

FOCAL MINISTRY



DIOCESE OF
LINCOLN

“Could God be calling you to share in the local leadership of your church? No doubt He will equip you for the task and, through you, bring the good works around you to completion. It’s Time to Change - Together.”

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Lincoln

WHAT IS A FOCAL MINISTER?

Focal Ministers are an everyday presence and focus of ministry within their local church and community.

As a pillar of practical leadership, they strengthen and uphold our ability to be who we are called to be, bringing out the very best in all our activities and actions for Christ.

With a Focal Minister by our side, the fruits of the spirit are multiplied and recognised more fully on a local level.

They bring their own personal gifts which, along with God’s call to leadership, will complement and encourage the gifts already being expressed in our church.



A LOCAL LEADER

They will act in humble service on behalf of the church. The Oversight Minister will work together with the Focal Minister and give direction to their focus, which will be unique in every case but always rooted in the local community. Each church, we hope, will be vitalised through this shared responsibility.

PRAY AND CONSIDER HOW FOCAL MINISTERS MIGHT...

- Support the diversity of your church life together, so that it grows and thrives.
- Channel the flow of God’s peace and purpose for you and your church.
- Help the heart of your church to beat in unity with the wider Christian family.

**COULD
GOD BE
CALLING
YOU?**

A CASE FOR SHARED LEADERSHIP:

“But Moses’ hands were heavy; and they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat thereon. And Aaron and Hur held up his hands, the one on the one side and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.” (Exodus 17:12)

SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF A FUTURE

FOCAL MINISTER



ROOTED IN FAITH

They are active in local church life and respected in the community. They are threaded into the fabric of public worship and regular in private prayer. They inspire others with their trust in God.



CARING IN RELATIONSHIPS

They are trusted and have a motivated heart to see their church grow and partnerships built. They are encouraging, genuinely listen and are respected for their compassion. They understand how crucial their relationships are to building up God's kingdom on earth.



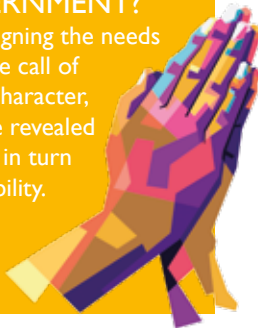
EAGER TO LEARN

They feel a strong call by God to develop their leadership and are open to take a step of faith into a discernment process. They want to be trained and supported and have others work in authority alongside them in a method of shared responsibility. They are aware that there will always be new things to learn and a need to adapt as this new form of ministry develops. They are ready to expect the unexpected.



WHAT IS DISCERNMENT?

It is the process of aligning the needs of the church with the call of the candidate. Their character, qualities and skills are revealed in the process, which in turn will reveal their suitability. It usually consists of conversation, prayer and reflection.



WILLING TO LEAD

They are passionate about living out their faith confidently and inspiring others to follow their example both in church life and in their local community. They are deeply committed to their own church community and the mission it shares with others in the Local Mission Partnership. They can make decisions reflectively and creatively, knowing who and what can turn a vision into reality.

THINK YOU CAN'T BE A FOCAL MINISTER? THINK AGAIN

You don't need to be ordained. Every bit of your experience, training and church activity (both formal and informal) can lay a great foundation for your journey towards becoming a Focal Minister.

If you are ordained, your license to preach, lead worship and provide complex pastoral care will be an additional blessing to those you are authorised to serve in this role.

THE LASTING IMPACT OF A FOCAL MINISTER

There are common causes where their impact will be felt depending on the type of church.

In Key Mission and Local Mission churches they may:

- Lead specific ministries such as older people's, youth or women's ministry.
- Coordinate specific activities or fresh expressions like 'Mossy Church' or social justice projects.

In Community and Festival Churches they may:

- Lead the church in its wellbeing, discipleship, outreach, service and sustainability on a more immediate level.
- Greatly encourage Christian mission outside the church walls.
- Be an ambassador of the wider Diocese and other church partners.

WILL IT WORK? WE BELIEVE THAT:

Churches with Focal Ministers are likely to see greater growth and feel more confident about their future. They can attract and develop more disciples of Christ, have more people involved in sharing the gospel, and be better able to acquire and distribute resources for local mission activities.



A CASE STUDY FOR FOCAL MINISTRY

"I am really looking forward to being trained and authorised as a Focal Minister. In many ways, it's a role I already inhabit. Under the Oversight of the Incumbent, I am recognised locally as the 'person to call' about things to do with the church. I lead some services and help to organise others. The church's role in the community is my great passion and we've seen fantastic growth in that area. I hope many will offer themselves to be Focal Ministers and see their local church grow too."

Martin Joy, churchwarden at St Hugh's Church, North Hykeham (Lincolnshire)

THE JOURNEY OF BECOMING A

FOCAL MINISTER

To help confirm the call, conversations are had with the Oversight Minister or Rural Dean along with family and friends.

STEP 1

A bespoke training programme for those exploring Focal Ministry takes place, giving an opportunity to meet others who are called.

STEP 2

A tailored role description is agreed with the Focal Minister or Rural Dean, and other bits of necessary documentation and training, such as safeguarding, is completed. The bishop issues authorisation.

STEP 3

The new Focal Minister is welcomed in a special act of worship or service and begins their ministry with continued support from their **Area Leader**.

STEP 4

A PRAYER FOR FOCAL MINISTRY



King of all creation,
We thank you that you call us by our baptism to share in your mission to the world.
We pray that those you are calling to be Focal Ministers will hear you with joy, and answer you with willing gladness.

Raise up candidates of grace, skill and humility, so that your people may be inspired and encouraged, and your kingdom grow and flourish through their leadership. Amen

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Speak to your Oversight Minister in the first instance or to www.lincoln.anglican.org/focal-ministry for more information, resources and tips.

