



DIOCESAN SYNOD SYNOD QUESTIONS NOTICE PAPER

Question 1

Q Despina Francois (West Lewisham Deanery)

How has the Season for Lay Ministries been received across the Diocese? What are the outcomes hoped for, in God's grace? Are there plans to repeat this Season in 2023?

A The Revd Canon Wendy Robins

The Season of Lay Ministries has been well received across the Diocese. Many parishes have become involved in the Season. A number of parishes and Deanery Synods have asked for someone to come and preach or present during the Season which was part of the offer made in the publicity. The Department of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education has involved licensed lay and ordained ministers to fulfil these requests. There are further requests being fulfilled later in the year as parishes are doing this at a time which is convenient to them. Parishes have asked for extra copies of the prayer card to ensure that there was enough for everyone in the congregation. Parishes have also made use of the sermon outlines and videos which they received by email, and which can be found on the Diocesan website. They have also used the Lay Ministry Leaflets.

When Bishop Christopher called for the Season of Lay Ministry it was hoped that this would both be a way to focus people's attention on the work that so many lay people are doing in our churches and across our Diocese. It was also hoped that it would begin to show how much this work is valued and appreciated and to help people to realise that this is part of the ministry to which we are all called as God's people. Another outcome anticipated was that the Lay Ministries which are available would be highlighted and that people would want to stop and consider what God might be calling them to in terms of affirmed, commissioned and licensed ministries and to begin the process of testing that call. We believe that these outcomes have been achieved in many of our parishes.

At the meeting of the Lay Council at the end of June it was agreed that this would become an annual event. Next year and in the years following it will be during Epiphany-tide. A letter will go from Bishop Christopher to the parishes concerning this in the next couple of weeks.