DARE TO STEP OUT?
Exploring your vocation to ministry as an evangelist with Church Army
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Church Army is a registered charity in England and Wales, no. 226226 and in Scotland SC040457.
Church Army commissioned evangelists serve as licenced lay ministers in the Anglican Church across the British Isles and Ireland and are subject to the rules and authority of the church and the local bishop.
Welcome

For over 135 years Church Army evangelists have shared the gospel with those on the margins of society; helping to communicate God’s love in word and action with those who would rarely step inside the doors of a church building. Today we stand on that proud heritage and are a mission community of men and women who work across these islands to make Jesus known, and help people know that their lives matter to God. Whether it is serving the homeless, planting a church, working with those battling addictions, explaining the Christian faith to someone who has never been inside a church building, working in schools, or making a difference on a housing estate, Church Army evangelists are living and breathing God’s love in creative and pioneering ways.

We hope that this booklet will inspire you as you discern whether God might be calling you to join us. Our Selection process has been designed to help us together discern if God is calling you to be a Church Army evangelist, and our training will develop and deepen your understanding of pioneering evangelism and Church Army’s DNA. We train all our evangelists in context, and you will find the mix of learning, practice and faith will be the rich soil that will help your evangelism gifts to grow.

So if you love God, love people and want to see more people love God, then come join us!
Do you have a passion to bring people to a living faith in Jesus Christ?

Are you committed to building community and sharing the Christian faith through words and action in a variety of contexts?

Do you feel called to be part of a community of commissioned evangelists who are transforming lives and neighbourhoods?
Introduction

If you can answer “yes” to the questions opposite then your calling as an evangelist may lead you to join with others in mission and ministry within Church Army.

In this booklet we will outline what it means to be a Church Army commissioned evangelist and what happens as part of your discernment of God’s call. We hope that the process will enable you to see where God is calling you.

Candidates whose vocation is to train as a commissioned evangelist must be baptised and confirmed Anglicans and join the community at the start of their training. Upon commissioning at the end of formal training the evangelist will be admitted into the Office of Evangelist within the Church of England (which is also recognised by the other Anglican Provinces). This is the only nationally licenced pathway for lay evangelists and will give you excellent recognition and credibility as you continue your ministry.

If the commissioned pathway is not for you, take a look at our training and learning opportunities on page 18.

Who we are

Church Army was founded in 1882 by a Church of England clergyman to train ordinary men and women to share their faith. Today we are a mission community of evangelists authorised by the Anglican Church, people with a passion for evangelism who are transforming lives and neighbourhoods throughout the British Isles and Ireland.

We are bold, seen as trailblazers. We don’t stand still. We take risks to remain progressive. We are also down to earth, with real people on the ground, engaging in real life situations.

Any Christian with a passion for evangelism can join the Mission Community. After a journey of discovery with us which explores what it means to belong, promises are made and the new member is welcomed at a Church Army gathering.
Our strategy to achieve our vision is based on Doing, Advocating, Resourcing and Enabling Evangelism across the churches of the British Isles and Ireland.

**Doing**
Bringing people to a living faith in Jesus Christ throughout these islands is at the heart of Church Army.

**Advocating**
We are passionate about encouraging the wider Church to become more actively involved in evangelism.

**Resourcing**
We train people and put the right tools in their hands so that they are resourced to do what God has called them to do.

**Enabling**
We enable people to do evangelism in their own context by creating opportunities for them to join in with what God is already doing.

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**Our Vision**

For everyone everywhere to encounter God’s love, and be empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in words and action.

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**DARE strategy**

Our strategy to achieve our vision is based on Doing, Advocating, Resourcing and Enabling Evangelism across the churches of the British Isles and Ireland.
Our Values

Everything we do is underpinned by our values.

**Generous**
God is generous and we want to model that generosity to others.

**Accountable**
We are accountable to God and others, living reliably and responsibly to high professional standards.

**Unconditional**
God loves everyone and everyone is significant in his eyes; we will serve anyone regardless of their age, gender, race, sexuality, ability, status or circumstances.

**Risk Taking**
We have a long heritage as a pioneering movement, prepared to take risks and give colleagues permission to succeed or fail as they seek to do new things.

**Collaborative**
We are committed to partnership with those who share our values; we believe it enhances our work.

**Prayerful**
Listening to God, being obedient to God, we want to be like Jesus in our life and witness.

**Expectant**
We are hopeful, expecting God to do new things amongst us.
Church Army commissioned evangelists come from all walks of life and the range of traditions within the Anglican church. What they share is a passion for evangelism and a desire to see communities and lives transformed by the love of Jesus.

When helping potential candidates discern God’s call to ministry with us, we explore three key factors:

• personal commitment to ongoing discipleship
• how your personal vocation fits with Church Army’s vocation
• vocation to be a leader in a pioneering situation.

Your experience in each of these will be explored.

We are also interested to see how the areas of focus in our training programme fit with, and could enable the candidate’s sense of calling.

The seven areas of focus are:

• The Christian faith
• Mission and evangelism
• Mission and evangelism in a pioneer context
• Creating and sustaining Christian community
• Contemporary culture and context
• Leadership and collaboration
• Church Army.
... go and make disciples of all nations ...

Matthew 28:19 NIV
Four stages in the vocational discernment journey

Our discernment process is carefully designed to enable you to explore your calling and to discern whether Church Army is the right home for you. This is an ongoing process of assessment and we will work alongside you and your family as you seek God’s will for your future. During the process, we will ask for the guidance and wisdom of others within your local church community, from the wider church and from other Church Army evangelists. You will be expected to complete a variety of tasks and may be interviewed in your home.

1 Exploring together

This involves initial conversations about you and your sense of calling.

Church Army will inform your Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) that you are exploring ministry at this point so that local procedures can be included.

We will arrange for you to meet with a local Church Army vocations team member.

We will invite you to attend a Church Army Discovery Day event.

2 Profiling you

This involves compiling a candidate profile to build a picture of your evangelism, calling, experience, training and life.

We will request and consider references and reports.

We support you and journey with you towards a potential discernment residential.
There are four stages in the vocational discernment journey. Progress is by recommendation only and alternatives are explored when necessary. The process can typically take about 18-24 months before training would commence. From our experience, we have found it more harmful to be hasty in the discernment of a call to ministry and therefore we are in no rush – your wellbeing and those who support you are important.

3 January discernment residential
This involves exploring with you, your calling as an evangelist.

Afterwards:
We may send you on a placement to visit a Church Army project.

You will be asked to complete a written activity.

You will be asked to complete psychological and psychometric assessments.

4 May discernment residential
This involves reviewing your journey so far. We will reflect on your personal faith development; how your vocation fits with Church Army, and your vocation to be a leader in pioneering situations.

Together we will discern if training as a Church Army evangelist is the way forward.
Training as a commissioned evangelist

Church Army training prepares you for a range of roles. These can be Church Army funded posts, paid mission jobs in a diocese or other agency, or self-supporting ministry. Church Army does not place evangelists in roles, but equips and supports them as they discern their way forward.

- **Practical Mission**: Training has a particular emphasis on contextual mission, therefore all evangelists-in-training are earthed in practical mission in their home context. Training helps them engage with their mission context in new and deeper ways. Practical mission can account for anything from 3 hours per week.

- **Training residential s** take place at Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield. Each residential runs over three days, with accommodation provided. Being part of a prayerful Christian community of like-minded practitioners is the key which underpins all aspects of training, so times of prayer and eating together are high priority. Teaching sessions use a variety of adult learning styles, and are varied and interactive. Each residential includes Soul Space, a time to think about prayer and worship to sustain ministry. There is also a visit from a Church Army evangelist to share experience and help evangelists-in-training get to know the breadth of Church Army ministry. Evangelists-in-training are required to attend all residentials, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

- **Reflector**: Each evangelist-in-training is linked with a Reflector who is a commissioned Church Army evangelist. Meetings happen once or twice a term to talk through growth and personal development. These sessions focus on personal faith development, vocation as a Church Army evangelist, and pioneer evangelism.

- **Costs**: Church Army meets all training costs (course fees and residential costs - food, accommodation, and travel to and from residentials). It is the evangelist-in-training’s responsibility to provide other living costs.

- **Fundraising**: All members of Church Army are encouraged to raise money to support Church Army.
• **Award:** The learning community is rich and diverse, encompassing a range of church traditions. On completion of the training, evangelists-in-training will be awarded with a Church Army Commission and Admitted to the Office of Evangelist. This training can also be accredited by Durham University, and Church Army takes into account previous experience and learning when recommending courses of study.

• **Training Committee:** This takes place towards the end of each year and is an opportunity to review how training is progressing and identify needs. The Training Committee make recommendations for the evangelist-in-training to develop in the coming months. A yearly report is sent to the evangelist-in-training’s diocesan bishop. In the final year, the Training Committee advises the Chief Executive on suitability and readiness for a commission and bishop’s licence.
FAQs and the legal bits...

Age?
You need to be at least 18 years of age.

Do I need to be an Anglican?
You will need to be baptised, confirmed and a regular communicant member of the Anglican Church.

What about my residential status and nationality?
You need to be a legal resident of the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

What if I have served a custodial sentence?
If you have served a custodial sentence you will need to have completed several years of productive rehabilitation.

Relationship status?
If married or engaged, then your partner will need to be supportive of your sense of call. If single, you will need to be celibate.

If divorced, you will need to have worked through all the implications of this.

Finances?
You will need to have settled all major financial commitments and be free of unreasonable levels of debt.

Church Army cover the cost of your training. You will need to cover your living expenses.

Do I need to move?
During training you stay in your home context and will not be asked to relocate.
“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

*Isaiah 6:8 NIV*
What people say about our training

For me it’s a safe space to develop as an evangelist and bounce ideas off like-minded people.  

_Evangelist-in-training_

Training residential 
are full of laughter and support, sharing ideas and experiences, and supporting one another.  

_Evangelist-in-training_

You will be surprised at what you can achieve!  

With no previous academic qualifications, I have been impressed by the style of the training. It is interesting, varied and designed to engage and support people with all levels of academic ability.  

_Evangelist-in-training_

Working as I do in a diocese that has benefitted hugely over the years - and continues to be greatly enriched - by the ministry of Church Army evangelists, I would encourage anybody who wishes their discipleship to make a real difference to the lives of others, to think of exploring the possibilities of training with Church Army. Church Army makes a tremendous contribution to the mission of the church in so many different ways and you can be part of this.  

_The Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Clarke_
Commissioned pathway not for you?
Other training opportunities with Church Army:

**Xplore** is a fantastic year of equipping in mission and evangelism for 18-30 year olds that some people take part in while discerning God’s call. Unlike traditional ‘gap years’ you stay where you are and Xplore runs alongside the rest of your life, whether that be university, work, training, interning or home life.

We are passionate about releasing young adults to be the evangelists that God created them to be, and across the year we consider many different methods for and approaches to mission, evangelism and church planting.

For more information see www.xplore.org.uk

**Other Initiatives in Training**

Church Army has a proud history of training Christians to reach those most in need with the message of God’s love. **Stepping into Evangelism** and **Faith Pictures** have enabled ordinary Christians to share the gospel and their own faith story with others.

We continue to develop resources for different contexts and needs across the Church, including **Why on Earth...?**, a discussion-based course for people from an urban context that uses short animated videos to kick off lively conversation, and **EQUIP**, a series of webinars that offer practical help and support to ordinary Christians involved in pioneering and leadership roles.

We work in partnership with other groups and organisations to identify where training is needed and produce quality multimedia resources to address these needs.
Next steps ...

Do you have a passion to bring people to a living faith in Jesus Christ?

Are you committed to building community and sharing the Christian faith through words and action in a variety of contexts?

Do you feel called to be part of a community of commissioned evangelists who are transforming lives and neighbourhoods?

If so, please get in touch to find out what to do next to begin your journey of discernment with Church Army.

Contact the Vocations Team by email vocations@churcharmy.org or by phone 0300 123 2113.

To continue to find out more about Church Army visit our website churcharmy.org