

what about the vicar?

A LMDG should always include the incumbent, and may also include other local clergy and Readers.



However a LMDG is not meant to be a substitute for licensed ministers, be they Readers or clergy.

Readers will have their own locally agreed roles, typically based around worship and the ministry of the Word.

Priests and deacons also have distinct callings. This is how one recent theologian summed up the role of the priest.

'Priests are to recall other ministries to the marks of the Church: holiness, catholicity and apostolicity...

'The role of the priest is to lift up and enrich others, who themselves are called to a variety of ministries. So the priest is not a substitute for others, displaying the ministries to which laity are called by baptism, but is to support them, drawing upon the same active Spirit of Christ which enriches others in ministry.'

Daniel W. Hardy

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SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
RESOURCING GOD'S PEOPLE FOR MISSION



**local ministry
development
groups**

why local ministry development groups?

**A Local Ministry
Development Group
(LMDG):**

- acts as a *focus* and a *catalyst* for mission and ministry in the local church;
- is not meant to do all the work but rather to *foster the*

ministries of all God's people as together they share in God's mission.



"I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU FOR SOME TIME, PARKER.....JUST WHAT IS IT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO AROUND HERE?"

A LMDG is useful because it provides:

- a way of taking forward ideas which otherwise might remain on the shelf;
- a range of complementary gifts, rather than the strengths (and weaknesses) of individuals on their own;
- a coordinating point for the benefice's mission;
- an expression of the ownership of the Church's future by all God's people;
- a way of realising people's gifts, within and beyond the LMDG.

but what does a lmdg do?

No two LMDGs work in exactly the same ways. But in general there are two aspects to what they do.

PEOPLE...

A LMDG is there to help Christians to grow in faith and to realise their gifts.

For example, this might involve:

- *setting up a regular Bible study or prayer group;*
- *holding a review of Time, Talents and Money ;*
- *creating opportunities for informal fellowship and having fun together;*
- *arranging guest speakers to give talks on burning issues;*
- *keeping abreast of various training opportunities;*
- *caring for volunteers.*



... & PROJECTS

Before a LMDG comes into being, parishes are encouraged to have spent time reflecting on God's call, perhaps through a **Mission Action Plan** process.

The LMDG is then charged with taking forward any ideas which have emerged. Examples of projects which a LMDG might end up working on include:

- *establishing a club for older people;*
- *developing an all-age worship service;*
- *reviewing and/or implementing a baptism preparation & follow-up policy;*
- *researching how the Church relates to the wider community;*
- *taking forward a building project.*



pccs and lmdgs – what's the link?

LMDGs have a role quite distinct from that of a PCC.

A LMDG is given permission to operate locally by the PCC and remains accountable to it.

The PCC gives a LMDG a remit to give attention to a particular area of ministry and mission. This may be revised when the Local Ministry project is reviewed.

