



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

How can we promote and encourage a vocational culture in the parish?

The following wisdom was from the conversation over lunch with our bishops and some incumbents:

E ncourage	Encourage and give permission for people to 'have a go' under your authority and with the assurance that you are there to support and pick up the pieces if necessary.
N ame	Name and publicly celebrate the vocations that already exist in your fellowship as well as those that begin to emerge under your leadership.
C reate	Create a culture of discipleship and spiritual aspiration. What does it mean for us to grow deeper?
O thers	When people see others involved and encouraged in ministry they will want to be involved too.
U nderstand	Understand the wider view. There are a lot of resources and support outside of the parish context. Promote and plug into diocesan and national vocational events. Use the Mission and Ministry team to support and help. Use the resources on the diocesan website and in eNews.
R aise	Raise the profile of vocations in your parish. Put different ministries 'in the spotlight' for a season. Make Vocations Sunday (Easter 4) a regular event in your church's calendar. Think about working together with other churches in the deanery to organise a vocations event.
A sk	Ask people to have a go and step out of their comfort zone. Even though delegation is risky, the more that a wide range of people are involved in the life and ministry of the church, the greater the sense of ownership and community.
G ive away	Model shared and collaborative ministry - the more you give away, the more you receive. Invest time and energy in nurturing and building your ministry team.
E xample	Your example is very powerful. It can inspire, encourage and challenge. Pay attention to your own spiritual growth and development.

