

What is a Reader?

Readers are lay people who have been trained for ministry and licensed by the bishop to preach and teach, to lead worship, and to assist in the pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work of the Church in the parish or area where they are licensed.

Readers come from a wide diversity of occupations and backgrounds and serve God in a variety of situations; in parishes, schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, factories and shops, among seafarers and in the Armed Forces, with children and young people, the elderly, housebound and bereaved, and with those preparing for baptism, confirmation and marriage.

Some Readers are also involved in pioneer ministries and 'fresh expressions' of ministry.

Exploring Reader Ministry

There is no single profile for a Reader; they can be men or women, almost any age and come from all walks of life.

If you think God is calling you to Reader ministry you should:

Pray

for God's guidance to help you discern your calling.

Discuss

your sense of call with your incumbent, family and trusted friends.

Reflect

upon the demands this ministry and the training for it will place upon your life.



Further information

For more information about selection and training please see the leaflets "[A Guide to Reader Ministry?](#)" and "[Training for Reader Ministry](#)".

All our leaflets can be downloaded from the Readers' pages of the diocesan website www.manchester.anglican.org, which also gives contact details for the Warden of Readers, the Revd Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle as well as your Archdeaconry chaplain.

There is also useful information on the central Church of England Readers website: www.readers.cofe.anglican.org.

To explore Reader ministry further, speak first to your parish priest or for general enquiries about selection, contact the Revd Jayne Prestwood on **0161 828 1456** or by e-mail at jprestwood@manchester.anglican.org.



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Readers

in the Diocese of Manchester



Called to Reader Ministry?

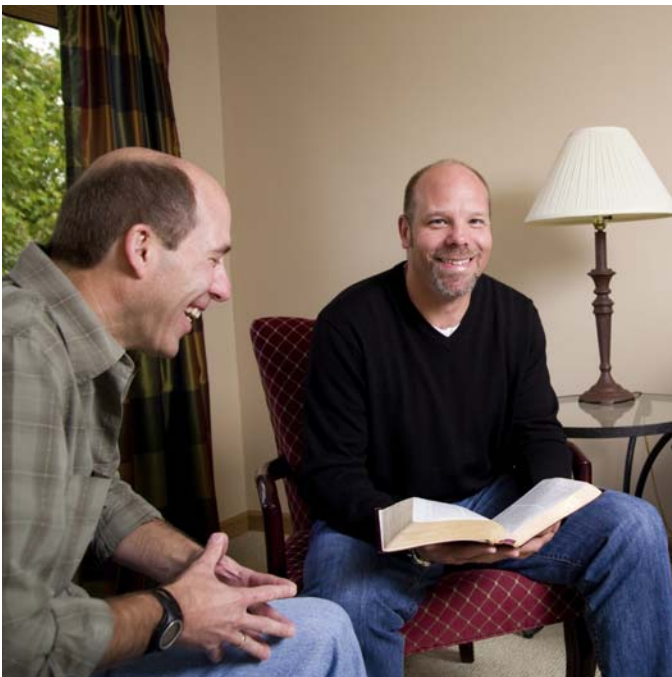
Selection

If it seems right to take your sense of calling further the first step is to seek your incumbent's support in going forward for selection for Reader ministry. Because Reader ministry is a 'local' ministry, it is important that both you and your incumbent think through carefully how Reader ministry might 'fit' within your parish and its needs, ministry and vision.

Your incumbent should then put you in touch with the Archdeaconry Chaplain for Reader ministry, who will arrange to meet with you and give you an application form to fill in.

The Chaplain will then make arrangements for you to meet with clergy and lay Vocations Advisors who will explore your sense of calling with you in more depth and prepare a report for the Reader Chaplain.

If a vocation to Reader Ministry is discerned, then the Archdeaconry Chaplain will arrange for you to be invited to attend a Reader Selection Conference. If the Vocation Advisors do not believe that Reader ministry is the right path for you, you will be offered further support in exploring other ministry options.



What happens at a Selection Conference?

In the diocese of Manchester selection takes place during a day conference, usually held either at the start of the year or in the early summer. The day consists of interviews with experienced clergy, Reader and lay selectors, group-work and a written exercise.

It is important to remember that the day is not a way of 'testing' or 'examining' you, but rather an opportunity for you to prayerfully share your sense of call with others who will help you to discern God's leading for you.

It's important to be aware that you have been selected at this stage only for *training* for Reader ministry – the process of discernment goes on beyond the selection conference.

What are the selectors looking for?

Above all else they are looking to get to know you a bit, to see the real you and to try to discern what God is doing in your life and how you are responding to that. So it's important to try to be yourself – the person who God is calling!

Selectors are looking for people of potential – not for finished products. The selectors base their reports on the national criteria for Reader ministry, which you can find at www.readers.cofe.anglican.org, from your Archdeaconry Chaplain (see information on back page) or from the Selection Secretary, the Revd Jayne Prestwood on 0161 828 1456 or by e-mail at jprestwood@manchester.anglican.org.

What happens next?

At the end of the conference the selectors meet to share their findings and make their recommendations. The Selection Secretary then prepares a report on each candidate for the Warden of Readers, who will contact you within about a week of the conference to advise you of the outcome.

If you are recommended for training you will begin training in the September following the conference.

All candidates for Reader ministry from Manchester diocese train for ministry through the Southern North West Regional Training Partnership.

Further details about training can be obtained from your Archdeaconry chaplain (see information on back page) or from the Director of Studies for Readers, the Revd Alan Scantlebury on 0161 828 1452 or by e-mail at AlanScantlebury@manchester.anglican.org.

If you are not recommended for training, you will be offered support by the Archdeaconry Chaplain in seeking to move forward.

