sharing leadership** as local churches take responsibility for being signs of God's Kingdom.



## local ministry in the bible

Local Ministry isn't new. It's just a relatively new name for how the Church was always meant to live its life. We can trace Local Ministry's family tree in the Bible...

- **God calls a people**  
– Israel - into existence in order to bless the world.  
*Genesis 12*



- Through Christ **God creates the Church** - a new Israel - set apart for him by baptism.  
*Galatians 6: 14-16; 1 Peter 2: 4-10*

- The Church, the community of disciples, is given a **share in Jesus' mission** of bringing the good news of God's Kingdom to others.  
*John 20: 19-22; Matthew 28: 16-20*

- The Church is the Body of Christ on earth. Through baptism, **each Christian is a member of that Body, and has been given gifts** which are to be exercised for the good of the whole Body.  
*1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4*

- Within the early Church we see a distinction between two different types of ministry - itinerant apostles like Paul, and settled, 'local' ministries, including elders and deacons. These **local ministries are always spoken of in the plural** - i.e. as people working together.  
*e.g. Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3-5; Titus 1*

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## local ministry in hereford diocese

The aims of the Hereford Diocesan Local Ministry Scheme are:

- to help every member of the church to become a more effective disciple of Jesus Christ;
- to enable the church, even in the smallest of villages, to develop a missional outlook rather than just trying to maintain the status quo;
- to help local churches to listen to how God is calling them through reflecting on their own lives and those of their local communities;
- having listened, to offer support in responding practically to that call;
- to encourage shared leadership between clergy and lay people;
- to help parishes and benefices establish Local Ministry Development Groups (LMDGs);
- to equip Christians for diverse ministries as, together, they share in God's mission.

