

Exploring Vocation

Incumbent Initial Reference

Some words of introduction:

Thank you for supporting this candidate as they explore what God might be calling them into. This form is an opportunity for you to introduce the candidate to us and to give your prayerful perspective on their potential vocation.

Because prayerful discernment is best done by a team, the information you provide will be shared with the members of the vocations team who work with your candidate and an electronic copy will be held securely in the Growing Leaders team files for a minimum of ten years.

There are a number of issues that can impede a candidate pursuing a potential vocation. These include safeguarding and other criminal record issues; divorce and remarriage of the candidate or their spouse if a previous partner(s) is still living; co-habitation outside heterosexual marriage and serious debt. We also have policies on age of candidates. Candidates for LLM (Reader) ministry need to be under 70 when they finish training; candidates for ordained ministry will not be older than 55 for stipendiary ministry or 63 for self-supporting ministry when they are ordained.

If you have any concerns about any aspect of this form or the discernment process then please speak with me or contact rosie.strachan@blackburn.anglican.org.

Nick McKee
Director of Vocations

About You and Your Candidate:	
You:	
Your Full Name	
Parish/Benefice	
Your candidate:	
Candidate's Full Name	
Preferred first name	

About the Candidate's Potential Vocation:

What form(s) of ordained or lay ministry are they exploring

Please tick as many as you think might apply

Ordained	Stipendiary	
	Self-supporting Assistant	
	Locally Deployable	
	Pioneer	
Lay	Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)	
	Church Army Evangelist	
	Authorised Lay Minister	
Other	Please specify	

Has the candidate been in good health over the past five years?

Yes / No

Please tell us what makes you think this candidate might be called to the ministry(ies) indicated above in the Church of England

Please tell us about any particular groups (e.g. young people, older people, the unchurched, social excluded) that the candidate has a particular calling to and gifting for

Please tell us about the candidate's current ministry profile in the life of the local church

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Please tell us about any leadership gifts you have seen evidence of in the candidate

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Please tell us about any pastoral gifts you have seen evidence of in the candidate

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Please tell us about any teaching/preaching gifts you have seen evidence of in the candidate

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About the Candidate's Faith

Please tell us about how long they have been based in their current church/congregation and how regularly they attend/participate in corporate worship

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Please tell us about the candidate's regular rhythm of prayer and how it has developed in recent years

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Please tell us about the candidate's faith and how it is growing and developing

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About the Candidate's Circumstances

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Please tell us about any aspect of the candidate's personal, professional or family life that might need to be considered as part of supporting them as they explore their possible vocation

Anything else?

Anything else?

Is there anything else that you would like us to know about your candidate?

Signed: (type your name) **Date:**

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Signed: (type your name) **Date:**

Please return this form to Nick McKee, the Director of Vocations, by email nick.mckee@blackburn.anglican.org and we will be in touch with your candidate to help them explore what God might be calling them into.