



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich**

## Evangelist

Evangelist is a Licensed ministry in the Diocese. Evangelists are people who will have a passion for sharing faith with those outside the church; and also be an encourager and enabler for those within the church to do likewise.

An Evangelist will work from within a church base, either traditional church or a Fresh Expression of church, working as part of a ministry team that may include Readers, Elders, Pioneers, Youth and Children/Families Ministers.

Evangelists are one of the primary Biblical ministries and have been recognised within the Church of England for many years. Many dioceses' have Evangelists, in parish volunteer settings or in stipendiary ministry in partnership with Church Army.

### What are Evangelists?

We are not looking for a new Billy Graham or a street preacher! But you will probably already be someone who is able to speak about your faith to those outside the church, and be someone wanting others to do the same. An Evangelist will be someone wanting to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ, and become part of wider Church.

Evangelists may not always seem to fit, yet have a love for the whole of the Church and want to see it grow.

### What does being a Licensed Evangelist give you?

Affirmation of God's call by the wider church.

- Tailored training (Share! Course) prepared by Church Army.
- Accountability for your vocation from your church and diocese.
- A learning community of likeminded passionate people.
- Opportunity to reflect as you go, share ideas and participate in annual missions and on going support.
- Opportunity to join the Church Army Mission Community nationally.

## Discernment

You will probably be someone who is 'doing' evangelism through a church activity or in your own context, and are recognised by others even if you may feel uncomfortable with the title Evangelist.

You will be required to complete the Share! Course, show evidence of learning via three reviews, participate in a parish mission and attend a discernment day midway through the course. Before you start the course we recommend you explore the possibility of being licensed with your Incumbent.

After addressing any feedback, you will complete the application form and provide references both from your Incumbent and from someone who has experienced your evangelistic ministry. The formal support of your PCC will also be required.

An interview, usually with the Bishop of Dunwich, follows and if appropriate a five year renewable license is recommended. All candidates will need a DBS check and to complete a C3 Safeguarding training course.

## Training

Initial training is through a practical one year course, meeting monthly, in the context of a meal. No formal qualifications are required. Subjects include seed sowing, faith journeys, listening to context, big questions, resources and sharing ideas and experiences. There are opportunities for further reflection.

Once licenced, you will be supported in developing a Ministry Development Plan to continue lifelong learning. This will help you identify and develop reflective practice and engage in learning with peers, alongside other taught modules. This may include modules provided by our Mission and Ministry Department or externally. Each Evangelist gets a training allowance to support them.

## Are you called to be an Evangelist?

Four key things that might help discern most Evangelists...

### **Desire to talk about faith**

You find you naturally talk to others about Jesus, or your faith. It may not always be easy but you have a love for Christ and the Church and want others to know that they are missing something wonderful!

### **Desire to see the Church grow**

Whether traditional church, a Fresh Expression, or even another denomination, you want people to know Christ first and foremost. You want to help the Church reach those 'outside', and encourage opportunities, outreach events, and build relationships in the community and ecumenically.

### **Desire to see others share your passion**

You want to encourage and enable those within the church to do likewise. You may get a little frustrated if they don't but you will find a way to involve them.

### **People don't always 'get you'**

Wilson Carlile, the founder of Church Army, described Evangelists as 'the church irritant'. If that makes you smile then this may be for you. It's a challenging but exciting place to be.

## Support and Accountability

Evangelists work within a Parish or Benefice as part of the Ministry team under the authority of the Incumbent. A role agreement will define the range of relationships to help your ministry flourish and will be agreed with your Incumbent and Director of Mission and Ministry or one of our Diocesan Evangelist Advisors. Your licence will be reviewed and considered for renewal every five years.

All those who hold the Evangelist license will also be expected to meet together four times a year. This will include:

- Attending the annual lay ministries training day with other ministries.
- Taking part in our annual Diocesan Mission.
- Optional attendance at one of the two Church Army Mission Community Training events.
- Attending the annual lay ministries service followed by a meal.

On occasions you may be asked to support the promotion of Evangelist Ministry in the Diocese.

Evangelists may wish to consider joining the Church Army Mission Community.

Further information is available from these websites:

[www.cofesuffolk.org](http://www.cofesuffolk.org)

[www.churcharmy.org](http://www.churcharmy.org)

## For more information

For general enquiries about Evangelists or their initial or ongoing training please contact:

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For registering an interest or further enquiries regarding discernment please contact:

Captain Andrew Payne CA

Diocesan Adviser for Evangelists

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**Growing in God**

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