

Religious Life:

there are a number of communities, including some in the diocese living together, often for life, but sometimes on a shorter-term basis. For a list, see: www.orders.anglican.org/arcyb/

Zillions of other possibilities

are around – too many to list. Remember that you need to ask God to guide, and to seek advice – start with your parish priest.

Help – I can't do that!

Don't panic, this is the usual response when someone catches a glimpse of a calling from God – he seems to expect far more of us than we do of ourselves. However, if ministry is service offered on behalf of the church, then the church has to resource that ministry. Various forms of training are available, depending on the particular ministry to which you and others believe you may be called. It's best to consider what form of ministry you might be heading for before starting training, as otherwise much time can be wasted.

School of Ministry

An opportunity to explore together what it means to be a 'resourceful' person for God and his Church. It aims to:

- foster a sense of God's call
- train Readers, Pastoral Ministers and some Ordained Ministers
- relate study to practice.

If you are wanting to deepen your own personal faith and understanding, or wanting to train for an authorised ministry, or explore your own calling, then this is for you!

For more details, contact the Director of Training, Canon John Lawson, 01924 380182
john.lawson@wakefield.anglican.org

Not sure where to start?

For general vocational advice, contact Canon Sue Penfold, 01924 434460
sue.penfold@wakefield.anglican.org

Or any of the other contact people on this leaflet will be glad to help.



Vocation and Ministry

Where do I start?



Do you have a ministry?

It depends what you mean by ministry! All Christians are called to follow Jesus, and to love their neighbour as themselves, and if that has any real meaning it will include acts of practical service. This is a ministry in the formal sense when it's service offered in the name of the church, not simply as an individual act, and is authorised by the church in some way. This authorisation could be by licensing or ordination, or could be more informal, possibly by being a recognised part of something organised by a local church (for instance teaching in Sunday School, or helping with a community project run by the parish.) It could be that your particular discipleship path does not include a "ministry", at least not in this sense of the word, or at this stage in your life. God knows what he's doing, and you will be most useful where he intends you to be.

How do you know what God wants you to do?

This sometimes goes by the posh name of 'vocation', or calling. The most important thing is to be listening to what God is saying to you. You could listen in prayer, by talking to those who know you well, by reflecting on the particular circumstances of your life and the gifts and talents God has given you. It's important to keep an open mind, and to talk to those who may see things differently, as well as those who are likely to agree with you.

I think God may be calling me to ministry – what do I do now?

Any genuine calling comes from God, but because ministry is exercised on behalf of the church, it also needs to be recognised and affirmed by the church. For some people this sense of call begins with an inner prompting from God, while others will discover their calling when others in the church suggest they try a particular form of service. Some forms of ministry (eg ordination) are a life-long calling, while others may be for a more limited time. The most obvious place to start if you're asking this question is to talk to those who know you well, and particularly to talk to your parish clergy, because they have a specific role representing the church in an official capacity in your parish.

What sort of ministry might I be called to?

God is infinitely creative, and your particular ministry will use the gifts he has given you (and maybe the ones you don't yet know you have), and will meet some of the needs of his world, either where you are at present, or where he asks you to move. The following is a list of possible ministries, with some contact details – feel free to talk to any or all of them:

Children and young people:

if you're interested in working with them in the local church or further afield, contact Richard Burge 01924 371802

Evangelism:

for details of opportunities within the diocese, contact Canon Tony Macpherson (01924 275274, or e-mail at tony.macpherson@wakefield.anglican.org) Further afield in the UK there are opportunities with the Church Army www.churcharmy.org.uk and with a number of other mission agencies.

Ordained ministry:

this includes a variety of options, including parish-based full-time stipendiary ministry; various forms of voluntary ordained ministry, whether in the home parish or further afield; chaplaincy of various forms, (hospitals, armed forces, prisons, universities...); pioneering Fresh Expressions of church. To explore further look at www.cofe-ministry.org.uk, or contact the Director of Ordinations, Canon Sue Penfold, 01924 434460 sue.penfold@wakefield.anglican.org

Overseas service

is possible with a variety of mission agencies. Your parish probably supports some, and this would be a good place to start looking.

Pastoral Ministry

The Bishop's Certificate in Pastoral Ministry equips people for service in their locality. Contact the coordinator, via Rachael Salmon, 01924 481920, rsalmon@mirfield.org.uk

Readers

are lay people with a particular ministry of preaching, teaching and in leading worship. For more details contact the Rev'd John Hellewell (01422 365027)