

Snippets of my journey along the Lay Ministry route...

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From being 'nudged' to attend an 'Arrival Day/It's Your Calling Day' some 7 years ago to a commissioned Evangelist in 2012 and a Licensed Lay Minister/Reader in 2016, the journey is challenging, far from static, yet riveting on hindsight! A journey of answering God's call & if I'm honest, God's 'shout out', taking into consideration one's shock horror and selective hearing/responding.

Preaching, leading services, facilitating bible study, training our parish's first cohort of children to be admitted to Holy Communion are some of the paths lay ministry has allowed me to venture along so far. Outside the church walls to name some are outreach, servant evangelism spurts & community engagement.

Being part of the **diocese's Vocations team** called to accompany others is another step I feel privileged to tread on. By nature I am intrigued by identifying and working with the uniqueness of everyone I come across. So I am excited by the prospect and impact of 'walking alongside people' help them see God's hand in all /hear His call [HE is calling alright!], encouraging others to (re)write their own story, with His help and being able to see His transformation in all, me included. Thankfully God, who it's all about, The One who calls us, equips and enables.

One ongoing success is that of **establishing & maintaining strong ecumenical links** in the fast-emerging area I live – Swanscombe, on the doorstep to Ebbsfleet. This includes a local interdenominational fellowship between: Christ Apostolic Church- Solution Centre, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Swanscombe Methodist Church & St Peter & St Paul Church (CoE), aka Swanscombe Churches Fellowship (SCF).

From approaching the then 3 other churches in the Town almost 5 years ago about a 'theology of unity' and 'unity in diversity' stance, the leaders now convene for a 1/4ly breakfast meeting which we take turns to host. We share news from our churches, exchange significant dates & plan ahead for more jointly-hosted events. It started off with a joint annual Christmas carols evening (now in this 5th year revamped to *Strictly Carols Evening*).



Over the years it has progressed to several joint ventures such as picnics, walk of witness on Good Friday, combined Lent study, supporting an international charity and in 2016, to a *Songs of Praise* - Easter and Autumn 'Parish Praise'. We are beginning to be identified as an entity, The Church in Swanscombe learning about each other's denomination and finding creative ways of working together as we progress and carry out God's mission in the community we are called to serve.

We are also members of the wider area church group, CTEb (*Churches Together in Ebbsfleet*).

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