

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 are a group of Readers and Clergy who are here to provide support and guidance for the Readers within the diocese.

The team is 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 a Reader who serves as Chaplain to those who are 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.
- ✚ Spend time considering new initiatives which will strengthen our Readers in their ministries.
- ✚ Providing additional care and support when needed for all Readers.
- ✚ Conducting the development reviews on behalf of The Warden.
- ✚ Arranging Archdeaconry meetings where the Readers can come together to worship, spend time talking about a variety of current issues, and also 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 look to arrange gatherings for all the readers within their area to come together. This can be a time to worship, give an open safe space for them to discuss matters that are on their mind, and also times to relax and socialise together. These gatherings are not compulsory, however we would ask that you encourage them 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 them and the clergy upon the expectations that we share. It is therefore recommended that you both sit

down and set out what you both agree to do. 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 (MDR's)

Just like the clergy, we ask all Readers to do a 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 Readers MDR, please do make it a priority, and encourage you Reader to engage with the 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. Close to their 70th birthday our Emeritus Chaplain will arrange to contact your Reader to discuss what this will mean for them.

If your Reader becomes ill

There may be times when your Reader becomes ill with a long term condition. If this happens 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 team's prayers. Additionally if there are others things that we can assist with, then please do let us know.

If your Reader dies

We recognise that the last thing that you will want to do is contact lots of people as you are coming to terms with your loss, whilst at the same time providing support to the Reader's family. Please can we ask that you call or e-mail one of the chaplains so that we are aware of the situation, and again be there to provide you with any support that you need.

For everything else

The role of the Chaplaincy 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

Please find contact details for the entire Reader Chaplain Team on the Manchester Diocese Website. We are here to assist you and your Readers in your ministries, and encourage you to contact the relevant Chaplain if we can be of help.