



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Youth Ministers

Use your gifts to serve God and others in the name of Christ





Youth Ministers are a new Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) in our Diocese who will lead and work as part of teams working with 11-18+ year olds in our Diocese - to develop those young people personally, socially and spiritually. Youth Ministers will encourage their churches to:

- Be inclusive - working with young people as they are now.
- Provide space for them to ask to ask questions about faith, life and everything in-between.
- Offer involvement and leadership opportunities in the church looking to grow young people in numbers, depth and influence.
- Strive for equality throughout our whole Church family.
- Create opportunities for young people to grow their faith and share their faith.


Growing in God

What are Youth Ministers?

Youth Ministers are those people who can see not just the future potential in young people, but the God given advantages and skills that young people have now. Youth Ministers want to help young people see and investigate their own qualities in light of their relationship with God for themselves and in community with the wider church family.

What does being a Licensed Youth Minister give you?

- Affirmation of God's call by the wider church.
- Tailored practical and theoretical youthwork training and on-going support for your ministry.
- Accountability for your vocation from your local church and from a wider network of youth ministers.
- A learning community of others doing the same thing, including the local youth workers' forum.
- Links to events, training and experts from within and outside our diocese and denomination.

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"Youth ministry is not simply about getting things accomplished – only the act of God can bring about the transformation we seek. Youth ministry is about participating deeply in young peoples' lives as we await together, in suffering and joy the coming of God in our lives."

Andrew Root Associate Professor of Youth & Families Ministry
& Youth Work Author

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Are you called to be a Licensed Youth Minister?

Maybe God is inviting you to join him in a missional adventure to young people in your community?

Can you relate well to young people?

Traditionally 'Young People' has referred to those between the ages of 11 and 18 but increasing this also includes those who are 18+ and into their early 20's. When others are afraid or unfeeling toward young people, youth ministers often feel a sense of empathy. They are able to hold a conversation with a young person and are willing to step up and start that conversation. They are an advocate for young people speaking up for them in settings that may inadvertently forget them.

Do you have a desire for young people to know God better?

Youth ministers know that our identity is best found in God and they want young people to find who they are through their relationship with Him and the wider church family. This may happen at many different levels, in different ways and at different times.

Are you willing to meet young people where they are?

Youth Ministers tend to realise that waiting for young people to come into church or ask for help is unlikely to be fruitful. Rather, they are prepared to go the extra mile in supporting young people where they are (physically, emotionally or spiritually) and in their way, even if it seems uncomfortable to many others.

Discernment for Licensed Youth Ministers

It is likely that you will already be faithfully involved in some form of youth work/ministry; be that in a full-time capacity or serving on a consistent regular volunteer basis - this could be at a church, school or in your local community.

Discernment for licencing starts with an informal initial conversation with your Incumbent and your PCC.

You will also have a one-to-one discernment meeting with the Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer and a discernment meeting with one of the Bishops.

Potential youth ministers will need a DBS check and need to complete a Safeguarding training course, in line with Diocesan Policy on Safeguarding.



Training to be a Youth Minister

YouthWork Essentials is a new course for those interested in working with young people. It has been designed for those starting out in Christian youth work. Giving confidence and skills in youth ministry.

Our Diocese is licenced and registered to run this training course
More details are available here: www.youthscape.co.uk/yse.

The course is 10 weeks long and our team can run this from a central venue or we can come to you if you have a few volunteers willing to commit. We can also tailor our training to best suit your team.

Regular opportunities will be provided to reflect with other youth ministers in your area and you will benefit from regular one to one meetings with the Diocesan Youth and Young People Officer to develop and encourage your ongoing work and formation as a youth minister.

You will be encouraged to develop peer support, on-going reflection, fellowship and worship. On occasions you would be encouraged to support the promotion of wider youth events in the Diocese.

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My job is to love, encourage, shape, challenge, disciple and care for young people - both inside and outside the Church Youth work is a great job, I love it! At times it's hard but I'd recommend youthwork to anyone who enjoys being with young people and wants to help them become the best version of themselves that they can be.

Our United Youth Café is a great place to chill out relax and unwind after school, in a place where we recognise that no one is perfect and everyone is welcome.

I love young people for their energy, fresh perspective and their desire to take a few risks to see our Church become a 'flourishing congregation making a difference in the community where we live.' Helping us as a Church to grow, by growing younger.

Matt Cornwell, Youth Worker, St. Augustine's' Church, Ipswich

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For more information

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OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
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