



press release
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CPAS calls on young leaders to explore vocation with new appointment

Mission agency CPAS has appointed a new vocations expert to help fulfil the charity's aim to encourage under-30s into ordained ministry.

Mark Norris, whose appointment is being announced ahead of Vocations Sunday (3 May), will join CPAS in early July as leadership development adviser with specific responsibility for vocations.

Mark, aged 41, is currently team vicar at Christ Church, Netherley, as well as working as assistant diocesan director of ordinands for the Diocese of Liverpool. He has also been a leader on Ventures holidays for the past 20 years and is in the final stages of the CPAS *Arrow Leadership Programme*.

The new CPAS vision includes inspiring 150 leaders under the age of 30 to offer themselves for ordination, including pioneer ministry.

The Rev Andrew Cowley, senior leadership development adviser at CPAS, said: 'Mark's appointment is a vital step in realising our vision to help people explore what God is calling them into.

'A key part of this vision is to inspire under-30s into ordained or pioneer ministry. Mark is well placed to do this, as he brings strong experience of church leadership at a relatively young age.

'This issue is a huge challenge for the Church, with the average age of those ordained rising to nearly 50 in recent years, and significant numbers of clergy due to retire in the next 10 years.

'However, there is a generation of young leaders who are equipped and able to rise to the challenge. There is a growing number of people involved in youth ministry, but very few are taking the step into ordained work. We want to help them see this as a positive and engaging opportunity.

'It is also an important step towards helping younger people into key positions in larger churches or at diocesan level. It is far from ideal that we currently have few people under 45 in these positions.

'We've been helping thousands of people explore their calling on *You and Ministry* conferences for more than 40 years, so CPAS has a strong heritage of vocations work.

'We now hope to build on that expertise and background, with a particular focus on ensuring that the Church has a fresh influx of younger leaders for the future.'

The latest *You and Ministry* conference takes place this weekend (24-26 April) in Redhill, Surrey. Each conference include a balance of input, activity and reflection, covering topics such as understanding vocation, selection, training, finance and lifestyle, as well as discussing ministry in the New Testament and the Church of England today.

Ends

For further information, or to arrange an interview with Andrew Cowley, please call Olly Du Croz on 01926 458443 or email oducroz@cpas.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

- **CPAS is an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with churches, mainly in the UK and Republic of Ireland. It enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.**
- **CPAS helps churches become more mission-focused by developing effective leaders at all levels: training, resourcing, empowering and inspiring men, women and young people who point others to Jesus.**
- **The CPAS vision includes inspiring 150 leaders under the age of 30 to offer themselves for ordination, including pioneer ministry.**
- **Further details and dates of You and Ministry conferences are available at www.cpas.org.uk**