

Not sure?

If you want to explore further what God may be calling you to, you need to:

Pray: take time to pray through what you are thinking and feeling. Ask others to pray for you and with you.

Talk: go and see your Vicar, who will want to talk this through with you. It will also be helpful to talk to Readers in your parish or deanery, or elsewhere in the Diocese. There may be a Vocations Day coming up.

You will be advised to undertake the Diocesan 'Discipleship Project' course first.

Reflect: upon the demands that this ministry, and training for it, will place on your life. Share these reflections with your family or friends.



Is God calling you to Reader Ministry?

To find out more contact the Warden of Readers



warden.readers@carlisediocese.org.uk



Perhaps it has come like a bolt out of the blue, during a sermon, in your own prayer time or as you read God's word?

Maybe you have a suspicion you haven't dared admit to yet?

Has it crept up on you over a number of years, or has someone already recognised it and asked you if you have ever thought about being a Reader? Are you feeling you want to share God's word?

God can call us in dramatic or in the quietest of ways directly or through other people.

All sorts of different people are called to Reader Ministry - those in their twenties and those in their sixties, those who are single and those who are busy parents.

What shape of ministry might God be calling you to?

In this Diocese there are Readers who (in addition to leading and preaching at church services)..

- Run home groups, Lent courses and other types of event such as Messy Church events
- Lead parents and toddlers worship services
- Take funeral services and offer ministry to the bereaved
- Take baptism preparation sessions
- Serve as Chaplains in prison, schools and hospitals

And much, much more

Do you think God is calling you to this?

Most people who explore Reader Ministry will be required to undertake the 'Discipleship Project' course. If a candidate for Reader ministry is supported by their PCC and Incumbent, they will have their calling tested by a Diocesan Discernment process. Normally this happens yearly and involves being interviewed by a panel of people. If you are recommended to train as a Reader this Diocese will sponsor your training with Emmanuel Theological College in Penrith. Training will normally be spread over two years, but there can be some variation to suit personal circumstances. Training is alongside others including those training for ordination. It includes learning about the Bible and what Christians believe, as well as skills for ministerial practice. It will also include a placement in another church. Finally, after you complete your training, you will be licensed for ministry at the discretion of the Bishop.



What are Readers?

There are over 10,000 Readers who are licensed through the Church of England.

Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers) are lay people who have been trained for ministry and licensed by their Bishop.

Readers are called to preach and lead services. Often a key aspect of this includes assisting others to explore their faith and to energise others to be drawn to God through all that they are and do.

Readers are called from and fit into their communities, and places of work and play, as well as their parishes and churches.

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