

# Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

## Lay Training Fund Guidelines

### Eligibility for support

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The Lay Training Fund (LTF) exists to ensure that finances are not a barrier to formation.

*"Formation is not the privilege of a few, but a right and duty of all."* (Christifideles Laici, 63)

It covers all areas of formation which are not normally provided by parish life. The suitability of an application will be assessed by the Lay Training Fund Committee which is made of the Episcopal Vicar for Faith & Mission, lay coordinator for Faith & Mission, a clergy expert in formation, a member of the Finance team and a lay representative, normally the chair of the Lay Pastoral Council.

The vision for the formation of the Laity was passionately described by John Henry Newman in 1851:

*"You must not hide your talent in a napkin, or your light under a bushel. I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold, and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it. I want an intelligent and well-instructed laity... I wish you to enlarge your knowledge, to cultivate your reason, to get an insight into the relation of truth, to learn to view things as they are, to understand how faith and reason stand to each other, what are the bases and principles of Catholicism."* Saint John Henry Newman

The Lay Training Fund is available to support this vision.

### Who is eligible for support?

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Any adult (aged 18+) living in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, wishing to further deepen their knowledge of religious formation or wishing to educate others in order to have a greater involvement in the parishes or partnerships within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle or the wider community it serves, is eligible to apply for support from the Lay Training Fund.

Where a person's paid employment requires a commitment to formation, such as a teacher, and this is eligible to be paid out of a normal education budget, applications will not be considered for the Lay Training Fund. However, if for example, a teacher wishes to develop their own faith commitment at the service of the Church, then this will be considered for support.

Each year the administrators of the Lay Training Fund, in consultation with the Board of Directors, will also identify emerging priorities and will be proactive in seeking the appropriate people to respond to these priorities and will assess appropriate funding.

## Priorities

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### 2022/2023

- Catechist formation including people seeking to study the Pastoral Ministry Certificate
- Gift discernment that leads to furthering the Churches mission
- Accompaniment
- Lay leadership in its broadest sense

## Eligibility for support

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Applications should be made on the relevant form available from the Vicariate for Faith & Mission, (<https://diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/deepening-faith/#formation>), Tel: (0191) 243 3316 or Email: [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk)). Applications must include a personal letter explaining how the formation will be beneficial to the individual at the service of the Church and society.

A letter of support from the applicant's parish priest/area dean or a priest known to the applicant must accompany the application.

Proof of costs, (which may include training fees, necessary travel, accommodation and/or reading materials,) should be included in the application, (or provided at a later date, before the funding is awarded, if unavailable at the time of application.) All costs will be paid directly to the applicant.

## How Applications will be assessed

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Applications will be assessed in batches at three monthly intervals.

Eligibility will depend on the applicant fulfilling the necessary criteria.

The Application Committee will be responsible for reviewing applications and allocating funds.

In some circumstances, the applicant's parish or deanery may also contribute to costs, and applications for this must be made directly to the parish priest or dean.