

Explore your ministry

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





What is God calling you to do?

God creates each of us for a purpose and calls us to serve Christ in the world. Our calling or 'vocation' is about the whole of human life, not just what we do in church. Discovering what God is calling us to be and to do is a life-long process; as we journey in faith, we enable others to flourish as we respond to the changing needs around us.

For some people their vocation can be found through authorised ministries that serve the ministry and mission of the whole church and work collaboratively at all levels. For others, a specific interest may lead to a pathway of a distinctive lay ministry, perhaps supporting children and young people or engaging with members of our community in a different way. We have a variety of different ministries in the Diocese and this leaflet outlines these possibilities.

With prayer, reflection and conversations with your parish priest and friends do explore a ministry that fits your God-given gifts.



How has God gifted you?

Is God calling you to one of these licensed/commissioned ministries?

- CHAPLAIN
- LAY ELDER
- LICENSED CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES' MINISTER
- LICENSED EVANGELIST
- LICENSED LAY PIONEER
- LICENSED YOUTH MINISTER
- LIGHTWAVE GROUP LEADER
- ORDAINED MINISTER
- READER
- RECOGNISED LOCAL LEADER
- SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR
- SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

CHAPLAIN

Chaplains offer pastoral and spiritual support to those whom they serve. Chaplains serve in a number of sectors in our communities including: police, air cadets, hospitals, hospices, schools, colleges, university, deaf chaplaincy, prison, RAF, British Legion, army, agriculture and Felixstowe port. Some are paid, some are voluntary; some are ordained, some are lay.

Chaplains often work in the community, ministering amongst people who would otherwise perhaps have little or no contact with the Christian faith. Some people amongst whom they minister will want to be prayed with, others won't – but the chaplain will always be there to pray for them, being alongside to listen and encourage. By being who they are, they witness to God's love in Christ. In some situations, they may have a role in supporting those in leadership in the institution. Chaplains need the gifts of listening and empathy, confidentiality and integrity, compassion and sensitivity.



Contact: Archdeacon of Suffolk
For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/chaplaincy

LAY ELDER

Lay Elders are men and women who are chosen by the local church and authorised by the Diocesan Bishop for ministry in the local church and community. Their ministry is shaped by their individual gifts and the needs of their parish or benefice. To support their incumbent, some may focus on assisting with leading worship, while others may fulfil a pastoral ministry within their communities.



Contact: The Revd Stuart Batten or Lesley Steed
For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/elders

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES' MINISTER

Family Ministry is the intentional building of relationships between church congregations and families within the local community.

It is also a ministry that enables parents to be the primary disciple-makers of their children.

Family comes in all shapes, sizes, backgrounds and practice and enabling inter-generational connections is a focus of our activity.

Our Children's and Families' Ministers may be working alongside their church, school, community, toddler groups, children's clubs, Messy Church, baptism families and with young people exploring their faith journey.



Contact: Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell

For more information scan the QR code or visit:

www.cofesuffolk.org/childrens-and-families-ministers

LICENSED EVANGELIST

Licensed Evangelists are people who have a passion for sharing faith with those outside the church and are also encouragers and enablers for those within the church to do likewise.

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.

An Evangelist is someone who can speak enthusiastically about their faith, has a passion for the mission of the Church and wants to see it flourish.



Contact: The Revd Will Abbott

For more information

scan the QR code or visit:

www.cofesuffolk.org/evangelists



LICENSED LAY PIONEER

"We continue to look for opportunities to shape a community of people toward serving each other and the wider community, intentionally influenced with the love of Jesus."

Diane Grano

Pioneering ministry involves leading teams that develop Fresh Expressions of Church for the 95% of people who are not a regular part of a local church. Pioneers are people, called by God, who are the first to see and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit's initiatives with those outside the church; gathering others around them as they seek to establish new contextual Christian community. They have a vision of God's Kingdom in this Diocese and are gifted with enabling others to be welcomed into God's presence now.

We seek to support lay pioneers by recognising and affirming the pioneering ministry they are doing and giving them the freedom and space to pioneer. We seek to help them network with others with a similar calling and nurture their gift. Both coaching and training are really important, but discernment is needed in finding the best kind of training for each pioneer. The monthly formational Community for Churchplanters and Pioneers led by the bishops is very helpful for many.



Contact: Archdeacon Sally Gaze

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/pioneers

LICENSED YOUTH MINISTER

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.

Our training facilitates a greater vision of the role our young people can have in sharing their faith and values within the church and their communities.



Contact: Matt Levett

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/youth-workers

"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."

Andrew Root

LIGHTWAVE GROUP LEADER

A Lightwave Group Leader facilitates, guides and cares for groups who pray, study the Bible and see themselves as a group on a mission with Jesus. The group may form a core team for a Fresh Expression of church for those new to faith.

Training for leaders is undertaken via a six-session course covering values, vision, leadership skills, healthy small groups, all involved and growth. Ongoing coaching and support is offered to each leader and further training will be signposted as needed, for example, the Mission Shaped Ministry course.



Contact: Archdeacon Sally Gaze

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/lightwave



ORDAINED MINISTER

Priests and Deacons are called to represent the church in the wider world. They lead the church's mission and ministry through worship and prayer, preaching and teaching, community engagement and pastoral work.

Some are parish-based, while others serve in schools, hospitals, prisons and elsewhere as chaplains. Some ordained ministers are self-supporting and serve locally, and some are stipendiary.

Clergy who are paid via a stipend receive a package of benefits that enable them and their families to undertake a commitment to their church and its community.

If you are interested in becoming a priest, the first step is to talk to your vicar or equivalent or to the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO). You will spend up to three years discerning your vocation, increasing in self-awareness, developing a disciplined prayer-life and building your knowledge.

Self-Supporting Ministers (SSM) already have a full or part-time job in another profession, some are only licensed to a particular benefice or deanery, while others are deployable by the Bishop wherever their skills might be needed most.

Training may be at a theological education institution or through our Bishops' Auxiliary Ordination Pathway.



Contact: The Revd Stuart Batten
For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/ordained-ministry



"I have always enjoyed engaging with people and the local community and my appointment has enabled me to expand the privilege of serving others in a variety of church and secular settings together with learning more about myself and the love of God through Jesus Christ for all people."

Mike Birt

READER

Reader ministry is a nationally recognised lay ministry, where people are trained and licensed to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work, providing a bridge between the Church and the world.

Readers share a passion to preach and teach God's Word amongst their communities, deepening an awareness of God's presence and enabling others to flourish in sharing Christ's love with all.

Theological and practical ministerial training and formation take place before being licensed to this role. Opportunities for continuing ministerial development are on-going.



Contact: Barbara Hill

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/readers

RECOGNISED LOCAL LEADER

A Recognised Local Leader will be the first point of contact for the church and the wider community, they will gather church members together in worship and mission, and will support and enable the people of God in that place. They will be a people person, in good standing with those inside and outside the church, and with the ability to be a bridge between the two. This person will have a heart for the local Christian community, be committed to the local church and will prayerfully discern God's will for that place, wanting to see the church community grow and flourish.

Contact: The Revd Phil Dykes

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/recognised-local-leader



SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

Church of England schools are underpinned by the teachings of the Christian faith. There are 87 Church of England schools in our Diocese and each needs governors to help them to flourish.



All school governors play a vital part in the life and success of individual schools. They are volunteers from all walks of life, providing a diversity of experience and skills, who want to make a positive contribution to the whole school community.

Foundation Governors have a specific duty to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools, ensuring that the Church of England's Vision for Education is lived. If you are being called to make a real and positive difference in children's lives, do explore being a school governor.



Contact: Jacqui Studd
For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/school-foundation-governors

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

This is an ancient ministry, sometimes called spiritual accompaniment, prayer guidance, or soul friendship. It is about taking the time to meet with another person and talk about his or her spiritual journey and prayer. The person offering this ministry needs to be a person of prayer who makes the commitment to accept the other as they are and where they are. The companion or guide's role is to support the other in discerning God's activity in their lives.



Contact: The Revd Carla Hampton

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
www.cofesuffolk.org/exploring-faith/in-our-communities/spiritual-direction



For more information

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

You can find there a list of key dates for training and development.

For all general vocations enquiries please contact the Revd Stuart Batten stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org

Chaplains | Archdeacon of Suffolk

Lay Elders | The Revd Stuart Batten or Lesley Steed
stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org or lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org

Licensed Children's and Families' Ministers | Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell
hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org

Licensed Evangelists | The Revd Will Abbott
will.abbott@cofesuffolk.org

Licensed Lay Pioneers & Lightwave Group Leaders | Archdeacon Sally Gaze
archdeacon.sally@cofesuffolk.org

Licensed Youth Ministers | Matt Levett
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Ordained Ministers | The Revd Stuart Batten
stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org

Self-Supporting Ministers | The Revd Tony Redman
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Readers | Barbara Hill
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Recognised Local Leaders | The Revd Phil Dykes
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School Foundation Governors | Jacqui Studd
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Spiritual Directors | The Revd Carla Hampton
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