

READER UPBEAT

**Quickening the tempo of
Reader ministry in the
Church today**

The Promotion of Reader Ministry

- **“We recommend that all dioceses of the Church of England recognise the value of Reader ministry and actively promote it as the best trained and resourced lay ministry with a wide variety of opportunities.”**

Recommendations about training:

Training should be regional and integrated:

- *The Eastern Region Partnership is beginning to provide training across the regions. For example, St. Albans students were invited to attend a Norwich training day on working with children.*
- *The Education for Discipleship course provides tutorials which include Readers in Training, ordinands, and interested local church members.*

Training should be flexible and allow for accreditation for Prior Learning:

- *The EfD course is offered in 4 locations and includes a Saturday group.*
- *Each student's prior learning is considered and taken into account.*

More on Training...

Readers should be provided with CME, including in specialised ministries

- *CME lasts 4 years and provides opportunities for local groups, to encourage the building of relationships as well as educational events.*
- *Some specialised ministries included: Children and Young People, Helping Christian adults grow.*

St. Albans is considered, nationally, to be a model of good practice!

On Vocations

- To Reader ministry

and continuing discernment

- In Reader ministry
- Beyond Reader ministry

Reader Roles

- **Reader-in-Charge**
- **Readers as Chaplains**
- **Readers at the boundaries of the Church**
- **Readers and Baptism**
- **Readers and Communion by Extension**

Readers in Deaneries availability as a resource

- **Preachers, catechists, facilitators of learning**
- **Pastoral and liturgical roles**
- **“fresh expressions”**

Readers' Participation in Deanery Chapters

The Current Picture

Chapter Open to Readers	13 always	3 once or twice a year	6 never
Attended by Readers	10 usually have at least 1 Reader present	4 are only attended by Readers at occasional evening meetings	8 never have Readers present
Separate Chapter	6 meet regularly	2 meet occasionally	

Points to note

- **5 deaneries currently make no provision for Readers to meet regularly**
- **In at least 8 deaneries there is no opportunity for clergy and Readers to meet together regularly**
- **Even where Readers are invited, they often cannot attend because Chapters meet during the day**

The Report recommends

- **That deaneries regularly invite Readers, as licensed ministers, to chapter meetings, making collaborative ministry more visible and fostering friendship amongst ministers**

Collaborative Working

- **Training together in collaboration**
- **Consultation over appointments of incumbents and assistant clergy**
- **Discipline, supervision and review**

I am a ...

- **Reader**
- **Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)**
- **Licensed Lay Minister**

The Reader/Deacon Debate

Questions for Discussion

Would you be happy to be licensed to a Deanery?

Would you be willing to work regularly in another Parish?

Would you like to meet with clergy in the Deanery Chapter or would you prefer a separate Readers' Chapter?

What do you think are appropriate roles for a Reader?

In what circumstances do you think Readers should be permitted to baptise?

Should all Readers be trained and permitted to administer Communion by Extension?

How would you prefer to be described as a Minister?

Reader
(Reader)

Licensed Lay Minister

Licensed Lay Minister

What would help in your personal development and discernment of your gifts?