



THE DIOCESE
OF NEWCASTLE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Readers in the Diocese of Newcastle

There are approximately 160 licensed Readers in the Diocese of Newcastle and they work alongside incumbents in a wide range of parishes. The primary role of a Reader is to 'preach and teach the gospel' and this is undertaken throughout the life of a parish in pastoral, teaching, evangelistic and other areas agreed with the incumbent.



Annual Licensing 2008 Cathedral of St Nicholas Newcastle

This is a part time lay ministry and most Readers are in full or part time employment throughout the region. There is a strong Reader network throughout the Diocese headed by 'Warden of Readers'.

To find out more about this ministry, candidates and incumbents are encouraged to contact the Secretary to the Readers Board, Sue Hart on HARTS@sky.com or 0191 242 3941.

Readers Permission to Officiate (PTO)

A Reader who has reached the age of 70 may have the Bishop's permission to officiate if still active in their ministry with the support of their incumbent.

Readers Emeriti

Readers who are over 70 and no longer active in their ministry may be invited by the Bishop to become a Reader Emeritus.

Specific Authorisations

Readers are authorised to officiate and preach at Morning and Evening Prayer. Readers are also authorised to preach at a range of services including Eucharist, Family and Services of the Word.

Readers are authorised to assist in the administration of Holy Communion, at the discretion and with the support of their incumbent. This can take place at services in the church or with the sick in their homes or places of residence.

Readers are authorised to conduct funerals after they have completed a module on Funerals and Bereavement Ministry. This module is offered by the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle (Lindisfarne the Regional Training Partnership).

Funerals can also be conducted on the request or agreement of the deceased's family or when invited by the incumbent of Area Dean. To officiate at a Funeral a Reader wears, cassock, surplice and scarf and all resultant fees are handed to the incumbent for assignment to the Diocese. A Reader is entitled to receive appropriate travel expenses from the Funeral Director.

Deployment of Readers

When the services of a Reader from another parish are needed, application should be made directly to the Reader in question, who should confer with his/her own incumbent. No fees are charged for this duty other than travelling expenses.

Travelling Expenses

The travelling expenses of Readers should be paid by PCCs at the diocesan rates. The Reader must not be put to the embarrassment of having to ask for travelling expenses.

Selection for Reader Training

Candidates are sponsored by their congregations and incumbents and then interviewed at the annual Selection Conference. This normally takes place during May. The process from the point of application to selection is available from Revd Dr Michael Beck, Crossgate Centre, Alexandria Crescent, Durham DH1 4HF
tel: 0191 384 7872.

Courses begin with an *Induction* Module in June and July.

Candidates and their incumbents are welcome to contact the Lindisfarne Tutor of Reader Formation for information at any time.

Training

Recommended Trainee Readers are registered on a seven-year programme, culminating in the Durham University award of Diploma in Theology and Ministry.

Licensing

On satisfactory completion of the first three years of training, candidates are commissioned and admitted as Diocesan Readers with a licence to serve in any parish in the Diocese. They are expected to continue training, using further modules and other in-service events and opportunities.

Regional Readers Groups

These groups exist to encourage Readers to meet occasionally together for prayer, study, exchange of news and to be mutually supportive of one another's ministries. Plans are made locally by mutual agreement.

Region	Convenors	Tel.no:
Bedlington & Morpeth	Christina Malvern	0191 237 5667
Newcastle Central & West	Vacant	
Alnwick, Glendale & Norham	Trevor Porteous	01665 602 496
Newcastle East & Tynemouth	Margaret Patterson	0191 257 0211

If you would be willing to start a Regional Group in your area, please contact the CLM Adviser.