SPOTLIGHT

Rona Robins

"When I was first called to become a Reader I thought it would be all about preaching on a Sunday morning. But since I was licensed in 2023, I have realised that God is calling me to share the Good News in so many more ways – from leading reflections with the Mothers' Union and bible study groups in my church, to visiting people to deliver home communion. Reader ministry is an inspirational calling inspired by Jesus' words in Mark 16:15 to *'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation'.* "

Dale Kirk

As a Reader, Dale gets to lead and preach at a variety of services in his own congregation as well as in other churches when needed. He works full-time in Human Resources and enjoys the challenges of making his faith relevant in the day-to-day aspects of work.

FIND OUT MORE

What is my vocation?

The discernment process

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The Diocese of Southwark

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The Diocese of Southwark

READER MINISTRY

Are you called to encourage others in their faith?

Christ Centred

Outward Focused

Readers are lay people who, following a call from God, are trained and licensed by the Church to teach the faith, enable mission, and lead in church and society.

Are you someone who:

- is enthusiastic about their faith?
- makes connections between faith and everyday life?
- wants to help others grow as disciples?
- wants to encourage the Church in mission?

If the answer is yes, God might be calling you to ministry as a Reader.

"Readers are lay ministers who, grounded in Scripture and shaped by prayer, help the Church to listen afresh to God's Word and to live it out faithfully in the life of the world." – Bishop Rosemarie Mallett.

Readers enable Christians to live out their Christian faith in the places where they spend the majority of their time – not just in church. As people who move daily between the worlds of work, home, social networks and church, Readers can teach the faith and play a part in leadership such that all God's people grow in confident and humble witness to God's kingdom.

Readers are typically part of their church's ministry team with their incumbent, supporting and encouraging the congregation and the local community. They may also be called on to minister in other local churches. Reader ministry might include:

- leading services of the Word
- preaching
- leading Bible studies
- pastoral care
- funeral ministry.

Becoming a Reader gives you:

- recognition of God's call by the wider Church
- tailored training and ongoing support for your ministry
- a learning community of others following the same call from God
- an opportunity to reflect as you train – and beyond.

The discernment and selection process for Reader ministry is coordinated by the Vocations Team in collaboration with the Discipleship and Ministry Team.

Training consists of a Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4) course, usually taken part-time over two years through St Augustine's College of Theology, followed by further practical training and reflective practice for two years. The CertHE includes biblical and theological studies as well as courses in worship and preaching.

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

Next steps

If you think you might be called to serve God in Reader ministry, talk with your incumbent or chaplain. They will be able to help you discern God's calling and support you through selection and training.

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 will tell you more about training and guide you through the discernment process. Find out more about Reader ministry in Southwark on our website (see back cover).

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