



and context. Every Christian has a vocation, and it is the task of all
of every member of the Church.

Keith Blundy

Vocations Sunday

The next Vocations Sunday is on **Sunday 21 April 2024**. It is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to. We have provided a few resources to celebrate calling in the worship services and encourage conversations around vocations.

"Vocations Sunday, the third Sunday after Easter, is a great opportunity to explore together where God is calling each of us, and we hope and pray that you will find this pack a valuable tool for preaching and leading studies, both on Vocations Sunday and throughout the year, so that together, we can grow in vocation to be the Church of Christ in this world."

Archbishop Justin Welby

- [The Great Vocations Conversation](#) – A monthly devotional and guide challenging ministers to commit to having a conversation a month about vocation.
- [Life is for Giving](#) – A monthly devotional to go through together with an individual or group exploring where God is calling them, wherever that may be to.
- [Vocations Sunday liturgy - Service of the Word](#)
- [Vocations Sunday liturgy - Service of Holy Communion](#)
- [Vocations Sunday liturgy - alternative texts](#)

The focus of our Vocations Sunday resources is the *Great Vocations Conversation*, our challenge to all Church ministers to commit to having one conversation a month about vocation with someone different from themselves.

Written jointly by Bishop Andrew Watson and Revd Magdalen Smith, this short booklet is filled with prayers, studies and reflections, exploring what the Bible has to say about discerning vocation. [Read the Church Times review here.](#)

Building a culture of vocation



[Exploring vocation](#)



[ment and training](#)

[The Ministry Experience Scheme](#)

[Giving young people the chance to explore ministry](#)

Through the Renewal and Reform programme, the whole Church has been striving to grow vocations to ministry.

Over the past two years the number of people starting training for ordination has grown by 23%, with a 46% increase in young people since 2016, and women now accounting for just over half of new ordinands. Of course we can't expect these levels of increase to be repeated every year, but these early signs of growth are an encouraging indication of a hopeful future ahead.

Underpinning all our work is the opportunity to reach out to those who have been historically underrepresented, whether because of gender, class, or ethnicity. By continuing to share examples of what works, we're confident that together we'll be able to support more Christians to discover God's call upon their lives, and empower them to have the confidence and ability to answer it.

God calls us by name

"There is no greater joy in life than to follow Christ. No greater adventure, no greater purpose, no better way to live. But follow Christ does not mean that we always know exactly what to do, and how our lives will unfold. Following Christ is embarking on a journey, and listening to the promptings of the Spirit, in prayer, in Scripture and through our brothers and sisters in Christ, so that we discover and grow into our calling. God calls all of us. God calls all of us to be disciples and to be church, and we hold this call in common. But God also calls all of us by name: specifically, individually, uniquely. This is when we speak of vocation: the specific path that our response to God's love and grace will take in our own lives.

These vocations will be as different as there are people. Every journey of vocation is invaluable and needs to be told, shared and cherished by the church. Together we discern the right paths and support one another on the way. Vocation has multiple threads – from being a friend, worker, parent, sibling, church member, carer, volunteer and many others, to taking up specific responsibilities in life, work or church.

A call to ministry can be held alongside other vocations, or it might be a disciple's main vocation. In the New Testament 'ministry' is a public and commissioned role which God calls some individual disciples to and which is recognised by the Church. The Church of England is encouraging all Christians to think about their vocation, and, as part of this, whether they may be called to licensed lay ministry or ordination. We are delighted that in the past two years the number of people entering training for ordination has grown by a fifth. This is a testimony to the Church responding to the work of the Spirit, and we are immensely grateful to everyone who has worked hard to achieve it."

Archbishop Justin Welby

From the Vocation Sunday pack foreword

Resources

[Theology of vocation](#) - Read more about what the Bible has to say about following a vocation.

[Growing vocations everywhere](#) - Read our good practice guide for more on our lead initiatives to grow vocations, all flowing from ideas sourced from dioceses.

[Exploring vocation](#) - Our online content for explorers covers the selection and training process and makes it as easy as possible for people to get in touch with their diocesan vocations team. If you need to update your team's contact details or if you have any suggestions on content please email krista.ewert@churchofengland.org.

[Running the Ministry Experience Scheme](#) - Read our good practice guide for advice on setting up and running the [Ministry Experience Scheme](#).

[Mentor directory](#) - Having a mentor is a proven means of boosting inclusion. Encourage your candidates to find a mentor through the directory, and encourage your ministers to sign up to [become a mentor](#). Full training provided. Mentors are separate to the formal selection process. They are not able to interfere with the decisions of bishops, diocesan directors of ordinands, selection secretaries, bishops' advisory panel advisers, theological education institution staff, or anyone else formally part of the selection and formation process. What they can do though is provide reassurance and encouragement through practical guidance and emotional support.

[Print resources](#) - Our Vocations Sunday pack is a great starter set for all year around. It brings together some of our popular resources from [Church Print Hub](#) and [Church House Publishing](#).

[Talk Calling](#) - Produced by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS), this series of creative cards helps teenagers have open conversations on following God and discovering God's possibilities for their lives.

"Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

1 Corinthians 1.26-31

Related

Vocations

Every Christian has a vocation. What is God's plan for you? Information on discerning your vocation and exploring ministry in the Church of England.

The Ministry Experience Scheme

If you are aged 18 to 30, why not spend a year serving God through the Ministry Experience Scheme; and if you are passionate about working with children, young people and families then Future Youth could be for you.

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/diocesan-resources/ministry/growing-vocations-everywhere>