

TRAINING FOR READER MINISTRY



The specific role of a Reader may vary from one Diocese to another and even from one parish to another, but in general a Reader is a lay person, called by God, theologically trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, and lead worship. The role is often described as ‘theologically educated and culturally engaged.’

The office of Reader is the only lay ministry in the Church of England which is voluntary, nationally accredited, Episcopally licensed and governed by canon. There are now over 10,000 Readers, with men and women represented almost equally.

All Saints train people for Reader ministry in the dioceses of Blackburn, Chester, Derby, Liverpool, Manchester, Sodor & Man and Southwell & Nottingham. Each diocese has a Director of Studies for Readers who oversees the training of Readers from that diocese as well as being part of the All Saints course team. The Reader course takes two years part-time.

Reader training has four significant elements:

- **Study** Each year students take 3 modules a year. Two of these modules are delivered on weeknight evenings (one module in the first half of the year and the other module in the second half); one module is delivered at weekends on 6 study days throughout the year.
- **Placement** Once training begins, students are on placement in their home parish and their incumbent is expected to offer appropriate supervision and opportunity to develop new skills, preach and take part in leading worship. Some time after Christmas of the first year, all students also do an external placement in a different setting
- **Preaching and worship-leading** In both home and external placements, trainee Readers are expected to be involved in regular preaching and worship-leading.
- **Bible Reading** During the two years of the course all students are expected to read the whole Bible, with guidance and resources available to help them do this.

Practical Placements

Reader training is not just about going to course sessions and doing assignments. An equally important part of the learning on the course is the learning and development done in a “placement” context – preaching, leading worship and being involved in a range of activities in church and community.

In their training readers operate in two placements – their home church and a short-term external placement at another church.

Placements are an important part of the assessed work on the course. While many assessments involve an element of written work, we also use placement work such as leading worship, preaching and leading groups as a key part of helping people grow and develop in the knowledge, skills and maturity needed for Christian ministry.

[See over the page for an overview of the initial Reader training course.](#)



This is the standard 2-year training course for Readers. However, we offer flexibility for people to do the course over a longer period (eg for domestic reasons) or a shorter period if they have significant prior training and experience.

What next?

The seven dioceses who train Readers with All Saints have different requirements within the overall framework described in these pages and also have their own Reader selection processes at diocesan level. Therefore, if you have any questions you will need to contact the Director of Studies for Reader Training in your diocese. Their contact details are on the All Saints website, along with a lot more information on Reader training.

Also you can contact the All Saints office if you need to know more.

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