



press release
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New CPAS guide to help church leaders foster vocations

A new guide has been produced by CPAS to help clergy foster vocations in people and encourage them to explore whether God is calling them to ordained ministry.

Exploring Call is a free guide for local church leaders written by the Rev Mark Norris, CPAS leadership development adviser for vocations.

Mark said: 'The *Exploring Call* guide provides advice and guidance to help clergy explore vocations with church members who approach them with a sense of a calling to ordination.

'Clergy have the real privilege of being the gatekeeper for those considering their vocation. There are incredible opportunities in helping them discover where God is leading them, as well as great dangers in discouraging someone from exploring their call.

'This is especially important for younger people, who sometimes have the experience of just being told to "go away and do something else" until they're older. Today, when only one per cent of full-time clergy in the Church of England are under 30, vicars have a great opportunity to help more young people realise their potential.

'I was ordained at 25, largely because my vicar took me seriously as a young teenager, actively encouraged me to explore my vocation, found simple ways to involve me in the ministry of the church and gave me the confidence to believe I had something to offer.

'We need to generate a more vocational culture in churches, developing lay leaders and recognising that all Christians are called by God. We also need to be more mission-focused to meet our primary call of making disciples and sharing the good news of Jesus.'

Mark is a former vicar and assistant diocesan director of ordinands in the Diocese of Liverpool, who joined Anglican evangelical mission agency CPAS last year.

Exploring Call can be downloaded from www.cpas.org.uk/fosteringvocations, along with other advice and resources. It opens with some guidance about good and bad first responses, as well as different ways of providing ongoing supporting for church members.

The guide includes a series of resources, featuring a biblical perspective on vocation, extracts from the Ordinal and an outline of the selection procedure, as well as a summary of the Ministry Division's selection criteria and some related questions to use. It also signposts leaders to a wealth of other resources, including books, courses and websites.

CPAS also recently launched the online tool, *Your S.H.A.P.E. for Ministry* at www.cpas.org.uk/shape – an exercise to help those who are exploring a call from God to

understand themselves more fully in the areas of spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences.

CPAS is committed to equipping churches for mission by developing more young leaders through the *Growing Leaders – Youth Edition* course, Ventures and Falcon Camps and encouraging people under 30 to offer themselves for ordination.

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For further information please contact Olly Du Croz at CPAS on 01926 458443 or oducroz@cpas.org.uk.

Notes to Editors:

CPAS (www.cpas.org.uk) is an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with churches, mainly in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. It enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.