



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

# Licensed Evangelists

Use your gifts to serve God and others in the name of Christ





# Evangelists

The Evangelist ministry is one of the primary biblical ministries referred to in Ephesians chapter 4 who are to prepare God's people for works of service. This role has been recognised within the Church of England for many years, and many dioceses now recognise evangelists in some form or other. These may be people in voluntary roles or in stipendiary roles working in partnership with the Church Army.

Everyone who follows Christ is a witness for him in the world. Churches are called together to proclaim the good news of Jesus in deed and word. Evangelists enable the church in this work through encouraging and training others, leading them in developing and engaging in creative missional opportunities. In this diocese Evangelists hold a Bishop's licence and are accountable both to the incumbent and the Bishop.

An Evangelist will work from within a church base, which could be a more traditional church or a new form of church (often called a Fresh Expression of church). They serve as part of a benefice ministry team that may include Readers, Elders, Pioneers, Youth and Children/Families Ministers who work together to help the church to grow in God.

# What does an Evangelist look like?

An Evangelist is someone who wants to see people encounter Jesus Christ for themselves and to grow in his likeness as part of the church family. Evangelists don't always fit in with regular church and often find themselves drawn to the margins to meet with those the church does not yet connect with.

They have a heart to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ. Those seeking to be a licensed evangelist are probably already involved in projects and activities that connect with people outside the church that show the love of God in action.



# How can I train as an Evangelist?

The Suffolk Centre of Mission (CoM) is a Diocese-wide hub for Evangelism and Pioneering. It works in partnership with and in support of both parish churches and fresh expressions of church. The Centre of Mission offers training; seeks to invite others to join in mission and evangelism in a variety of ways and provides hands-on pioneering.

**Envoy:**

Church Army's model of Envoy Communities is an innovative peer-led approach to developing personal evangelism and effectiveness in living missionally. Envoy communities are formed of up to 6 people including a facilitator. Distinct practices are learned and applied such that the group speak and release value for each other, deepen faith and step into mission and evangelism appropriate for each person and their context. Communities may form from one church family / Lightwave group or individuals may gather from different churches or groups. Such diversity can often bring enrichment and insight from outside contexts.

## **Church Army's Faith Suite:**

Offering a set of resources which enable churches of all traditions to explore sharing faith both as individual members and corporately as a church family.

- Faith Pictures helps individual Christians of all traditions speak about their own faith story with confidence.
- Faith Shared helps churches of all traditions think about how they connect with the communities around them.
- Faith Questions explores how to answer difficult questions about faith.
- Faith Empowered helps churches explore specific calling to evangelism.

For further information please visit the Centre for Suffolk Mission on our website.

# What support is there for this role?

Once you are licensed you will be given assistance to create a Ministry Development Plan which will help you continue to grow and develop throughout your life and ministry. There is also the chance to learn more through modules taught and provided by the Mission and Ministry department. Each licensed Evangelist also gets an annual allowance for training.

The Evangelist works under the authority of the Incumbent who will either supervise you themselves or delegate that task to another church leader. This provides you with the support and encouragement in ministry for this role.



# How do I know if I am an Evangelist?

Here are some indicators which might help you see if this ministry role is suitable for you. If you say "yes!" to many of these you should consider joining the training:

- You want to talk about your faith and what Jesus means to you.
- You find it natural to talk about what you believe with others, even though it can be hard to do.
- You want others to know what they are missing if they do not yet know Jesus.
- You want to see the church grow in number whatever type of church or denomination it is.
- You have a heart for those who don't connect with the church.
- You have a heart for the downtrodden or disadvantaged.
- You want the church to reach out to those beyond the existing congregation.
- You want to help other church members to join you in working with people outside the church.
- You can be impatient with churches which just seem to focus on providing for those who already come.
- You want to meet with others who have a heart to see people come to know Jesus.

Why not get a couple of friends who know you well and see what they think too? Ask them how they would answer these questions for you.

# What can I do now?

If you are considering licensing it is worthwhile speaking to your incumbent before you start as you will need their approval for this role. You will also need a formal resolution from the PCC approving your training but they will be able to help you with this.

Once your training is completed you will need to have a DBS check which aligns with a role description agreed with your incumbent. Alongside this you will need to have completed the necessary Safeguarding Training in line with the diocesan guidelines. This will be explained during the training.

You can use the application form [here](#) to register for the training.

 **Growing in God**



# For more information

General enquiries about new Evangelists  
or their initial or ongoing training:

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