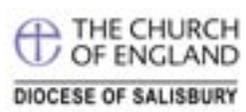
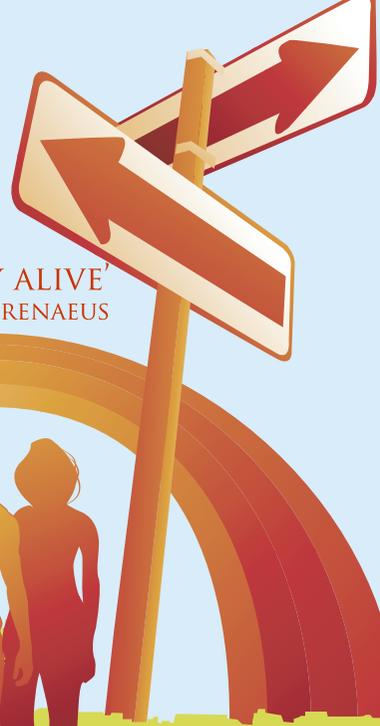




**GOD
IS CALLING**

'THE GLORY OF GOD IS
A HUMAN BEING FULLY ALIVE'
ST IRENAEUS



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**GOD
IS CALLING**

IS GOD CALLING YOU
TO BE A DEACON?

GOD IS CALLING

What is a deacon?

The Church of England recognizes three orders of ordained ministry; bishops, priests and deacons. Together with the whole people of God, they share in the ministry which Christ committed to those who follow him as disciples.

Deacons are called to service, to be ambassadors bearing a message of God's love in Christ and to be God's agents in the world attending to the needs of others. Through their ministry of service and proclamation they aim to make Christ and his redeeming love visible to the world.

They are a primary focus on the margins of church life, bringing care and compassion for the poor and oppressed, seeking social justice for all people and the good of the whole creation.

What do deacons do?

Deacons serve wherever they are needed, but they may have a particular focus in their ministry depending upon the needs of their local community and their own particular gifts.

Deacons help people to cross the threshold into church and at the end of services they send the congregation out into the world to serve Christ.

They welcome and help to prepare those seeking baptism and those preparing for marriage. They may also share in ministering to the recently bereaved.

Deacons have a particular responsibility to lead the Church in intercession for all God's people who are in need. Deacons preach when required and they distribute communion and minister to the sick and the housebound.

Could it be you?

A person considering a call to diaconal ministry will have leadership gifts that reflect a willingness to be a leader who assists rather than exercising a ministry of oversight.

They are people who are happy to work behind the scenes as well as being a public representative for the church, with the communication and pastoral skills to proclaim the gospel in word and deed.

Since deacons share in the leading of worship in church, particularly in the intercessions and assisting at the Eucharist, they need to have the sensitivity and presence to enable others to worship.

People who are recommended for training for ordination as a deacon normally train for three years on a non-residential basis. You will need to spend between 10 and 15 hours a week on your studies and practical ministry learning.

What can I do next?

Ask God in prayer ... how you may become all that God intends you to be and how best you may serve him.

Reflect on your gifts ... are you able to relate to people of different ages and social contexts? Are you someone who enjoys caring for God's people and taking God's message to them? Are you excited about a life of service both within and outside the Christian community?

Talk to your parish priest or chaplain ... who will be able to advise you and put you in touch with a Vocations Adviser.

Attend a Diocesan Vocations Day ... held regularly throughout the year. Details are available from your parish priest or from the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Team at the address or telephone number overleaf.

