

God calls people

through:

- inner promptings
- frustration and anger
- challenge
- questioning
- invitation
- another person
- a need
- a desire
- a longing to proclaim the faith within you
- a leaflet like this

God calls people to be Local Preachers

Local Preachers are members of the church who have been accredited to lead worship and preach.

- Worship is our response to God
- Preaching is proclaiming the Kingdom of God and relating it to daily life
- Local Preachers bring an understanding of the workaday world and a working knowledge of scripture and theology
- Local Preachers seek to relate the gospel and everyday life

Is God calling me?

God reaches out to all people in love and invites us to respond as disciples of Jesus. For some, part of being a disciple is to become a person who leads worship and preaches.

To answer the question 'Is God calling me?' you and people in the circuit who have become Local Preachers consider the possibility prayerfully and explore the call through sharing in the leading of worship and (eventually) preaching.

It is possible that this exploration leads to a realisation that the call is to a ministry other than being a Local Preacher. That is fine! There are many ways to serve God.

Training

Local Preacher training helps you develop:

- your faith, your spirituality
- your knowledge and understanding
- your skills in leading worship and preaching

Local Preacher training:

- is part-time
- is a mix of study and practical experience
- is supported by a local tutor and a mentor
- involves studying at home and attending tutorials
- involves gaining experience in leading worship and preaching with the help of a mentor
- is assessed

You do not have to be bookish to study. The training programme will include:

- guided Bible study
- encouragement to think for yourself
- opportunity to grow in faith
- reflection on your own experience
- reflection on other people's experiences now and in the past

You do not have to be someone who loves the limelight to become a preacher. It may even help if you don't! Some preachers are still surprised that they have been called to this ministry. They are amazed at how God has equipped them to do it!

What to do next

If, after prayerful thought, you feel you want to find out more:

- Talk about your sense of call with a Local Preacher or a Minister.
- Accept that many people have hesitations and doubts about taking a step like this.

You may need support, encouragement, financial help in order to become a Local Preacher. Your Circuit is likely to be able to help you in these ways. For example, it will pay for training materials.

‘You must be joking!’

‘Really?’

‘You take my breath away!’

‘I didn’t have the courage...’

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consider becoming
a Local Preacher