



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

SUFFOLK

Permission to Preach



Developing the gift of
preaching either in a parish
church or in a new
worshipping community.

Growing in God through preaching

With over 400 churches in Suffolk and numerous experiments of gathering in church plants developing new congregations there is a growing need to develop the ministry of preaching in all its forms so we can all Grow in God.

Preaching is just one way by which we can grow in depth as disciples of Jesus Christ. In the Church of England this is a public ministry and a vital part for those exploring faith who visit on a Sunday or attend a Baptism, Wedding, or Funeral. Equally those who are attracted to an activity of a new worshipping community event can benefit from an opportunity to hear the word of God explained and applied to living out faith in everyday life.

If this is something you feel called to then we want to encourage this gifting by offering an accessible means to enter this ministry.

New Policy for Permission to Preach

Rightly the Church of England ensures that all those who preach in public with its authorisation are appropriately discerned, trained and supported with ongoing reviews.

Canon Law states that:

The sermon shall be preached by a minister, deaconess, reader or lay worker duly authorised in accordance with Canon Law. At the invitation of the minister having the cure of souls another person may preach with the permission of the bishop of the diocese given either in relation to the particular occasion or in accordance with diocesan directions.

Canon B18

Clergy and Readers are trained at a high level to national standards to enable this ministry. In addition, Bishops can give permission to preach for those who are under the authorisation of the Incumbent and have the support of the congregation via the PCC. This new policy enables this.

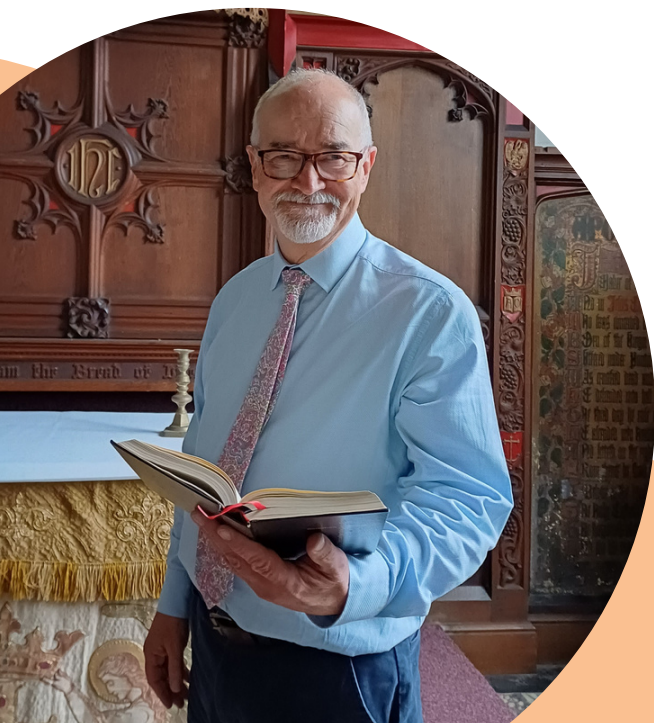
Permission to preach will only be given alongside an existing commissioned role such as Elder or licensed ministry such as Evangelist, Pioneer, Children's & Families' Minister, or Licensed Youth Minister. Such persons will have already satisfactorily undertaken the initial training for these ministries (e.g. Basics course for Elders).

Discernment is initially with your Incumbent and congregation with support from the Diocese. It is expected that you will be part of the Benefice Ministry Team and receiving support through networking with others across the Diocese who fulfil a similar ministry. Requirements include:

- Ensure the person concerned has undertaken the initial training for their commissioned or licensed ministry.
- Completion of four preaching workshops organised by the Diocese, details on our website. This includes required reading of a set text that offers practical exercises that can be undertaken between workshops under the guidance of the Incumbent.
- Partaking in a benefice preaching school in which the person applying prepares, delivers, and reflects with others including the Incumbent and others licensed to preach on the learning gained.

This includes giving and receiving feedback to each other so all concerned continue to develop their preaching.

- Commitment to undertake further study in the New Testament and Old Testament either through the modules offered by the Diocese or other diocesan approved training.
- Completed appropriate DBS and up to date safeguarding training.



Authorisation to preach would be normally limited to six occasions in any one year. The authorisation will be for three years with the expectation that at the review of your ministry, those who are Elders might consider entering the process of discernment to train as a Reader or another ministry. The ministry of Readers is the only Church of England's nationally recognised lay ministry for those who are apt to preach and provides recognition if you were to move to another Diocese. This can be discussed with the Incumbent and a member of the Vocations team.

An application form to join the Preaching course can be downloaded from the website.

Your application must be discussed with your Incumbent.

For further information

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**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
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