



# LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

IN THE CHURCH  
OF IRELAND



## EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A CALLING.

For some it means serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life and in their church. For others, it is a specific calling to leadership and ministry.



## WHAT IS GOD CALLING **YOU** TO BE AND DO?

**We need workers to lead others to Christ and we are to pray that God provides them (Matthew 9:37-38). Perhaps you, in picking up this leaflet, are an answer to one of these prayers!**

Please read on to discover some of the many ways that church members can explore a call to leadership and ministry in the Diocese of Down and Dromore and what each involves.

If any of these are of interest, please talk to your minister and get in touch for more information.

## PASTORAL CARE

Many church leaders are seeking people with a passion and call to assist them in the pastoral care of others. This usually involves home visitation and each autumn we run an evening's training for lay people to provide you with the basic principles and practice of pastoral visits as well as adult safeguarding.

*Cost: Free Duration: 1 evening When: Autumn each year*

## PRAYER MINISTRY

This is a growing element of church ministry in praying for individuals and their needs in a church or other setting. It's relational and intentional about praying for others as Jesus prayed. It's open to anyone aged 18+ with a passion for prayer and will equip you with biblical teaching and practical guidelines on prayer ministry.

*Cost: £10 Duration: 9am-4pm on a Saturday When: Spring and autumn annually*

## BIBLE COURSE

A key foundational aspect to ministry leadership is biblical knowledge and this year-long course involves 3 modules covering the breadth of the Bible. It's for Christians at any stage on their journey with God who want to know more about the Bible and how it relates to their lives. No prior theological knowledge or qualifications are needed, and there are no assignments! Each module is 10 weeks long and can be attended as 'stand-alone' modules or all 3 completed to gain the 1-year course certificate.

*Cost: £30 per module Duration: 10 evenings per module  
When: Module 1: Oct-Dec / Module 2: Jan-Mar / Module 3: Apr-Jun*

## WELCOME MINISTRY

It's vital for outreach that the church is a welcoming place and a welcoming people and improving our welcome is a ministry responsibility of all church members. This fun and interactive training evening will equip you with practical ideas and experience on how to welcome and is open to people of all ages. Training can be organised for your parish or a group of parishes.

*Cost: Free Duration: 2 hours When: Any time, as requested*

## PARISH READERS

A Parish Reader assists the minister in leading public worship - usually through the reading of liturgy, scripture, prayers and assisting at Holy Communion. Parish Readers can help in any or all of these ways and on a regular or occasional basis depending on need. The training course is over 4 evenings and looks at the Prayer Book, leading intercessions, and key factors in leading worship.

*Cost: £20 Duration: 4 evenings over 4 weeks When: March each year*

## BIBLE TEACHERS AND CATECHISTS

This significant new ministry role is open to adults of any age who have a passion and commitment to teach and instruct (catechise) others in the Christian faith. They are commissioned to teach and instruct at Sunday services, mid-week gatherings, home groups and other ministries in their parishes. The training course is 15 weeks long and covers basics in Anglican doctrine, biblical leadership and groupwork skills and finishes with a preaching course and assignment. Potential candidates should have at least a 1-year course in biblical studies or demonstrate an engagement in bible study groups over a period of 2 years or more.

*Cost: £75 Duration: 15 evenings When: October to March each year*

## DIOCESAN READERS

Each year the diocese commissions several people between 20-70yrs in this significant role in assisting the ministry of the church. They are licensed by the bishop to preach, teach, lead worship and engage in pastoral work, not just in their own parish, but also (if they wish) in other churches throughout the diocese. They can also lead a church service when the minister is not there. As the role of a Reader in teaching and leading is significant, potential Readers are given training in biblical studies, theology, ministry and preaching over 18 months before they are commissioned. Candidates complete a Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice (CCTP) involving 6 residential study weekends and around 14 assignments. They also complete the Parish Reader Course (4 evenings) and Preaching Course (7 evenings). The cost for the whole course is a subsidised £1,400 but it is usual for sending churches to cover half or more of this.

*Cost: £1,400 Duration: 18 months When: Apply by mid-October annually*

## DIOCESAN EVANGELISTS

This exciting course is open to adults of any age who have a heart for reaching others with the Gospel. In the past 10 years 41 people have completed the course with many going into paid positions as evangelists, church planters and other ministry positions. The course includes training on different areas of evangelism and mission as well as theological study and a practice-based evangelist's portfolio. It runs over 2 years and is facilitated by New Wine in partnership with Down and Dromore diocese. On average the commitment needed is 8 to 10 hours a week split between studying/assignments and doing evangelism - usually as part of your church ministry. The cost for course is £1,320 but it is usual for a supporting church to cover a proportion of this.

*Cost: £1,320 Duration: 2 years When: Applications by early January annually*

## ORDINATION

Christians share a common calling as Christ's ambassadors to the world, however, you may also sense a persistent and strong call (or vocation) to ordained ministry. This call can come to you over many years or in a much shorter period, and usually involves much thought and prayer. A vocation for ordination is recognised firstly by the individual and secondly when the church at large acknowledges this calling in a person and their ability to undertake it.

If you think that God might be calling you to ordination, even if doubts persist, you should talk to close Christian family/friends and to your minister. They will help you discern if you should explore it further. Usually this will involve the following steps:

- *Attendance at the 'Exploring Ministry Group' that meets 4 evenings per year. There you will meet with the Diocesan Directors of Ordinands (DDOs) who will help guide candidates in the discernment process.*
- *With the approval of the DDOs and bishop, candidates can apply for the next step in October each year which is to complete the CCTP course (similar to the one undertaken by Diocesan Readers above).*
- *Once the CCTP is complete (or nearing completion) then candidates meet with the bishop before a final decision is made to attend a selection conference (for all C of I candidates) in March of each year.*
- *Candidates selected for ordination training begin at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) in September and can train for a Master's in Theology over 3 years in a full-time residential capacity or 4 years in a part-time, non-residential capacity.*

For those exploring ordination, the cost of the CCTP is subsidised to £700 and often the supporting parish will help cover this cost. There is no cost for the CITI study and a bursary is provided for residential students.



For more information on these training courses please contact [andrew@downanddromore.org](mailto:andrew@downanddromore.org) or scan this QR code for current application forms.



[downanddromore.org](http://downanddromore.org)

