Licensed Evangelists

Use your gifts to serve God and others in the name of Christ
Evangelists

The Evangelist ministry is one of the primary biblical ministries referred to in Ephesians chapter 4 who are to prepare God’s people for works of service. This role has been recognised within the Church of England for many years, and many dioceses now recognise evangelists in some form or other. These may be people in voluntary roles or in stipendiary roles working in partnership with the Church Army.

Everyone who follows Christ is a witness for him in the world. Churches are called together to proclaim the good news of Jesus in deed and word. Evangelists enable the church in this work through encouraging and training others, leading them in developing and engaging in creative missional opportunities. In this diocese Evangelists hold a Bishop’s licence and are accountable both to the incumbent and the Bishop.

An Evangelist will work from within a church base, which could be a more traditional church or a new form of church (often called a Fresh Expression of church). They serve as part of a benefice ministry team that may include Readers, Elders, Pioneers, Youth and Children/Families Ministers who work together to help the church to grow in God.
What does an Evangelist look like?

When you think of what an Evangelist may look like, what may come to mind is someone like Billy Graham, or someone who can hold a crowd on a street corner. But we’re looking for someone who already has a heart to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ and who is probably already involved in projects and activities that connect with people outside the church that show the love of God in action.

An Evangelist is someone who wants to see people encounter Jesus Christ for themselves and to grow in his likeness as part of the church family. Evangelists don’t always fit in with regular church and often find themselves drawn to the margins to meet with those the church does not yet connect with.
How can I train as an Evangelist?

Every year we run a course called Faith Empowered for people interested in this role and ministry. The course runs for 10 sessions once a month over an academic year, and covers a variety of subjects such as how to build relationships, how to listen to your context, how to plan missionally, how to enable others, how to tackle the big questions of life and how to learn through failure. There is reading to do to help you think about the session topics and there are opportunities for you to explore the theory by engaging in evangelism during the course.

This training is useful for any Christian who is serious about sharing their faith in word and deed. You don’t have to commit to be licensed at the start – this is something that will be explored during the training. We have found that people really benefit from journeying through the training together, learning from one another and inspiring each other in their ministry and context.
What support is there for this role?

Once you are licensed you will be given assistance to create a Ministry Development Plan which will help you continue to grow and develop throughout your life and ministry. There is also the chance to learn more through modules taught and provided by the Mission and Ministry department. Each licensed Evangelist also gets an annual allowance for training.

The Evangelist works under the authority of the Incumbent who will either supervise you themselves or delegate that task to another church leader. This provides you with the support and encouragement in ministry for this role. Evangelists can also join the Church Army Mission Community nationally. We have a regional cluster which meets monthly in the diocese which provides a more local community. Through the Church Army there are opportunities to join in with missions around the country or even abroad.
How do I know if I am an Evangelist?

Here are some indicators which might help you see if this ministry role is suitable for you. If you say “yes!” to many of these you should consider joining the training:

- You want to talk about your faith and what Jesus means to you.
- You find it natural to talk about what you believe with others, even though it can be hard to do.
- You want others to know what they are missing if they do not yet know Jesus.
- You want to see the church grow in number whatever type of church or denomination it is.
- You have a heart for those who don’t connect with the church.
- You have a heart for the downtrodden or disadvantaged.
- You want the church to reach out to those beyond the existing congregation.
- You want to help other church members to join you in working with people outside the church.
- You can be impatient with churches which just seem to focus on providing for those who already come.
- You want to meet with others who have a heart to see people come to know Jesus.

Why not get a couple of friends who know you well and see what they think too? Ask them how they would answer these questions for you.
You can use the application form here to register for the training. If you are considering licensing it is worthwhile speaking to your incumbent before you start as you will need their approval for this role. You will also need a formal resolution from the PCC approving your training but they will be able to help you with this.

Once your training is completed you will need to have a DBS check which aligns with a role description agreed with your incumbent. Alongside this you will need to have completed the necessary Safeguarding Training in line with the diocesan guidelines. This will be explained during the training.
For more information

Please visit our website pages for exploring your Christian calling, available at www.cofesuffolk.org/deepening-faith/training-for-ministry.

Resources specific to this role are also available on the diocesan website.

General enquiries about new Evangelists or their initial or ongoing training:

Helen Prior-Townsend
Project Manager

helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org

phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org