

Diocese of Birmingham Readers' Association



***NEXT***

**A Scheme of further training  
to follow Licensing as a Reader**

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**'Still let me guard the holy fire  
and still stir up the gift in me'**

## Diocese of Birmingham - *Next*

### What is *Next* ?

***Next* is a programme of further training designed to equip you in the period immediately following your licensing as a Reader.**

At your licensing God in Christ entrusts you with a new share in the holy fire of the Gospel. We pray for you that by the Holy Spirit, God will continue to equip you with gifts for a new share in guarding and using this fire for his service.

**Like all fires this fire needs fuel - not once, or occasionally, but continually.**

***Next* will provide you with fuel in the period immediately after your licensing.**

Your initial training for Reader ministry was designed to establish in you 'skills of study, perception and reflection which you will continue to develop in the years ahead'.

***Next* is designed to help in that ongoing development.**

**All newly licensed Readers in the Birmingham diocese will be required to undertake the *Next* scheme of further training.**

## Diocese of Birmingham – Readers' Association

### What are the aims of *Next* ?

#### *Next* aims to support you...

- ❖ in maintaining the fire of your enthusiasm for Christian ministry
- ❖ in developing your skills as a Reader
- ❖ in collaborating with your incumbent and leaders in your parish
- ❖ in serving the parish and diocese effectively

#### The *Next* scheme will...

- ❖ set out 4 units of training together with guidance in using them
- ❖ make you aware of what opportunities and resources are available
- ❖ put you increasingly at ease in using these opportunities and resources
- ❖ encourage you to maintain your enthusiasm
- ❖ strengthen your knowledge and understanding
- ❖ stimulate you to go further
- ❖ provide continuing fellowship

You will find details of the scheme on the following pages.

## Diocese of Birmingham - *Next*

### *Next* : how does the scheme work?

*Next* has four units :

1. Team Building for parish ministry
2. Ministry in another parish
3. Readers' regular training events
4. Theological training

You should plan to cover Units 1 and 2 within 12 months of your licensing. Units 3 and 4 can be extended into a second year if the event or course you have chosen requires it.

#### **UNIT 1 : TEAM BUILDING FOR PARISH MINISTRY**

As a Reader you will be an integral part of the pattern of ministry in your parish. You will minister in collaboration with your incumbent and any others in the parish team. You will probably meet with them from time to time.

This unit requires you and the rest of the team to share one training evening with other new Readers and their colleagues. There will be a choice of dates for this.

#### **UNIT 2 : MINISTRY IN ANOTHER PARISH**

Readers are also expected to undertake duties in other parishes. This unit requires you to preach one sermon or lead one service in a parish other than your own.

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### UNIT 3 : READERS' REGULAR TRAINING EVENTS

(called CME – Continuing Ministerial Education)

Each year four training events are offered to all Readers in the diocese. Two of these are on Saturdays, and one is a morning shared with curates in their post-ordination training. The fourth is a funeral training day in June. This unit requires you to attend at least one of these events. (You are welcome at them all.)

### UNIT 4 : THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Growth in theological thinking and study is vital and valuable for the preaching and teaching ministry of Readers. There is a wide range of opportunities available. This unit requires you to choose one which suits your present circumstances. You may choose from this list :

- ❖ *A Growing Gifts Study Day* organised by the Board for Ministries. There is one each year with a choice of dates.
- ❖ A biblical studies course or a theology course in the '*Introduction to Theology*' programme. These are 10-week courses, with different topics each term.
- ❖ Seminar groups with EFM (Education for Ministry).
- ❖ Distance learning in biblical studies or theology via St. John's Extension Studies, Nottingham. St John's offers a range of workbooks, study weeks and study units.
- ❖ Distance learning through the Church Colleges which offer a range of workbooks for individual or group study.
- ❖ If none of these seems suitable you will be offered guidance in selecting some other publicly offered course in biblical studies or theology as agreed in discussion with The Revd David Warbrick, or an independent plan for biblical or theological study with an approved tutor and agreed by Liz Howlett

## Diocese of Birmingham - *Next*

### How is *Next* organised ?

#### *Next* combines:

- ❖ Diocesan requirements for your training
- ❖ Adaptability to your needs and wishes
- ❖ Pastoral and educational guidance

### Making your plans for *Next*

Before you are licensed there will be information and guidance to help you start planning.

### How long does *Next* last ?

Up to 18 months. You are encouraged to cover Units 1 and 2 within the first year after your licensing. Units 3 and 4 can be extended into a second year if the event or course requires it.

### How much does *Next* cost ?

There will be no cost to you for Units 1, 2 and 3.

Travel expenses should be covered by your parish.

Some funds are available for help with the fees for Unit 4, up to a total of £60 for each Reader.

### Other opportunities for reading and study ?

*Next* need not prevent you from taking other opportunities for reading or study. It will be helpful for these to be taken into consideration when planning Unit 4.

## Diocese of Birmingham – Readers' Association

### What resources are there to help me ?

- ❖ **Advice, guidance and information** will be available from The Revd David Warbrick in consultation with Liz Howlett as Adviser for Lay Adult Education and Training.
- ❖ **Help with planning** In December you will receive fuller details of the units. In January there will be a meeting to help you draw up your plan.
- ❖ **Supervision** The Readers' Association expects that you will have some supervising help from your incumbent. In addition David Warbrick is there to support and encourage you.
- ❖ **Access to books** Some of the books required will be found in public libraries and the diocesan Resources Library. You may also find it useful to apply for permission to use the Library at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham.

### How is *Next* assessed ?

You will be asked to keep records of your work on the 4 units of the scheme and to keep David Warbrick informed of your progress.

At the end of 18 months after Licensing you will meet with your incumbent to review your work in the *Next* scheme, to identify what you have gained, and to discuss how this might help you to take decisions about your further steps in ministry and continuing training.

## Diocese of Birmingham - *Next*

### Who do I contact ?

The co-ordinator of the scheme is The Revd David Warbrick. He will meet you in December when you meet the officers of the Readers' Association, and he will arrange to meet you in January soon after your Licensing, to discuss your plans for *Next*.

For all your enquiries about the scheme please contact David Warbrick in the first instance :

The Vicarage, Nuthurst Lane, Hockley Heath, Solihull, B94 5RP

☎ 01564 783121

Email: [qd@dwarbrick.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:qd@dwarbrick.fsnet.co.uk)

David Warbrick is working closely with Liz Howlett. The scheme is organised via the Board for Ministries on behalf of the Readers' Association.



### TAKING THE *NEXT* STEP

Your parish will welcome the ministry you offer as a Reader. So will the Readers' Association and the whole diocese. We look forward with you to what lies ahead for you and for those with whom and among whom you will serve.

**The *Next* scheme**  
**is an encouragement to keep the inner fire**  
**burning at all times so that the ministry of the Gospel**  
**will always be bright and warming.**

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and still stir up the gift in me'