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Reader Ministry



What is a reader?

Readers are lay people in the Church of England, from all walks of life, who are called by God, theologically trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work.

A word from Bishop Julian

Readers are a vital part of 'Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ', (part of Vision 2026) both in their own leadership and in enabling the ministry of others. I am praying that many more people will hear God's call to lay ministry. Could this be you? Or someone you know?



What is involved?

- A commitment by the Parish to support you in discerning this call to ministry
- The Diocese share in the selection of every candidate. This involves meeting one of our Bishops, one of the Vocations Team and a discernment process to affirm your calling to this ministry
- Training is provided by the All Saints Centre, based locally in our Diocese under the guidance of our Director of Studies
- Training involves weekly tuition sessions, occasional weekend study days, over two years
- As part of your training each candidate will fulfil a Parish Placement, very often in a neighbouring parish, in addition to gaining practical experience in their home parish

Essentially.....

There is no single profile of a Reader, and no blueprint for the way in which God calls an individual to this ministry in the Church.

A candidate for Reader ministry must be, or become, baptised and confirmed into the Church of England, be a regular communicant member of their parish church; and be supported in their application by their Parish Priest

Reader ministry is primarily a call to service and Readers offer their time and talents as a gift to the Church.

Readers are people who have a clear understanding of the Gospel which they live out in the responsibilities of their daily lives.

In order to exercise their ministry they will need a disciplined life with time set aside for prayer and study.



A word from The Warden of Readers

As part of our Vision 2026 Reader Ministry is an exciting example of being involved in proclaiming the Gospel, to lead worship and to minister effectively in collaboration with their Parish Priests. Is God calling you to this ministry? If you would like to talk about the possibility please be in touch with me.