

Could it be you?

Are you someone who is:

Rooted in your community?

Visible in your church and faith?

Fruitful in encouraging faith in others?

Maybe you would like to consider if God is calling you to Focal Ministry. Whether you are a licensed minister or not, this might be something to explore. Take some time to reflect and pray and maybe consider the following questions:

- What does your heart say?
- What does your head say?
- What does your spirit say?
- What do others say?

If you would like to explore these questions further, turn to the back of this leaflet for your next steps.



Next Steps

If you feel God might be calling you to Focal Ministry or you recognise yourself in the description of a Focal Minister, then get in touch for a conversation:

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Discipleship and Vocations Enabler

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You will also find a more information at **leicester.anglican.org/focal-ministry**, including examples of how a discernment process for Focal Ministry might progress.



Identifying and equipping natural spiritual leaders in the local church



Introduction

Focal Ministers are those who offer spiritual leadership to a local church or benefice. Within the Diocese of Leicester, we have been noticing that there are a number of people who are already fulfilling this role, and we want to recognise, equip and support them alongside encouraging others who may feel called to this ministry.

Some Focal Ministers will be existing licensed lay or ordained ministers, but others will not be and we will be developing appropriate pathways to enable them to grow in this role.

Focal Ministry in Action

The role of each Focal Minister will look different depending on their particular gifts and calling and the context in which they serve. However, some common characteristics may be:

Rooted – those who are rooted in God and rooted in their local church and community

Visible – those who enable the church to engage with its neighbours and in loving service to the world

Fruitful – those who encourage others to grow in faith and to live out that faith in their daily lives

Focal Ministers may be involved in leading worship, discipleship, encouraging the church in mission and offering pastoral care whilst being attentive to their own journey of faith. Essentially, Focal Ministers love God, love others and love their communities.

The Process

The appointment of a Focal Minister will begin with a nomination by the PCC of the relevant church. The discernment process will be in collaboration with the designated incumbent of the parish and Minister Community ministry team. The process is guided by the diocesan Safer Recruitment requirements.

Focal Ministers are authorised for three years and the specifics of their role will be outlined in a Ministry Plan which will include:

- The scope of the role
- Any training needs
- Support and supervision provided

Focal Ministers will be able to access The Guide, an online resource for equipping Focal Ministers, and be part of a local pastoral support group.

