



# DARE TO STEP OUT?

Exploring your vocation to ministry  
as an evangelist with Church Army

**CHURCH**ARMY  
**.ORG**

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Church Army is a registered charity in England & Wales 226226, Scotland SC040457 and Republic of Ireland 20152604. 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 around 140 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!



Ven. Dr. Peter Rouch  
Chief Executive Officer

**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.

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.



**WE ARE  
EVANGELISTIC  
CATALYSTS**



**WE ARE  
BOLD AND  
SEEN AS  
TRAILBLAZERS**

## Our Vision

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

## 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.



### 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.

## Our Values

Everything we do is underpinned by our values.



### Generous

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



### 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.



### Accountable

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



### Collaborative

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



### Expectant

We are hopeful, expecting God to do new things amongst us.



### 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.



### Prayerful

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

## Do you Dare?

Church Army commissioned evangelists come from all walks of life and the range of traditions within the Anglican church and other denominations. 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 exploration and we will work alongside you, 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.

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 up to 12 months before training would commence. During your three year training programme, you remain living and working in your current context. All training, residential and travel costs are covered by Church Army. Training is accredited by Durham University.

# 1

### Exploring with you

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

### Discovering more about 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.

# 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 a psychological assessment with a qualified counsellor, who will help us understand your capacity for ministry.

# 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.



## FAQs and the legal bits...

### Age?

You need to be at least 18 years of age.

### 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, it is not necessarily an obstacle to training with us.

### 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?

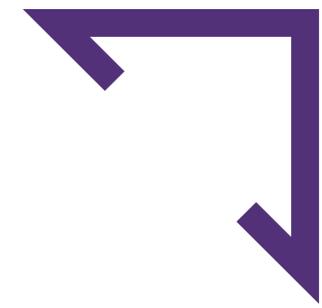
You will need to have settled all major financial commitments and be free of unreasonable levels of debt.

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.

However, throughout your training you are able to apply for Church Army vacancies across the United Kingdom and Ireland.



“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*

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*

The course is tailor made for studying whilst working as an evangelist.

*Evangelist-in-training*

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

*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:

Envoy is an innovative step-by-step coaching community developing your evangelism and effectiveness in living missionally.

*To find out more visit:*  
[www.churcharmy.org/envoy](http://www.churcharmy.org/envoy)



### Other Initiatives in Training



helps Christians to tell their own story in their own words, and helps them see how they are part of God's work in the world.



helps normal Christians to become leaders in local evangelism by helping them explore what evangelism is, and what that means for their local context.



gives Churches tools to explore outreach and evangelism to their local community, and how they can invite others to become part of their community.

*To find out more visit:*  
[www.churcharmy.org/resources](http://www.churcharmy.org/resources)

## Next steps ...

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](mailto:vocations@churcharmy.org) or by phone 0300 123 2113.

To continue to find out more about Church Army visit our website [www.churcharmy.org](http://www.churcharmy.org)

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