



Where do I go from here?

If you believe God might be calling you to be a deacon, be prayerful. Talk it through with people you trust

Contact your parish priest for a discussion. Anyone candidating for any ministry needs the full support of their incumbent and PCC

For further information, see

<http://exeter.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/diocesan-deacons/>

and contact your Diocesan Vocations Officer:

hannah.alderson@exeter.anglican.org

See also the blog 'Deacon' at <https://deaconstories.wordpress.com/>

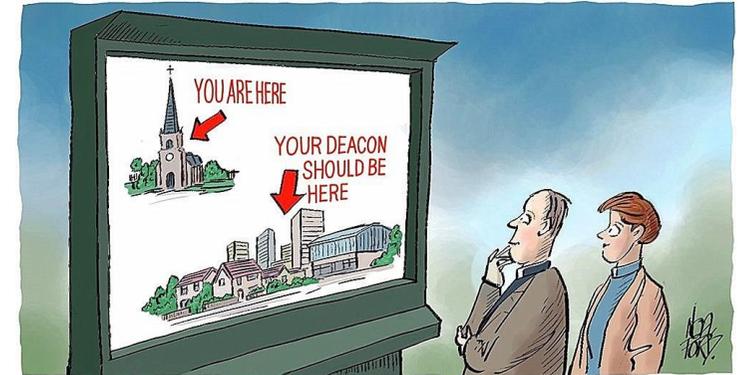
'Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.'

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism.'
(from the Liturgy for the Ordination of Deacons)



Pray - grow - serve with joy

Is God calling you to be A DEACON?



The Church of England recognises three orders of ordained ministry: bishop, priest and deacon. Those called to priesthood start as deacons before becoming priests. Others are called to *remain in the diaconate as deacons*. The diaconate exists as a ministry in its own right throughout the Church of England, and the Diocese of Exeter affirms this as the **diocesan diaconate** (also known as the 'distinctive' or 'vocational' diaconate).

The diaconate is an ancient ministry, with its roots in the New Testament, and is found in various church denominations. The Church of England diaconate is characterised by

- mission and service to the world, especially those who are on the fringes of society and the church
- a particular care for the vulnerable and those in need of justice
- bridge-building between the Christian faith and those who do not yet know God's love
- visionary and pioneering methods



Might I be a deacon?

Do you have

- a longing to be out and about in the community rather than based inside the church building?
- a heart and passion for sharing Christ with the needy and with those who do not yet know Him?
- a commitment to helping the church look outwards to their neighbourhood and to the world?
- an interest in peace or justice issues?
- a desire to focus mainly on opportunities for mission and service?
- a creative and/or practical approach?
- enjoyment in working collaboratively?
- the courage to take risks wisely?

If you recognise yourself in some of these, then God may be calling you to consider being a deacon.



But help ...

I'm not highly educated! Could I be a deacon?

If you're accepted for training your tutors will give you all the help you need.

What about practical training?

All part of the course. You'll do a placement which is tailored to your personal interests, gifts and skills.

So what do deacons do?

Meet Deacon Rita

Bullworthy from the Whiddon Mission Community:



'I love being "out there" with the people - meeting them where they are and not where we want them to be! The productions we have put on (in church) have brought together the church and community and revealed many gifts. My ministry as a Diocesan Deacon enables me to "get outside the box" and build bridges.'



Deacon David Watson from Our Lady of Glastonbury Parish in Plymouth is a Night Warden at a hostel for the homeless run by the Plymouth Mental Health and Accommodation service. He is also a chaplain at Torbay Hospital.

'It is a great privilege to take the good news of the Gospel which I read each Sunday, and live it out in my work place with the homeless, at the hospital bed and in the supermarket. As St Francis said "Go and preach the Gospel: use words if you have to". Today more than ever the world needs the ministry of a Deacon

For more stories of deacons and their work, see <http://www.dace.org/>