



Is God Calling?

The simple answer to that question is a resounding 'yes'. Every baptised Christian is called by God to use their God-given gifts to meet the needs of the world and become more fully who God wants them to be. This could be through day to day activities and employment, voluntary roles in church such as PCC member, church warden or more formal licensed lay or ordained ministry. Everyone has a vocation – what's yours?

What are your gifts as you see them or as recognised by others? How are you currently using those gifts in church or in life? God calls individuals to a wide range of ministries, lay and ordained, and across the whole church.

Identify your gifts* as your gifts will match your calling. 1

After identifying your gifts, offer them to God in prayer. Think about how your personal and potential gifts might be used to serve God in the Church and the world. What are you passionate about when you think about serving God? 2

Talk to others about your passions and what you feel God might be prompting you to do. Do others recognise your call to a particular vocation in the Church? 3

Do you have a disciplined and structured pattern of prayer that sustains your daily living?

Try to build this into your daily routines (10TT Daily Devotions). 4

How are you living out your life as a disciple of Jesus every day and how are you showing God's love and sharing your faith in a relevant way? 5

Learn more about the variety of ministries of the Church of England through reading, talking to those in ministry and listening to podcasts.

6

Spend time with God in prayer - take a retreat* and spend time praying and reflecting on Scripture or a Bible character you have affinity with.

7

Have others recognised or affirmed your calling - those in your family, church or who know you well? Ask them for feedback on your thinking so far.

8

Book a conversation with your church leader about your call and discuss what you believe you are called to be or do.

Prepare by writing out your journey of faith to this point. Notice where God has been at work in your life.

9

Calling is not just for the individual to discern but something discerned with others, always in local or church contexts and sometimes with diocesan and national support.

10

Further Resources

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

***Discerning your Gifts:** '[Gifts for Everyday Faith](#)' is an audit tool from Oxford Diocese to help you discern your God given gifts.

Read: *Calling All God's People*, Church of the England
The Mission and Ministry of the Whole Church, CofE Faith and Order Advisory Group (Church House Publishing, 2007), 'Ministry in the New Testament'

Four ministries, one Jesus, Richard Burridge

The Christian priest today, Michael Ramsey

An ABC for the PCC, John Pitchford

Churchwardens: a survival guide, Martin Dudley and Virginia Rounding

Websites: Information on vocations to ordained and lay ministry can be found at: www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/no-ordinary-ministry; www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/exploring-lay-ministry womenandthechurch.org (women in the CofE); and churchesforall.org.uk/partners-and-associates/disability-and-jesus - (disability and the church)

Watch: The Bee Movie - Intergenerational
Broken - a gritty take on Priesthood starring Sean Bean

***Retreats Hub:** www.retreats.org.uk

To explore your calling contact your church leader, or
Diocesan Director of Ordinands & Vocations
Sonia Barron email: sonia.barron@lincon.anglican.org
tel:01522 452014



DIOCESE OF LINCOLN
faithful · confident · joyful

