SPOTLIGHT

Richard Sontan

"I'm truly thankful to have done the courses, which helped deepen my sense of calling and gave me the tools to serve children and teenagers with faith, compassion, and purpose. It's an excellent preparation for anyone wishing to honour God through youth and children's work."

Gemma Curren

"The Bishop's Certificate deepened my faith and opened Scripture in new ways. I loved the Aurora course – insightful reading, inspiring sessions and incredible support sparked creative ideas to bring generations together. It helped me nurture faith in children and young people. Seeing them grow alongside others has been truly rewarding."

Patricia Nielsen

"Working with children, young people, and families in my church, nurturing them into faith through listening, worshipping and discipleship. Each day is different but filled with fresh ideas. Moments spent encouraging them reminds me of the joy of serving and my purpose to God's people."

NEXT STEPS

If you think you might be called to serve God in Children's, Youth and Family Ministry, talk with your vicar or chaplain. They will be able to help you discern God's calling. If you would like to have an informal conversation about your sense of call to lay ministry, please email layministry@southwark.anglican.org and someone from the Discipleship and Ministry Team will contact You. They can also put you in contact with Mission Support Officers for Children and Young People to talk specifically about this ministry.

Find out more about ministry with children, youth and families in Southwark on our website.

FIND OUT MORE

What is my vocation?

The discernment process

Diocese of Southwark
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,
Borough High Street,
London SE1 1HW
020 7939 9400
layministry@southwark.anglican.org

The Diocese of Southwark

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The Diocese of Southwark

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

Are you called to work with the next generation?

Christ Centred

Outward Focused

Are you currently volunteering, working or considering doing ministry with children, youth, and/or families?

Children's, Youth and Family Ministry is about helping children and young people and their families to follow Jesus and have a deep rooted faith that withstands the pressures of growing up to become active disciples in the church.

Are you someone who:

- wants to see them grow in faith?
- enjoys working with children, young people and their families?
- wants to gain more skills for this?

If the answer is yes, God might be calling you to explore further your calling for this ministry and deepen your knowledge through free training in Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

"We believe that children and young people of any age can be disciples, following Jesus and being full members of the church." – Church of England website.

Ministry with children and young people allows every child and young person to encounter faith and Christ through:

- Sunday School
- youth groups
- all-age/intergenerational worship
- midweek groups in schools and churches
- carer and toddler services
- Messy Church
- Godly Play
- holiday clubs and fun days
- confirmation preparation.

Becoming a Children's, Youth and Family Minister gives you:

- affirmation of God's call by the wider Church
- tailored free training and ongoing support in your ministry
- a learning community
- an opportunity to reflect as you go.

There are three pathways for Children's, Youth and Family Ministry:

1. Affirmed Children's, Youth and Family Ministers

Affirmed Children's, Youth and Family Coordinators, Leaders, or Helpers are part of a team in a church. They coordinate, lead, or help other adults involved in ministry with children, youth, and families in a church or school setting. They work under the supervision of the vicar (incumbent) or other staff member or a Commissioned or Licensed Children's, Youth and Family Minister. They are selected by the local parish and do training run by the Diocese or an equivalent in the church or deanery (a group of churches in the same geographical area).

2. Commissioned Children's, Youth and Family Ministers

Commissioned Children's, Youth and Family Ministers are part of the ministry team in a church. They coordinate, lead, and/or train other adults involved in ministry with children, youth, and families in a church or school setting, and work under the supervision of the incumbent or other staff member. The discernment and selection process for Commissioned Children's, Youth and Family Ministers is coordinated by the Discipleship and Ministry Team in collaboration with the Mission Team.

There are two components to the training, which can be taken in any order. The first is modules from the Bishop's Certificate, Growing in Life and Faith, which is offered both in-person and online by the Diocese. This includes learning about the Bible; what Christians believe; what it means to be Anglican; and how we live out our faith. The second is a course in children's or youth ministry (candidates can choose which area to specialise in), which is taught through a mixture of online and in-person sessions, and includes children's or youth spirituality and formation; faith development; and practical approaches.

3. Licensed Children's, Youth and Family Ministers

Licensed Children's, Youth and Family Ministers are leaders in mission and ministry with children, young people and families in a church, school, or community setting in a church, cluster of churches, (group of churches in the same geographical area) Deanery or external agency. They are supervised by their vicar (incumbent) or other appropriate supervisor. The discernment and selection process for this ministry begins with the Vocations Team and is concluded by the Mission and Discipleship and Ministry Teams. Training consists of a CertHE (Level 4) course, usually taken part-time over two years, followed by further practical training and reflective practice for 1–2 years. The CertHE includes biblical and theological studies; courses in children's and family ministry and pastoral care; a placement; and reflective practice.

Note that all those discerning a call to lay ministry will have to undergo a DBS check and safeguarding training.