



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich**

## Youth Ministers

Youth Ministers are a new Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) in our Diocese who will lead and work as part of teams working with 11-18+ year olds in our Diocese - to develop those young people personally, socially and spiritually.

### **Youth Ministers will encourage their churches to:**

- Be inclusive.
- Provide space to ask questions about faith & life and everything in-between.
- Offer leadership opportunities in the church looking to grow young people in numbers, depth and influence.
- Strive for equality through our Church family.
- Create opportunities for young people to grow their faith and share their faith.

## What are Youth Ministers?

Youth Ministers are those people who can see not just the future potential in young people, but the God given advantages and skills that young people have now. Youth Ministers want to help young people see and investigate their own qualities in light of their relationship with God for themselves and in community with the wider church family.

## Are you called to be a Youth Minister?

Maybe God is inviting you to join him in a missional adventure to young people in your community?

If you are interested in exploring Licenced Youth Ministry, please contact the Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer (DYO) for an initial informal conversation.

**Andrew Root**  
**Associate Professor of**  
**Youth & Families Ministry**  
**& Youth Work Author**

“Youth ministry is not simply about getting things accomplished – only the act of God can bring about the transformation we seek. Youth ministry is about participating deeply in young peoples’ lives as we await together, in suffering and joy the coming of God in our lives.”

## **Can you relate well to young people?**

Traditionally 'Young People' has referred to those between the ages of 11 and 18 but increasing this also includes those who are 18+ and into their early 20's.

When others are afraid or unfeeling toward young people, youth ministers often feel a sense of empathy. They are able to hold a conversation with a young person and are willing to step up and start that conversation.

## **Do you have a desire for young people to know God better?**

Youth ministers know that our identity is best found in God and they want young people to find who they are through their relationship with Him and the wider church family. This may happen at many different levels, in different ways and at different times.

## **Are you willing to meet young people where they are?**

Youth Ministers tend to realise that waiting for young people to come into church or ask for help is unlikely to be fruitful. Rather, they are prepared to go the extra mile in supporting young people where they are (physically, emotionally or spiritually) and in their way, even if it seems uncomfortable to many others.

## What does being a Licensed Youth Minister give you?

- Affirmation of God's call by the wider church.
- Tailored practical and theoretical youthwork training and on-going support for your ministry.
- Accountability for your vocation from your local church and from a wider network of youth ministers.
- A learning community of others doing the same thing, including the local youth workers' forum.
- Links to events, training and experts from within and outside our diocese and denomination.

**Matt Cornwell**  
**Youth Worker**

**St. Augustine's' Church, Ipswich**

"My job is to love, encourage, shape, challenge, disciple and care for young people - both inside and outside the Church.

Youth work is a great job, I love it! At times it's hard but I'd recommend youthwork to anyone who enjoys being with young people & wants to help them become the best version of themselves that they can be.

Our United Youth Café is a great place to chill out relax and unwind after school, in a place where we recognise that no one is perfect and everyone is welcome.

I love young people for their energy, fresh perspective and their desire to take a few risks to see our Church become a 'flourishing congregation making a difference in the community where we live.'

Helping us as a Church to grow, by growing younger."

## Discernment

Discernment for licencing is undertaken either prior to, during or on completion of the Diocesan **Illuminate** Youth Training Scheme.

An informal initial conversation with the DYO, Incumbent and your PCC begins the process. The following skills and calling would usually need to be evidenced:

- A DBS check will be required.
- A good working knowledge of the Diocesan Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The expectation is that you will already be faithfully involved in some form of youth work/ministry; be that in a full-time capacity or serving on a consistent regular volunteer basis (this could be at a church, school or in your community).
- Completion of the annual Diocesan Illuminate Youth Training Course modules.
- ½ day personal retreat to reflect on your Youth Ministry calling, character and competency.
- A one to one discernment meeting with the DYO.
- A one to one discernment meeting with one of the Bishops.

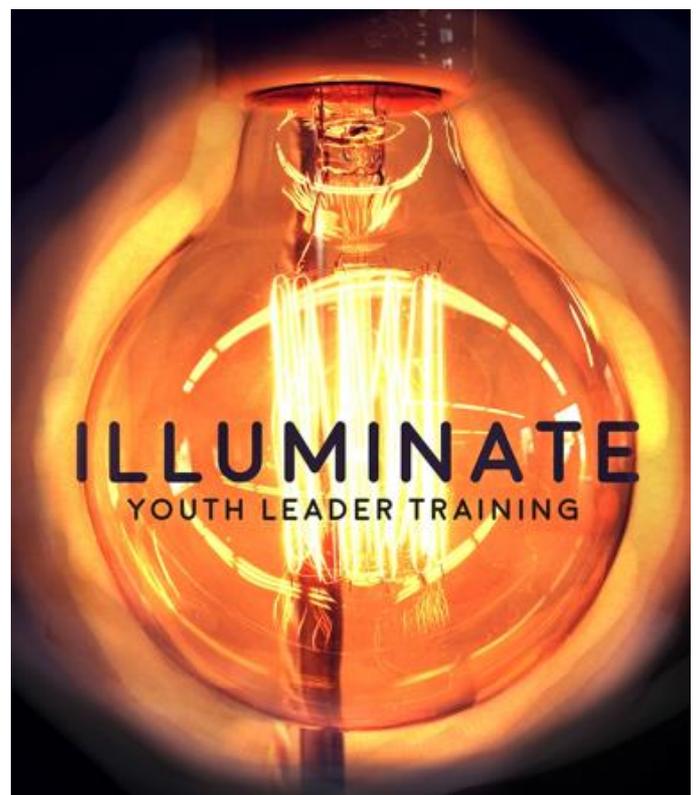
This is followed by a recommendation for a five-year renewable license and a Licensing Service which completes the process.

Once licenced, you will be supported in developing a Ministry framework to develop your youth ministry and advise your local church in the Growing Younger initiative. You will also be given support in searching for training opportunities and links with agencies delivering training. Part of this will include an ongoing training allowance (currently £450 divided over three years) for your personal/professional development in Youth Ministry.

## Training

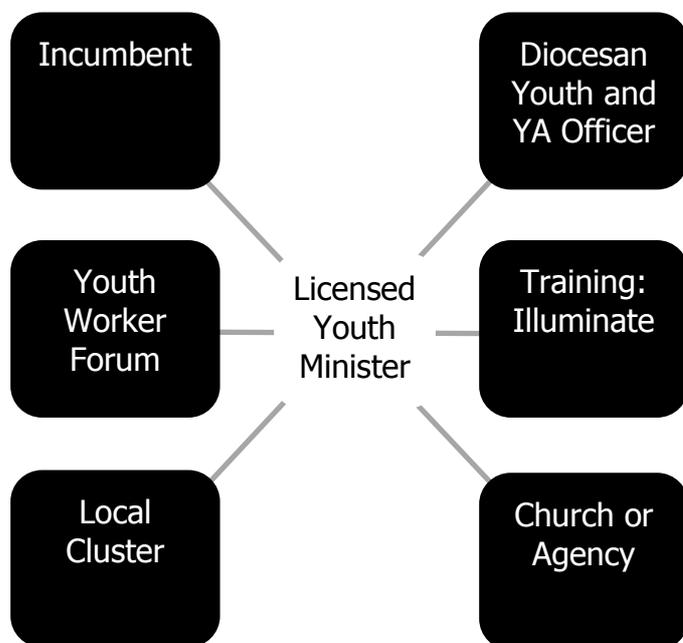
The bulk of our training is delivered through our **Illuminate** training programme. This is an eight session specifically tailored scheme of training incorporating material delivered from the Equip Youth Work course, local youth work professionals and the DYO.

It features essential practical 'How To...' skills elements as well as opportunities to deepen and challenge our current thinking and practice in theoretical discussions and faith development.



## Support and accountability

If your youth ministry is contained within a Benefice you will be part of the Benefice Ministry team under the authority of your Incumbent. This will include full support from the Diocese and the DYO.



A working agreement with your setting would be appropriate and would be developed in consultation with the DYO, Incumbent, PCC and you. This will ensure an appropriate amount of work and responsibility for a Licensed Youth Minister.

Regular opportunities will be provided to reflect with other youth ministers in your area. You will be invited to be part of the Diocesan Youth Workers Forum and will benefit from regular one to one meetings with the DYO to develop and encourage your ongoing work and formation as a youth minister.

This will provide peer support, on-going reflection, fellowship and worship. On occasions you would be expected to support the promotion of Youth Ministry Church in the Diocese.

**We are here for you!**

## For more information

For general enquiries about new Licenced Youth Ministers or their initial and ongoing training please contact:

### **Matt Levett**

Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer

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**Growing in God**

Produced by Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich  
Updated May 2019.