

# Reader Chaplains



## Guide for the Clergy



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD

# What is a Reader Chaplain?

The Reader Chaplain Team is a group of Readers and clergy who provide support and guidance for the Readers within the diocese.

The team led by the Warden of Readers (The Bishop of Bolton) and consists of the Sub-Warden, two chaplains from each Archdeaconry, (one Reader and one member of the clergy), and the Reader who serves as Chaplain to the Emeritus Readers.

## What we do

Some of the main tasks that the team undertakes are:

- ✝ Working in conjunction with the Director of Vocations on discernment and exploration of the call to Reader ministry.
- ✝ Leading the retreat for new Readers who are preparing for licensing.
- ✝ Considering new initiatives which will strengthen our Readers in their ministries.
- ✝ Providing additional care and support when needed for all Readers.
- ✝ Conducting development reviews on behalf of The Warden.
- ✝ Arranging Archdeaconry meetings where Readers can come together to worship, spend time talking about a variety of current issues, and meeting socially.
- ✝ Being a listening ear outside of the Parish / Benefice setting when needed.
- ✝ Ensuring Readers' concerns are listened to and raised on their behalf.

## Reader gatherings

The Archdeaconry chaplains provide opportunities for Readers within their area to come together. This can be a time to worship, give an open safe for them to discuss matters that are on their mind, and also times to relax and socialise. These gatherings are not compulsory, however we would ask that you encourage Readers to attend.

## Working Agreements

We all greatly value the work that our Readers do within the parochial setting, and many give a great deal of time to this work. As such it is important that there is an agreed understanding between Readers and the clergy on the expectations that we share. It is therefore recommended that you have a discussion to agree roles.

This isn't meant to be a straight-jacket (and can be changed as necessary), but more 'good practice' to ensure that there is a clear understanding between you. If you need help with this, then please contact one of the chaplains who will be happy to assist.

## **Ministerial Development Reviews (MDRs)**

Just like the clergy, we ask all Readers to do an MDR (this is on a three-year cycle). This is an opportunity for the Reader to spend time reflecting on the work they have done, gain some valuable feedback from their Incumbent, as well as a number of members of the church. Once the paperwork has been completed they will meet with one of their Chaplains, who after the discussion will write a report which will be sent to The Warden, and may contain suggestions in how their ministry could be developed. When it is time for your Reader's MDR, please do make it a priority, and encourage your Reader to engage with process so that they can gain all they can from the experience.

## **Emeritus Readers**

When a reader reaches the age of 70, their licence will expire, and they will be offered PTO (Permission to Officiate) by the Bishop of Manchester. A little while before this our Emeritus Chaplain will arrange to meet with your Reader to discuss what this will mean for them.

## **If your Reader becomes ill**

If your Reader becomes ill with a long-term condition, please contact one of your Archdeaconry chaplains, who will ensure that the team is advised on your behalf, and you can be assured of the teams prayers. If there are other things that we can assist with, then please do let us know.

## **If your Reader dies**

We recognise that you will find it difficult to contact lots of people as you are coming to terms with your loss, while at the same time providing support to the Readers' family. Please contact one of the Reader chaplains so that they can provide appropriate support. The chaplaincy team will ensure that a member of the team is available to attend the funeral on behalf of the diocese.

## **Other support**

The role of the Chaplain team is to provide support and encouragement to you and your Reader. Although we have outlined many of the things that we do, this list is not exhaustive, and so if you or your Reader need to contact us and have a chat, then please feel free to do so.

# How to contact us

Here are the contact details for the entire team. Please contact the relevant chaplain if they can be of help.

## Warden of Readers

**Rt Revd Mark Ashcroft**

bishopofbolton@manchester.anglican.org / 0161 790 8289

## Subwarden of Readers

**Dr Mike Stuckey**

mikestuck24@gmail.com / 0161 357 0155

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## Bolton Archdeaconry

**Mrs Jane Mann** jane.mann13@ntlworld.com / 01204 411992

**Revd Stephen Tranter** stephentranter@msn.com / 01204 398552

## Manchester Archdeaconry

**Miss Avril Scott** avrilscott78@gmail.com / 0161 225 5243

**Revd Diane Brownhill** glbrownhill@aol.com / 0161 432 1912

## Rochdale Archdeaconry

**Mrs Pam McGrath** pmcgrath@hotmail.co.uk / 07460 063154

**Revd Ian Bullock** rev.ian@btinternet.com / 01706 375322

## Salford Archdeaconry

**Mrs Sheila Radford** radfordsheila26@gmail.com / 0161 702 8128

**Revd Judith Cooper** judith.cooper5@virginmedia.com / 01942 673626

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## Officer for Emeritus Readers

**Graham Cooper** grahamcooper900@aol.com / 0161 872 4140