



EXPLORING A CALL TO YOUTH MINISTRY

WHAT DO YOUTH MINISTERS DO?

We minister with and among young people. Such ministry can take many forms, including parish, in schools, across a Mission and Ministry Unit, through a Deanery, or with a Christian organisation.

Youth ministry has traditionally focussed on Sunday mornings or evenings, with a strong emphasis on Christian formation in peer groups. However we are increasingly exploring other ways to engage with young people.

A youth minister might find themselves involved with mid-week groups, running youth clubs, going on residential trips, helping young people prepare for university or helping young people grow and develop their own gifts.

You may also find yourself leading and training volunteers to support your ministry.

We also play a big role in preparing young people for confirmation, and you will find that a great many Christians consider their youth minister to have been integral to their faith journey. Young people are not the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today.





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HOW DO I BECOME A YOUTH MINISTER?

God calls all sorts of people into this ministry and there's no single route. You will of course need a heart for young people. It's helpful to have some practical experience, and maybe some formal training or qualification.

Practical experience can be gained through volunteering in your own church or a local project, or through ministry experience schemes or internships which many parishes offer. Talking with serving ministers will also give you an idea of what's really involved.

The Area Youth Advisers often run courses which give some basic skills and background in this ministry, and many colleges offer training or formal qualifications in youth ministry.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

Find someone to talk to – it might be your church minister or your Area Youth Adviser. They will help you think about your gifts and skills, the areas in which you might need more experience or knowledge, and how you might start testing your call.

Pray about whether you're feeling called to voluntary or paid (full or part-time) youth ministry, both are equally available but paid may often involve changing your church.

Do some reading so that you have a wider perspective of the theology and good practice in this ministry. Your Area Youth Adviser will be able to recommend some relevant books or articles.

AREA YOUTH ADVISERS

Bradwell Area - Mark Tiddy - mtiddy@chelmsford.anglican.org

Barking Area - Emma Anderton - eanderton@chelmsford.anglican.org

Colchester Area - Dot Salmon - dsalmon@chelmsford.anglican.org

The content of this leaflet has been adapted from:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/whats-your-calling/called-ministry#na>