

D4 PREACHERS and OFFICIANTS

Preachers

Only clergy and readers who are licensed to preach or who have permission to officiate within this diocese may preach on a regular basis. The only exception to this rule is when someone may be invited to preach or give an address on a one-off basis such as Education Sunday or a similar occasion. If there is any doubt the incumbent of priest in charge should contact the archdeacon. No one may preach in a benefice or parish without the permission of the incumbent, or the rural dean if the parish or benefice is vacant.

It is appreciated if the diocesan bishop could be notified when a bishop from outside the diocese is invited to preach.

Officiants at Public Worship

Officiating at public worship is an important function and there should be careful consultation before anyone is put into that role. It is essential that anyone who is to lead worship should be properly prepared to do what is required and is acceptable to the congregation and parish. This will normally be clergy, readers or elders but a lay team may share in leading worship under the direction of the incumbent.

There are specific guidelines about who should conduct services such as Extended Communion see D8.

Lay Workers

A lay worker under Canon Law is someone admitted to an ecclesiastical office after satisfying the bishop that he has had "proper training" (Canon E7, para 1(b)).

Diocesan Synod has also agreed to certain lay ministries for which specific training is provided by the Diocesan Ministry Course. Currently the four ministries which may be authorised under this provision are evangelist, youth worker, children's worker and lay pastor.

Definitions

"Telling the story and expounding it in a 'sermon' can be done in many different and adventurous ways. Some are suggested in Motes 5 and 7, but there are many others." Common Worship p21. *"The term 'sermon' includes less formal exposition, the use of drama, interviews, discussion, audio-visuals and the insertion of hymns or other sections of the service between parts of the sermon. The sermon may come after one of the readings, or before or after the prayers."* Common Worship note 7 page 27