**2025 Renewal of Permission to Minister**

**for Pastoral Assistants and Evangelists**

PTM for Lay Ministers is given for three years at a time, and all current Permissions expire at Pentecost this year.

Ministry offered by Lay Ministers with the Bishop’s Permission to Minister (PTM) is widely welcomed and appreciated within the Diocese of Rochester. PTM is given and held entirely at the discretion of the Bishop, and the shape and extent of ministry offered by those with PTM varies according to personal and local circumstances. Most minister mainly in one parish or group of parishes, but others offer ministry more widely in a deanery or beyond, in chaplaincy and other such settings. Some lay ministers with PTM offer their skills and experience within the work of our Formation and Ministry Team (perhaps as a tutor or mentor) and in other aspects of diocesan life.

All those who offer public ministry within the Church of England, including those with PTM, must have a clear DBS disclosure, and undertake regular training in relation to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. In addition to the mandatory safeguarding training, lay ministers with PTM are encouraged to take other opportunities for continuing development. Details of the diocesan CMD programme are available on the diocesan website.

Pastoral Assistants and Evangelists with PTM are not required to have full Lay Ministry Development Reviews, but it is important to stop and reflect, and this paper provides a framework for a conversation with the Incumbent/PiC or whichever priest is supporting the application for renewing PTM, along with the creation of a simple working agreement.

Pastoral Assistants and Evangelists with PTM will be included in local meetings – for example if the Lay Ministers of the Deanery have a gathering for a Bishop’s visit.

PTM is renewed every 3 years, and if the Lay Minister is fit and well, and their ministry continues to be appreciated in the parish, there is no upper age limit. However, the time might come when the minister finds that they prefer to be taking less responsibility, and this might be the time to step down from authorised ministry, whilst continuing to be a worshipping member of the church community, and one who encourages the next generation of Lay Ministers.

***Application to renew PTM***

***Name………………………………..… PA/Evangelist***

***Parish/Deanery……………………………………***

How have your personal circumstances changed over the past 3 years?

What other responsibilities do you have? (eg family commitments/volunteering)

What areas of ministry have you found most encouraging over the past 3 years?

What areas of ministry have you found most challenging?

How do you feel about your ministry? Are you content with the how much you are asked/allowed to do? Do you feel pastorally supported?

Are your DBS and safeguarding training up to date? (Please check with Tricia Cliffe if you are unsure of this)

Please discuss what you have written with your Incumbent/PiC, or your Area Dean in a parish vacancy. (If either of you wish to write more,

please feel free.)

Lay Ministers’ Signature……………………………………………… Date………………..

Signature of Supporting Priest…….......................................... Date………………..

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO MANDY HOLLOWAY,

ROCHESTER DIOCESAN OFFICE, ST NICHOLAS’ CHURCH, BOLEY HILL,

ROCHESTER, ME1 1SL