



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Recognised Local Leader

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





What is a Recognised Local Leader?

This role is to enable a local church or congregation to flourish. Someone in a this role would be the first point of contact for the church, and also for the wider community, connecting and communicating between the two. Their task is to enable both the worshipping community, supporting the people of God in that place, as well as enabling mission to the wider community.

A Recognised Local Leader is someone called to be the first point of contact for the Christian community in that place/network. They will be someone who knows (and is committed to) the local context, in good standing with the wider community. They will be able to gather the church members together and release them into their own ministries - they are not expected to do and be everything by themselves. They will be a committed people person who would be a positive leader, enabling all within the church community to grow in faith and service, and helping new people to belong and participate in the church's life.

At the heart of the vision is a desire to ensure an active, long-term sustainable church presence in every community.

**Growing in God**



“*Recognised Local Leaders will be the public face of the church in their community and they will be key to the building up of the local church and its outreach, particularly through enabling and encouraging others.*”
Bishop Martin

How does it work?

Someone who holds this role serves their local church or Christian community under the guidance and authority of the Incumbent. They are normally part of a Benefice Ministry Team, working collaboratively alongside others in existing recognised ministries.

They serve the members of the church, but also see beyond those who are already members to the wider community and its needs. And they are loyal and committed to the wider benefice as well as to the local community they serve.

This model could be applied in different contexts in different ways. For example:

- A rural multi-parish benefice could have someone in this role for each of its parish churches and fresh expressions of church.
- A market town parish could have someone in this role for each of its village churches, as well as for a congregation which meets in a local school.
- A town church could have people in this role for different congregations, as well as for its church plants and fresh expressions of church.
- A dispersed community or network could have someone in this role too, for example, a Police Chaplain enabling regular workplace gatherings for worship and witness could be recognised and commissioned in this role.

The role will be typically held for five years.

What do they do?

The person in this role oversees a local church or congregation, supporting the life of the people of God through enabling and releasing others in worship and prayer, mission and community engagement, witness and evangelism, pastoral care and teaching, and nurture and discipleship. The person will act as a contact point for the members of the church.

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One of my churches has had a small traditional congregation for many years. The challenge for me as an incumbent has been how I can support and encourage them with so many other churches to oversee as well. I asked my 2nd year curate to take on the Recognised Local Leader Role for the church which she has been doing for the last six months.

Her appointment immediately lifted the spirits of the PCC, and a few new people started to come to worship and engage with the life of the church.

On Easter Sunday, under her leadership, the congregation took a pot of flowers to people in the village who had even a vague connection with the church – the response was really positive.

A working party in the churchyard recently included many from the local community who do not generally come to church.

There seems to be real progress with one person leading the church.
The Revd Canon Susan Loxton

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Who can take up this role?

You could be:

- A licenced lay minister such as a Reader or Elder wanting to focus on community engagement
- A retired priest with a heart for supporting local communities
- An ordained minister (stipendiary or self-supporting) whose ministry is primarily focused on a local Christian Community.

The person commissioned to this role will be:

- A member of the local church, committed to its worshipping life
- A person of prayer, seeking to discern God's will for that place with others
- A person of faith, who wants to see the church community grow and flourish
- A people person who has good standing with the wider community
- A disciple maker, seeking to offer different pathways for people of all ages to grow up in their faith
- A person of discernment, committed to drawing out the gifts of all the baptised members of the church
- A positive leader, able to draw people together to bring in the Kingdom of God.

Is there support for this role?

When considering whether taking on this role may be for you, how might you be supported?

- Your vocation and calling to this role will be tested and affirmed by your local church/congregation and incumbent in consultation with the Diocese.
- Your local church will pray for you and welcome your ministry
- You will be provided with tailored training and on-going support
- You will be part of a learning community of others with a similar calling, giving you a chance to reflect and learn as you develop the role.

Once commissioned you will be supported in developing a Ministry Training Plan to continue in life-long learning. This will help you identify develop reflective practice and engage with peers as well as receiving coaching and taught modules.

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Across a newly formed single parish with five churches serving town and villages, this role plays an important part of our thinking.

Having a person as a key contact in each church/community will give a local focus for worship, pastoral care and activities whilst at the same time connecting us together across the wider ministry team and parish.

The Revd Canon Rich Henderson

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How do I apply?

The appointment to this role is discerned by the Incumbent and PCC in consultation with the Diocese.

- Talk to your Incumbent who will consider if the local church is ready for this role.
- If the Incumbent and PCC are in favour, then complete the application form and send it in to Mission and Ministry.
- You will then need to complete a role description with the Incumbent.
- Your Safeguarding Training will need to be up to date, and you will need to have an up to date DBS check.

For more information

Please visit our website pages for
exploring your Christian calling -
www.cofesuffolk.org

If you would like to discuss anything
about this role, please contact:

The Revd Canon Sharron Coburn:
sharron.coburn@cofesuffolk.org



4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ
Charity number 248919