

What's involved in becoming a Reader?

Discernment

Working out your calling is about listening attentively to God and reflecting with others. If you feel called to this ministry, here are some next steps for you:

- talk to your local clergy
- Contact the Vocations team to have a conversation with a chaplain
- Or the Lay Ministries team for an informal chat with the Lay Ministries Enabler

If it is discerned from these conversations that Readership is a good fit, then you will be referred to your local Archdeaconry Warden of Readers or Assistant Warden to continue the discernment process. This may culminate in attending a selection conference.

Training

Reader Training in the Diocese of Bath & Wells lasts for approximately three years: two years Theological study at Sarum College, and one year of further formational work after licensing.

Becoming a Reader

Those who

- have been discerned at the end of training to be called to this ministry
- are supported by their PCC and incumbent
- have completed safeguarding requirements

will be licensed by the Bishop and are able to begin their ministry as a Reader.

Being a Reader

- All Readers agree a Ministry Specification with their incumbent to match their context, calling and skills.
- It is important for Readers to continue to learn and grow in their ministry so there are one year of post-licensing learning and reflection, followed by ongoing ministerial development into the future.
- Readers are licensed by the Bishop for five years and have annual reviews.
- Licences are renewed in agreement with their incumbent.

How do I find out more?

If you would like to find out about Reader training, please contact:

Sue Rose Vocations Team Leader
T: 01749 685273
E: sue.rose@bathwells.anglican.org

Ministry and Training team
E: training@bathwells.anglican.org

For more information visit:
www.bathandwells.org.uk/reader-ministry

Is God calling me
to be a Licensed
Reader?

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We have gifts that differ according
to the grace given to us.

Romans 12 v6

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What is a Reader?

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.

Readers have a ministry that is authorised and recognised nationally in the Church of England.

The Central Readers' Council emphasises the role of Readers as:

- Enablers of mission
- Teachers of the faith
- Leaders in church and society

Who can be a Reader?

If you are someone:

- Whose faith is played out in their life
- Who has a commitment to spiritual discipline, including private and corporate prayer
- Who has the potential to engage in depth with theology- although not necessarily academic theology
- Who can absorb and analyse their experience, and reflect on it theologically
- Who can communicate effectively, helping people within and beyond the church to understand the Christian faith
- Who enjoys a wide variety of people and is able to relate to them
- Who is able to work as part of a team
- Who is not afraid of change
- Who is a committed member of the Church of England.

Reader ministry may be a calling for you to explore with others.

What can it be in reality?

“ For me, some parts of Reader ministry are acts of privileged service to the Christian community in which I live. Others are about encouraging all of us in that community to work at increasing our collective understanding of our faith and our engagement with the world at large - in the local and the global sense. That says something about being light and salt, and both have importance for me within my ministry.

Was I “called”? Well, I was “spoken to” by a previous Rector, but I had felt for some time that more was being asked of me. Certainly, I needed to be better equipped for whatever that was, so the foundational study course was required. Reader training was wide-ranging and fun and crucial for me was learning that when I preach the voice and the words are from me, but the thoughts and inspirations are, I pray, of God. I hope that what God enables people to hear through this and the rest of my ministry is helpful.

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*Martin from Portishead
Deanery*