

## A Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the  
Church is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your  
faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. Amen.

The Apostle Paul says the Church is like a  
body - to be healthy every part needs to be  
working.

*'If the whole body were an eye, where would  
the sense of hearing be? If the whole body  
were an ear, where would the sense of smell  
be? But in fact God has placed the parts in  
the body, every one of them, just as he  
wanted them to be. If they were all one part  
where would the body be? As it is, there are  
many parts but one body.'*

### Contact details:

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**And finally, if you have a question, do  
please get in touch!**

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# CHRISTIAN VOCATION

**In the Diocese of Gloucester**



**DEPARTMENT OF MISSION AND MINISTRY**

**We can grow as churches and individuals;**  
**in faith**  
**in understanding**  
**in being equipped for mission**

## Have I got a vocation?

The answer is yes!

Our entire lives are a celebration of what God has done and keeps doing for us. All the different parts of our lives become our Christian vocation - God calling to us individually; this is enormously important to understand. While there may be obvious blessings from special mission experiences, we need to remember that God is already at work in our everyday lives here and now.

## Our vocations are so all-encompassing!

All Christians are disciples with a calling to serve wherever we are. In our work, home, family and other relationships, and our local church and community. Vocation becomes an expression of our faith and the living out of God's purposes in our daily life and work.

Our challenge is to discern God's will for us, to learn about our unique vocation. As a Christian, our relationship with God helps us to recognise our vocation where we are now and where we feel God is nudging us.

## Discern with our help

The Diocesan Vocations Officer is the Revd Pauline Godfrey, who works closely with a group of Vocation Advisors and receives office support from Natasha Kent. This team wants to help and encourage you as you seek to be a better disciple and as you explore your Christian vocation - whether individually or as a church. This team is here to serve you.

What Pauline and the vocations advisers do is;

- facilitate one-to-one discussions; following a gentle process to explore personal calling to Christian ministry, lay or ordained
- through reflection and discernment help individuals to gain a deeper understanding of the ministry to which God may be calling them
- be on hand at local parish or deanery vocations events or initiatives
- resource clergy to support and encourage members of their congregation in exploring vocations.

Pauline has a specific remit to encourage vocations and is available to help parishes, deaneries or any group who want to put on an event with a vocations content. Both she and other members of the Mission and Ministry Department are available to speak at Deanery Synods, PCCs and other church meetings, and to preach by invitation.

## Conferences and Courses

### Local

### Exploring Vocations Day

We regularly arrange informal but structured opportunities for exploring vocations. During this day we encourage you to reflect upon your own personal journey of Christian discipleship and be introduced to some resources (e.g. speakers, Bible study, one-to-one conversations) to help you discern what the next stage of your journey might be. In order to do this we bring together guests from a variety of ministries, lay and ordained who will share their experiences and answer your questions.

## Young Vocations

In addition, if you are under 30 then there are regular Young Vocations Group meetings to support you. Our two Young Vocations Advisors are there to help you discern your next steps on this journey.

## National

There is a wide range of one day and weekend conferences offered by the Church of England, most theological colleges and other organisations such as CPAS. Many are listed on the 'Events' page of the Call Waiting site.

[www.callwaiting.org.uk/explore/events/](http://www.callwaiting.org.uk/explore/events/)

## Websites

The website for **Gloucester Diocese** has a brief section on Vocations. From the 'Home' page go to 'Ministry' then 'Vocations' You will find a list of suitable books to read and the contacts for some of the vocations groups who meet in the diocese.

[www.gloucester.anglican.org](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org)

The **Church of England** website has a Vocations section with an extensive reading list. From the 'Home' page click on 'Clergy & Office Holders' then go to 'Ministry.' You will also see information about Reader Ministry.

[www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/ministry.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/ministry.aspx)

'**Call Waiting**' is a website specifically aimed at young vocations to ordained ministry in the Church of England.

[www.callwaiting.org.uk/](http://www.callwaiting.org.uk/)