



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Readers

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





Reader Ministry is a nationally recognised lay ministry that makes a vital contribution to the ministry of the Church. Readers are lay people, called by God, trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work, providing a bridge between the Church and the world. They play an important part in nurturing Christian discipleship in the Church and wider world.

 **Growing in God**

What are Readers called to do?

Readers are called to share their passion to preach and teach God's Word amongst their communities, deepening an awareness of God's presence and enabling others to flourish in sharing Christ's love with all.

They are called to be rooted in faithfulness so that their preaching and teaching enable people to let God's story become their story. They work collaboratively in ministry, parish or benefice teams to build and sustain the growing inclusivity of the Church in worship, prayer and discipleship.

They are called to be responsive to the Word of God and enable the mission of God to be revealed in love, through the modelling of everyday faith, prayer and witness in their daily living, be it at work, home, social networks or the church.

They are called to be resilient, amidst the changes and challenges that life brings, in the modelling of good leadership in terms of humility, team work and self-care.

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I have been a licensed Reader for over 20 years ago during which time I have served in several rural parishes, as well as worked with Highpoint Prison chaplaincy with Kairos ministry. God has given me a varied ministry: taking services, preaching, teaching, extended communion, baptism, confirmation preparation and pastoral care for both inmates and staff. Sustained through God's grace!

Ian Levett – Reader

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Where do Readers minister?

Church: As Readers are theologically trained, they can lead worship, assist at Eucharistic services, preach and take funerals in Church within the structure of their ministry team. They may teach, work in schools or lead Home Groups, and may assist with baptism or confirmation preparation.

Community: some may engage in pastoral work within the community, visiting the sick, running parent/toddler groups, Messy Church or Foodbanks.

Workplace: Readers can enable opportunities for prayer, teaching or a listening ear within their work context. Some develop a chaplaincy role in the work-place.



Explore your calling

- It will be assumed that you are a communicant and a regular worshipper in the Church of England, so do talk to your incumbent as their support and that of the PCC is required for your application.
- Reflect and pray for guidance and chat to friends and other members of the congregation about your exploration.
- Arrange initial meetings with the Deputy Warden of Readers and the Discipleship and Ministry Development Officer to explore the details of the training and the vision and scope for Reader ministry.
- Meet with a Diocesan Vocations Advisor to help discern whether Reader ministry is right for you.
- Attend the Reader Discernment Panel Day to affirm whether Reader training can begin. Look at the website to identify the selection criteria [here](#) (Church of England website).
- As with all ministries potential Readers need to complete a DBS check and the Safeguarding training courses, in line with Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.





Training

Initial training is conducted in small group cohorts and is usually completed in two years. The training has a modular approach and is implemented through seminars, workshops, webinars, online learning and residential study weekends.

Assessment is on-going through written assignments, reflective practice and ministerial tasks, including a 12-week placement.

After completion, ongoing training is encouraged through IME2 for the first three years, and thereafter through diocesan study days.

The training is accredited by The Central Readers' Council which is dedicated to serving the ministry of Readers in the British Isles and Europe.

Reader ministry is distinctive

Readers are licensed to a parish or benefice by the Bishop to serve God in the world and Christ's Church.

The focused training enables Readers to have a distinctive role in their communities:

- to preach and teach with depth and enthusiasm
- to be the living embodiment of the link between faith and theology and everyday life
- to lead worship with reverence and creativity
- to respond with compassion and wisdom to the needs within their community
- to realise the potential of their God-given gifts
- to be a servant of Christ, showing love and humility in collaborative ministry.



READERS

For more information

Please visit our website pages for exploring your Christian calling available [here](#), where we also have a list of [key dates](#). Resources specific to this role are also available on the diocesan website.

To register an interest or for further enquiries regarding discernment please contact:

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OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
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