

## 2018 Annual Return Comments

### Section 5

#### 5A Chaplain's Blog

**41 Readers reported that sometimes they read the Blog**

**45 reported that they always read the Blog**

**4 reported that they never read (3 don't have computers**

**2 that they usually did**

**1 said not very often**

**1 said did not know there was one.**

Comments made by individual Readers:

always. This is an excellent thing. Jim's choice of materials and the way he presents them are always apt, and are helpful for understanding what is going on elsewhere in the diocese. And it gives me ideas.

**Never:** we have no computer or other equipment in our house so I cannot read 'Blogs'. Besides our monthly day as Chaplain in the Cathedral, we also keep in touch by letter, Exmas cards, phone calls and occasional visits to around 50 households of single/couples/families across UK and abroad, to whom we have been in leadership or teaching capacity or who are extended family, from past parishes where we have worked etc. and we are beginning to get quite a few new such relationships in Cornwall since retirement.

always: Jim is always a very interesting and timely read, he is doing a great service to all Readers.

always; it is always very interesting and gives food for thought

always. A really good way to keep people connected and always interesting with unusual stories and prayer resources.

always – and very excellent it is too. Thank you Jim

always – from my point of view a vital communication tool

always – I find them interesting and helpful

sometimes – I receive a lot of emails and would prefer to just have important information sent to me.

always - I tend to scan read each Blog

always – I enjoy the blog as well as thought provoking, it helps me to know a bit more about what is going on in the Diocese and so feel a bit more connected.

always. This is a very helpful way of keeping up to date with Reader ministry in Cornwall, albeit in a different context from mine. It can also be a source of inspiration, different approaches and all things spiritual. The challenges to my pattern of thought can be most illuminating.

Not very often. To be honest I feel that a Chaplain is in a way unnecessary in a caring ministry, but on the other hand a focus for prayer for members of our ministry certainly is. A monthly prayer list?

Always – I find the context very useful.

always: enjoy its wide ranging nature coupled with careful attention to 'home matters'

sometimes. I always look at it but only read it in full when time permits.

Always: I always enjoy Jim's blogs. He is not afraid to be provocative and challenging and he covers some interesting topics. A bit eccentric sometimes but I'm all for that.

sometimes. I always look at the headings, but rarely go further

sometimes – Good to have this – thanks Jim

sometimes: I forget to check my computer – my friends always ring and chat – like me – preferring it to email so I read it irregularly

always: encouraging and helpful

always – its informative and keeps us in touch and often makes me laugh

## **5B Most fulfilling aspect of Ministry**

Preaching and or Teaching remains an important part of Reader Ministry with 5 Readers saying that Preaching was the most important part and 7 that both preaching and teaching was.

Funeral Ministry is also important part of Ministry with 5 saying it was the most important and others as part of other aspects of their ministry.

**1** The opportunity to preach the Gospel. In my case, I believe my calling especially involves relating scripture to the everyday thought and practice of believers; encouraging believers to see the world and to think of everyday life in specifically Christian terms, even if (perhaps especially if) that means being counter-cultural.

It is vital that such counter-cultural thought is expressed in terms grounded in the love of God and the guidance of scripture. If one cannot do that, it is better to keep one's mouth shut

**2:** the most fulfilling apart from the Cathedral chaplaincy work is our Ministry to all those across UK and other countries and Cornwall. There is never a dull

moment. Our garden, so full of climbers, flowering plants, fruit bushes and fruit trees as well as a good variety of vegetable often helps conversation, form relationships, where anything else fails, and at least leads contacts on to share the things they do when not 'at work'. Once the ice is broken it is surprising how more serious topics can develop.

**3** leading a house group and also doing a one-to-one Bible Study/discipleship – liaising with a new believer.

**4:** being appointed 'Associate Minister and all the responsibilities that entails

**5** the opportunity to minister to a wide range of the populace beyond the established church, hopefully changing attitudes by witness and example?

**6:** serving God and his people in the parish in many different ways.

**7)** Leading Morning Worship....working with the music deliverer to ensure the theme for that Sunday is reflected in the words and tune of the hymns. Involving the congregation not only in intercessions but in reading the Gospel. Working to ensure that all of my sermon is honest, and always contains teaching about and interpretation of the Bible.

Starting an Open Door Discussion Group, otherwise known as **ODD**.

This has developed from Bishop Tim's ***IN 2 the Bible Lent challenge*** from a few years ago. My partner wanted to continue and gradually others joined. We meet once a month for an hour followed by refreshments. We do not follow any "party line."

Subjects for learning about and discussing are chosen by someone from the group. Beliefs and unbeliefs are never judged, honest questioning encouraged and the only rule is to respect different views.

Afterwards we have quality coffee and cake.

**8:** working with children

**9:** Devising informal services eg Christmas, Café church

**10:** working with people, congregation, leadership team and in the community.

**11** seeing how the Holy Spirit is at work in our community and cluster of churches. Working together with people.

**12** spending time with people, listening and sharing their concerns. Preaching.

**13:** my role in connection with services in the Cornish language and as a member of the translation team working on the Cornish Bible Project

**14:** preaching the word to new congregations, particularly during interregnums. I've attended three institutions of clergy this year in parishes where I helped to cover a gap.

**15** I am really enjoying preaching and from feedback it seems that others are also really enjoying listening and learning. I've always enjoyed writing and delivering prayers. It gives me great pleasure when others tell me how much they liked them; how the prayers touched them. In year two I will be getting involved in funerals, time permitting; This is an area I feel I might really be able to use all my life skills.

**16:** I think I wrote before that the most fulfilling aspect of my ministry was in conducting funerals and the pastoral relationship with bereaved families. I really felt I could bring Christ into a very difficult situation. In the year before our previous incumbent retired his wife was dying and he felt unable to carry out funerals, so I was pleased to step in and help both then and in the subsequent period of transition, covering all the funerals for both churches. When the new incumbent came she quiet rightly wanted to officiate at the majority of the funerals herself. However, when she was unable to do the work herself she recruited a retired priest, thus I am largely unable to carry out the most fulfilling part of my ministry.

**17:** devising and leading Tea Time Services for families.

**18:** Leading others in a relationship with God

**19:** I don't see it in those terms. I see my ministry chiefly as filling a need in my churches rather than in myself.

**20:** developing relationships in the parish and wider community plus my particular work which I regard as part of my ministry.

**21** Being in the Sanctuary acting as Liturgical Deacon. Funerals. Taking Services at Care Home.

**22:** the privilege of being able to lead services and to preach.

**23:** having stepped down I'm now taking a sabbatical.

**24**I have successfully experimented with a mediation type sermon on several occasions this year.

**25:** visiting the house bound taking communion and visiting the elder care homes again with communion

**26:** although I love preaching and leading the people in worship the most fulfilling thing these days is speaking to people one to one

**27:** leading services and/or preaching. I have also recently taken 2 funerals which I found rewarding

**28:** leading worship, preaching and funeral ministry

**29** I enjoy all aspects of my ministry and value the opportunities to lead worship and preach throughout our cluster of churches. I regularly lead BCP Sung Evensong and Taize at Paul. I have to say that I feel a strong call to Ordination to enable me to more fully involve myself with all of Gods work, including celebrating the Eucharist. As I have said previously, I have a strong call for Funeral Ministry and find it a huge privilege to give solace to a family who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

**30:** not many lately, but helping a family plan a funeral and conduct it.

**31:** receiving thanks and appreciation from those who hear my sermons and/or share in the worship at the services I conduct – even when numbers are very small.

**32:** Officiating at Church services and to welcome and meet people, especially new comers. To take pastoral care to those who need it.

**33** Visiting and praying with people who do not come to church.

**34** leading worship and the pastoral contacts that develop from this.

**35:** co-operation within a good ministry team

**36:** home communion

**37** when the service has felt ‘meaningful’ to the congregation usually though a time of guided prayer, a visual aid that has worked well and recently a drama that proved to be quiet powerful. We are getting better at working collaboratively between readers and worship leaders which has been great.

**38** taking communion to the sick or housebound and also the Grove residential home.

**39:** preparation of services and sermons – then leading/delivering them

**40** leading worship including preaching although prayer ministry is growing

**54:** being part of a hard working, happy congregation of believers

**55:** on the few occasions over the year that I have led worship and preached I have enjoyed the preparation and leading and preaching

**56:** having a leadership role in a local multi-denominational worshipping community comprising those from Anglican, Methodist and Baptist traditions and a cluster of churches of which it is par.

**57** Leading worship. Reading God's word in church. Being a listening ear/bridge between lay and clergy. Prayer

**58:** feeling able to bring the word to our congregations with some ease, understood, interpretation and being a listening ear when needed.

**49:** knowing and living among the people that I serve – both within the church and in the wider community

**50** The communions I take to the sick, needy also the way that many people in the congregation ask me to put a loved one on our prayer healing list. I just love being part of St Michael's as a Reader and friend to many, and I love the services I attend.

**51:** researching for a sermon

**52:** The privilege of being part of a ministry team which ministers to the whole community. In particular, this year taking Home Communion to a local care home and developing closer pastoral links with them has been especially rewarding.

**53:** interceding and personal visiting, also supporting Bible studies.

**54** taking and assisting at services. I look forward to completing my Reader Training so that I can have a more fulfilled ministry.

**55:** sharing the Kingdom of God.

**56:** 1. Preparing & customizing specific liturgies. 2. Being 'taken on one side' for heart-to heart matters – all sorts.

**58:** I enjoy the preaching and doing my training with a group of other Readers in Training makes it really rewarding (learning in community). I really enjoy the theological training via SWMTC which has helped with the preaching side.

**59:** preaching and pastoral work

**60:** praying

**61:** leading people to Christ and in growing their faith

**62** the opportunity to spend time with other members of the church family and to hear their stories. The chance to broaden my understanding of what it means to be a Christian through study and discussion with others through leading house group and preparation of sermons and thought of for the week.

**63:** Open the Book and Holiday Clubs

**64:** Probably preaching as I have a real passion for scripture. I also enjoy leading a house group and seeing people grow in their faith. It is also a great privilege to be able to offer Home Communion to enable parishioners to remain in contact with the church, even though they can no longer attend services. I do believe Readers will have an increasingly pastoral role to play due to the reduction in number of ordained ministers

**66:** being accepted as a member of a Ministry Team and being able to play my part as a member of that team.

**67:** After a year of uncertainty last year and much prayerful support from my parish, I am now fully engaged in Reader ministry at St Uny Church, mostly in terms of Sunday worship but also in assisting at our mid-week service of Holy Communion. I am now leading and preaching on a regular basis and also actively involved in social aspects of the parish as part of the fundraising committee and also a member of the flower arrangers team.

I have also continued to assist with the running of the Art and Spirituality Group at Perran Church and often lead the spiritual reflection for this group as well as helping to devise and run craft activities. I regularly attend a discipleship Bible Study group where we study individual books of the Bible in depth.

**68:** the time spent with individuals sharing their thoughts and concerns and the time spent planning services and sermons – a real challenge

**69:** all opportunities are good, at present

**70:** Sharing God's word and working with people to become part of God's family

**71:** I find preaching or the teaching aspects fulfilling one/one encounters and children's work.

**72:** being able to share the Gospel with so many different people in so many different ways. It's given me a place in different circles where different people have felt comfortable to come to me to ask spiritual questions.

**73** The times when my work enables others to feel better in some way, whether this is that they are inspired or feel connected with God through worship; comforted through time shared in a visit that together we have done the best possible for their late loved ones.

**74:** support the ministry team

**75** The Communion I take to the sick, needy also the way that many people in the congregation ask me to put a loved one on our prayer healing list. I just love being part of St Michael's as a Reader and friend to many, and I love the services I attend.

**76:** listening, going along side, encouraging people, seeing people blossom

**77:** working as a team. Preaching. Working with the ATC (chaplain) also new role as British Legion Chaplain. Working with local schools.

**79:** the fact that I am serving God in some small way

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## **5C Concerns**

**1. :**

2. I am very concerned about the way in which we and other 'rich' nations are treating the earth and the life of this wonderful sacred plant. Our need is to turn from self-centred grabbing culture of country financial wealth as the main aim – both personally and nationally. We need to have a complete change of heart and aim at spiritual wellbeing: caring, loving, encouraging, observant, thoughtful, with health and well-being and community – sharing

fully with each other – again both as individuals and as nation. The church needs to find ways to lead this.

3 The fact that in some cases readers in the Diocese (Deanery) are not being fully utilized by their Parish priests. The lack of any differentiation between a Worship Leader and a Reader (ie the time spent in Training),. Is now possibly the time to re-explore the title Licensed Lay Minister? Should Readers be Licensed to the Diocese and not a particular Benefice, thereby allowing them flexibility to fill in where needed?

4. with a continuing diminution of ordained clergy, it seems high time to re-consider the question of communion-by-extension. Currently many committed Christians are being denied this sacrament in our rural communities.

5 Still saddened that Reader Ministry is unrecognised and disliked by certain Deanery clergy (not our parish priests)

6 Yes. Our church is going through a period of transition at present. The previous incumbent treated me as a valued colleague and trusted me to share ministry. (In the twenty-five years or more that I have been a Reader this has been a unique experience!)

I am concerned that this might stop, because although I have now reached the age of seventy I am finally finding a sense of fulfilment and the joy of being needed and useful.

7 the change in the incumbent has not made any difference to my situation on which I have commented in previous years.

8 I understand that many colleagues are retired or not employed full-time. If the church wishes to recruit Readers from the younger, employed population it will have to rethink its assumption that everyone can attend weekend events.

9 with reference to home communions, with my previous incumbent I was asked at regular intervals to conduct home communion, especially in the Christmas and Easter periods. It seems that they are no longer required.

10 -Sometimes I feel that the Diocese and the church treats me as a Reader, like a wheelie bin...I'm only wheeled out when I am needed. Some of us as Readers 'know' their churches in terms of the congregations needs, their spirituality etc.

Such Readers have much insight into the workings of the parish, yet when it comes to the appointing of a new minister etc, never seem to be consulted. And yet we are the ones who are expected to work closely with the new incumbent.

Often I feel I am just there to 'fill in' until a new Rector is appointed. Readers serve continually on PCC's and DCC's. We don't have 3 years on and 3 years off.

We are not churchwardens either who often decide to serve only for a fixed term. In my case serving some 22 years as a Reader, I have never been off for any staff meetings, PCC's and DCC's.

It is a continuing and expected service for the role as a Reader. Often as Readers and as a minister, we are in post in one church for longer than the ordained minister who on average will stay in one church or benefice between 5-7 years.

As Readers we are a huge resource in so many ways...a resource often not consulted as much as they should be for opinions or advice. Often we are the last to hear of important issues, well I am.

**11** Readers are undervalued.

**12** no concerns; but I would like to be involved more in discipleship training – possibly on a deanery basis

**13** the increasing average age of Readers. We have gone down from four at Kea to just one and I am 82 this year

**14** I heard of a church recently unable to find a minister of any kind to lead a service. If Reader Licenses were subject o a base as normal but valid Diocese wide some of this problem could be alleviated

**13:** With the reduced number of clergy I feel readers should be allowed, with their vicars permission, to take extended communion to the rural churches.

They often have to miss out because of the lack of clergy. My vicar gave me permission to take the Easter day service at St K. as I felt they should have communion, as there was no clergy available to stand in and take the service

We had double attendance on that day, just underlining the importance of communion on this special day. Canon law says all churches should have communion on Easter Sunday!

**14** I am not given the opportunity to officiate or participate in taking or assisting with people getting married baptisms and funerals. Also, would like to take Holy Communion to those living at home or care homes.

I have only assisted twice in a baptism for the current reporting return of 2017/18. I believe that I have been blocked from doing this important part of my ministry in Christ Jesus as I have already completed the relevant courses in this diocese.

I believe that I should be given the necessary encouragement to do this ministry and of course take Holy Communion to those living at home. We do not have any staff meetings at all and communication is kept at the bare minimum with the current incumbent.

Believe that Readers/Licensed Lay Ministers should be able to take Communion by Extension as and when required, especially as the diocese is experiencing a shortage of priests due to recent changes and financial constraints.

**15:** the rigidity that surrounds the administration of HC in Church vis-ci-vis in the community.

**16** sometimes but only sometimes. I feel a bit harassed. This is probably caused by my being currently the only active LLM in a big benefice.

**17;** undervalued under used. My priest seems unaware that readers can take part in a communion service not just read.

**18** my perennial concern that the special identity and heritage of Reader Ministry will be swallowed up as just another lay ministry.

**19:** misuse of Readers. Not a lot of support from clergy

**20** the move to centralise worship in the mother church in our parishes

**21** The future of Reader Ministry but I hope that the new training will encourage younger people to come forward. I have not been able to take any funerals since the arrival of the incumbent in December 2016 – a ministry that I had found fulfilling. Also the lack of meeting with the incumbent and involvement in any form across the three parishes.

**22** Communion Services have the bigger congregations. As the Cluster about to go into transition that will reduce to 1 communion a month, and one Sunday a month with no service at all. Most of the congregation won't travel to other churches in the cluster, so the overall attendance is likely to drop, plus pastorally, people are likely to feel less connected.

There are financial concerns too as less people = less income. Income didn't meet outgoings last year. The parish has just been notified that the new MMF will be increased by 141%. So, the parish is looking at a drop in income, nearly threefold increase in MMF, additional costs of paying visiting clergy and real prospect of the retiring clergy not being replaced.

As you can imagine, the last DCC meeting was rather depressing.

As a working parent my time is very limited, but I know I'm not the only Reader in this situation, so any support, training, resources to help the DCC and congregation at this time would be gratefully received.

**23:** I am concerned about the increasing use, across the Diocese, of Worship Leaders for tasks for which they have little or no training, In particular there is a tendency for Worship Leaders to preach. I am also not sure of the validity of Worship Leaders taking Home Communion which is happening in some Parishes.

Whenever I visit a church in Devon there is always reference to a service of Communion by Extension on a regular basis taken by a Reader. When will Cornwall catch up?

**24:** concerns! We don't have many children, very few or families. We do try, but I think it is pretty common.

**25** I am concerned about the safeguarding policy and the belief that making people take a course every 3 years. Would it have prevented those who have

abused trust from doing so? Is the upheaval really effective and worth it or is it a case that after the shambles of the past we must be seen to be doing something?

**26:** I remain extremely concerned at the completely open public access to personal details on Truro Diocese Directory Live which renders everyone liable to identity theft and worse. No other Diocese has such complete information available to all.

Within Truro Diocese, Diocesan officeholders have 'work' addresses, emails and phone numbers available (i.e. the greatest level of protection), while those licensed clergy who are responsible for parishes/benefices have rectory details.

All others have full, complete names, home address and 'phone numbers which render us completely exposed, especially if we have vulnerable others depending on us.

PLEASE can we at the very least have restricted access to the database, through password protection to registered users of the database?

I include a link to Bath and Wells here for information.

<http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/contact-us/online-database/>

**27** Being invited to share Holy Communion by saying the ante-communion seems to have died the death – nobody shares now. . This does exaggerate the gap between priests and laity unnecessarily: are we not all members of the Royal priesthood? I hadn't taken funeral for years since the priests took them all, but recently I had four. Sad occasions but a powerful opportunity for ministry. Again, not sharing. Being crowded out with Lay worship leaders. Good folk, doing good, but not Lay Ministers who can preach

**28:** the use of untrained Worship Leaders/ The prevarication of the diocese in not closing churches that will be dead in less than 10 years anyway, meaning Readers (and Ordained ministers) travelling miles for a very small congregation. Needs a radical re-think and a closure of multiple church buildings. They are now a drain on resources.

**29:** failure to understand let alone practice collegial ministry

**30:** *I am concerned for the future of my parish. Our Rector is retiring at the end of the year and our curate will probably be moving on early next year. Financially I don't believe our parish is sustainable in the long term and we don't be able to attract any new people, especially children and young families.*

*I do wonder if what we do on a Sunday is still relevant to the society and culture in which we live.*

*We need to embrace change and move forward, rather than constantly looking back. In the last few weeks I have visited two other churches-one being the church where I grew up in Kent. In the 20 years since I left they have grown in leaps and bounds and I fear we are being left behind.*

*I know these are problems being faced by many churches and we need to have clear and strong leadership and a vision for the future!*

**31:** I am pleased to say that all my former concerns have now been resolved. I have taken the decision to step back from children's work within the parish and I feel happy with this decision. I am now concentrating on ministry among adults both within the parish and the local community. In this respect, I am seeking God's will for starting an art and spirituality group within our own benefice

**Name not given:** concerns! We don't have many children , very few or families. We do try but I think it is pretty common.

**33:** cost of books to keep on going study. Lack of a good Christian Bookshop in Cornwall. Been to Sacred Place at St Austell but limited

34 Several Diocese Training Days which we have been encouraged to attend (for priests and Readers have been week day daytime which is impossible for me working in a school. Can handouts be made available:

35Support with ministry with over 70's...do we have specialists in the diocese to go for ideas/support please?

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**5D Ministry other than Sunday**

**1** The main other things that I am involved with in the Parish are Bible studies. I attend two of these weekly, and for one in particular I stand in for

the study leader, (Assistant Priest in the parish), if she is away.  
Bible studies, preaching and (some) leading of worship are the main things that I feel called to do. I remain open to other things, at the suggestion of my incumbent or others.

**2** Parish representative on AMD group. Lead and host House group.

**3:** I consider everything I do daily as part of my Reader Ministry and I have already implied in question 5a, b and c above. To assist the work and direction of my vision as I meet people

**4:** Involvement in community events, leading a Carol sing in and outdoor location on a week night prior to Christmas, participation in fund raising events (duck race etc).

**5:** involvement with RBL re Remembrance services. Ie Dedication of Garden of Reembrance, Armistice day service and assisting at Remembrance Day Service Organizing, leading and speaking at monthly lunch club . Starting a new Home Group

**6:** I continue in my chaplaincy with the Police service and also the RAF Air Cadets. These take up a fair amount of my 'free' time but each provides an enormous satisfaction and I believe is much appreciated. This is actually related to answer 5b

**7: Parish in Transition**

- 2x Midweek Prayer Services \_\_
- Funerals plus funeral visits\_\_\_\_\_
- Home Communion\_\_\_\_\_
- Open the Book\_\_\_\_
- Occasional Messy church leader\_\_\_\_\_
- Pastoral Care Team Leader\_\_\_\_\_
- Parish Safeguarding Coordinator\_\_\_\_\_
- Parish Leadership Team\_\_\_\_\_
- PCC Secretary\_\_\_\_\_
- Deanery Synod Secretary + Deanery Standing Committee\_\_\_\_\_
- Diocesan Lay Rep

- Member of the Reader Training Management Group\_\_
- Weekly Study Group Leader\_\_
- Monthly Parish Newsletter Editor\_\_\_\_\_
- Parish Website manager

**8:** I have already detailed my love of learning and helping others to join me in that in our ODD group. The research I put into that and into writing sermons takes up a considerable amount of time. I also make myself available for people as a listener. I visit one of our congregation in a Care Home and now that our priest has left, I have taken over the once monthly Communion service at another Care Home with extended Communion.

As far as the transition period is going I have had to sort rotas and clergy to take Sunday services which are all filled bar two slots between now and the New Year. Plus, PCC attendance and supporting and encouraging others to pick up the baton and run with it! I am not short of things to do!

**9:** I have joined the local Open the Book team and did my 3<sup>rd</sup> year placement at . I have assisted with visits to a School

**10:** as I am also a church warden and have other roles not sure where one ends and another begins

**11** I am part of the leadership team of a small parish. With oversight from the priest, we make all decisions and lead the congregation in becoming disciples. Recently myself and the church warden have submitted a substantial funding application for HLF. I feel I have a significant leadership role within my parish.

**12** I am involved in several projects in the community: Memory Café at an Open the Book team at two schools 2x month. Art & Spirituality Group, Spiritual Direction training, cluster choir, pastoral visiting, church warden

**13:** I visit two primary schools locally each week to take assemblies and have 'conducted' two 'weddings'. I lead a weekly house group,

**14:** supporting colleagues in children work

**15:** as far as the benefice is concerned, I only conduct Morning Prayer including preaching once a month and the service on Good Friday. This will change in the coming year to every other month due to the introduction of a Family Service.

**16:** I work six days a week and therefore have little opportunity to do much outside Sundays. I have been able to speak to some church groups during the week however, particularly in evenings.

**17:** In year 2, I will also start to take some of the services in our church so am looking forwards to that. For year 1, I decided to concentrate on my studies, preaching and prayers writing skills as it's been a while since I was at university.

- Others, along with myself and Judy (wife), are currently looking at different outreach possibilities. We have a meeting with our Vicar () later this month to move matters forwards.

- I have recently contributed an essay to our Parish magazine about "My faith journey" and have also started to write a monthly page for the magazine entitled "Prayer Corner."

- I belong to the PCC.

- I attended a six week bible study in our parish on Ephesians.

- I attended a Readers quiet day. Loved it.

- I have completed all my assignments and attended every class.

- I sat in on Lucy Larkin's TMM2661 (Science, Ecology and Theology) classes that were superb.

- I attended a lecture at Plymouth University about Science, Ecology and Theology that was also excellent.

- I attended the Readers AGM meeting in Bodmin. Most enjoyable.

- I attended the Cathedral on several occasions. In particular (1) To celebrate the licensing of Readers and (2) On the installation of our Vicar as a non-residential Canon.

**18:** I lead the Open the Book team in their weekly visit - carry out Morning Prayer on Thursdays. Fortnightly we have a fellowship group meeting on Friday evenings and once a month we have Food 4 Thought - worship and prayer with food -.

I have for some 8 years now preached on the Methodist circuit one Sunday a month. I find this a welcome opportunity to fulfil the calling to which I have committed myself. Although I am pleased to assist our Methodist brothers and sisters, I would prefer to be called upon more in the Anglican Church.

**19** I hold Bible Study and prayer groups and a book club.

**20** Open the Book

**21:** greater involvement in all aspects of church life.

**22:** leading a home Bible study group

**23:** member of PCC, safeguarding co-leader, home group co-leader

**24:** taking special services such as Ash Wednesday, Living and Loss, Maundy Thursday. I am still involved in Truro Foodbank, which I founded together with my wife and I am still attend meetings of the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

**25:** i have run a reflection group for clergy for the whole year, on average once a month. I have run a lent book group and a post lent book group which sprang from it. I have counselled a read-in-training- and a student during ordained ministry and helped an older priest for nearly the whole year in therapy.

**26:** the occasional messy church

**27:** I enjoy the challenge of being a Reader, never quite sure what is going to come up next. I see my ministry as being to the elderly, which includes funerals

**28** I remain very involved in community affairs in St Austell with work associated with the Town Council and chairing the local charity 'Friends of Menacuddle Well'. (When actually a member of the Council I was pleased to introduce prayers before Council meetings – which still continues – led by

various Church leaders in the town). I enjoy working with non-Christians and like, in a quiet way to express the love of God for them.

**29** I am also a yoga teacher and feel that my Christian love and care for the planet and my clients can be expressed in a class even if not explicitly.

**30:** mainly pastoral visiting

**31:** Chaplaincy (and all that entails) Spiritual direction, training worship leaders, training safeguarding, Supporting others constructing services, working in the community – eg representing the church in my role as chair of governors.

**32:** i led a house group course during which we followed Freedom in Christ earlier in the year. My group is having the summer off but we will reconvene in September. I have done 2 funerals and am starting to wonder if this is a ministry I would like to continue I may start taking to take services and home communion in one of the town's residential homes. I lead the music about once a month with a group of singers. I have many roles in the national church, diocese and deanery, unconnected with Reader ministry.

**33:** I am told that I am a people person and value talking to our community and visitors. I am something of a linguist with 4 languages and a smattering of others which is a great benefit when talking to the many visitors we get in Penzance from abroad. I am also Secretary of the PCC and due to my background of refurbishing old buildings, I am fairly involved in advising and assisting with the specifications and tenders for Church improvements and refurbishment projects. I lead a Bible Study group which meets at my home and I attend a wisdom in the community Group which meets weekly at St. Mary's Church at 7.30am on a Tuesday. I am also to assist with our Children's Summer Programme this year. I have a regular prayer discipline and say morning Payer and sometimes Compline every day. I also have my own Bible Study Programme, which involves looking at the lectionary for the coming week, and studying and absorbing what I believe to be the nub of the texts. I sometimes use commentaries, but only after making my own interpretation. I keep our Funeral register and am actively involved in organising our Annual

Service for the families of those who have lost a loved one during the past year.

**32** chaplain to Callington Royal British Legion

**33:** for many years I have been involved in House Groups, and since moving to Cornwall in 2010 I have been leader/joint leader of a group (currently numbering 9) which brings together people from two congregations within the Cluster (plus one Roman Catholic member who is a source of great enrichment). The group is independent of any other cluster-wide courses and seems to be an effective means of promoting fellowship/unity across parishes.

**34:** I currently take Pastoral ministry by visiting a limited number of people during each month but would like the opportunity of doing more especially those who are unable to come to church in our Would like to take Holy Communion to those living at home or care homes. Also the opportunity to take funerals and assist in marriages and baptisms

**35:** leading intercessions, Bible study group participation. Practical support of church.

**36:** 1. Membership of two ministerial teams 2) residential Home worship  
3) chaplain (RNR) in the Sea Cadets –

**37:** I do a fair amount of visiting, particularly in one parish. Each week there is a chapter meeting (see 5b) without which the Benefice would struggle. I work with two church primary schools.

**38:** involved in Messy Church services and Open the Book. On Christian Ethos Committee.

**39:** Almost none existent! We have had no meetings as Readers with our priest since he come to the parish

**40:** leading a benefice study group

**41:** I do my best to share the love of Jesus Christ in every aspect of my life and contact with others at work and everywhere I go. Special privilege of occasional cathedral chaplaincy

**42:** age concern with elderly and homeless

**43** taking part in Open the Book and street pastors as prayer pastor.

**44:** Taking Communion to the Housebound. I am PCC Secretary, on Diocesan and Deanery Synod, Secretary to Readers, on Safeguarding Panel. And this year I was made a Lay Canon.

**45:** Co leader of weekly prayer meeting

Lay chair of PCC Member of AMD team Chair worship leaders meetings

Set up and organise a weekly 'Drop In' for the community Set up and organise a 'Micro Library' in partnership with Cornwall Council Chair Parish Hall management committee (civil Parish)

NB None of the above requires me to be a reader but are part of my Christian ministry.

**46** I have acted as School Chaplain until recent ill health caused me to reduce my workload. Having improved greatly in recent weeks I intend to resume next erm. Our benefice has a weekly Chapter of Rector and LLMs which allows us to have a positive input to the life and worship of the Benefice.

**47:** Occasional Services/Events. Easter Monday Easter Egg Hunt, Maundy Thursday Service, Christmas Eve Service, Churches Together.

**48** I feel people recognise me as an active ministering Christian, including non church going neighbours, several of whom I visit at home.

**48:** Leading Bible studies/home group. Leading worship in our church band (singing and playing the guitar. Supporting our youth worker in our youth groups.

**49:** my Reader Ministry has lasted 25 years nearly. I have done many thank and enjoy it. There have been some 'not nic' times, but with my Lord, I have survived. I have slowed down somewhat as my sick friends have died. I fill in Baptism forms, Baptism register. I attend our prayer healing group, and Mother & Toddler group, and am sacristan, so I am still busy!

**50:** many jobs but not directly related to Reader Ministry. Church Treasurer, Churches together Chairman, Christingle organiser. Foodbank volunteer

**51:** I feel particularly blessed that I have a varied ministry, encompassing full involvement in the ministry of the Parish. In addition to conducting worship on a Sunday, Reader Ministry includes taking Home Communion, in private homes and local residential homes, leading Morning Prayer on occasion, participation in 'Open the Book' as opportunity allows, working with others in Churches Together, developing community outreach through environmental projects, taking part in the annual children's holiday club.

**52** Preaching and all that leads up to it, and from it, is a great privilege. Spiritual proximity to our Lord Jesus Christ is beyond value. Pastoral visiting is uncommon now, but rewarding. People don't want home communion so much as a cup of tea and a good chat about old times and folk long gone. You have not asked for the number of occasions we intercede, which is about 60, and I use the five-fold prayers of the ASB – faith(church), the nations of the world, those we love, those who are suffering, and those we remember.

**53:** leading school assemblies is a rewarding and enjoyable part of my ministry.

**54:** number 5b(2) (being taken aside for heart to heart matters) has happened beyond congregations to colleagues (including staff) in local government (to national level) and within a political party – at their invitation

**55:** within the united benefice I am part of a large ministry team. We meet weekly for prayer, worship and to discuss pastoral issues. This time spent together is an intrinsic part of my role as reader, uniting us and enlightening our ministry. These meetings also enrich my personal prayer life and reflection on scripture. I am also a spiritual director which I see very much as part of my Reader ministry.

**56** being an informed friend.

**57** leading home group and Messy Church

**58:** OtB, Kidz Klubs, Youth Club, Holiday Clubs, Women's Hour

**59** House group, take home communion. Member of Open the Book team which has proved a great success.

**60:** I believe my ministry outside of worship is that of any Christian – prayer, spiritual reading and trying to be an ambassador for Christ in all my relationships, however brief they may be. I fall down often (which is because I am only human) but I do try.

**61:** regularly leading a Bible Study group; occasional visits and home communions.

**62** I regularly assist at our midweek benefice Holy Communion. Also, I am regularly involved in the leadership of the art and spirituality group and I am hoping to start a similar group in our own benefice. I am also on our fundraising committee and am currently heading up the organisation of a week-long Festival of Art and Crafts at Church in September. I also help with the flowers being both part of the flower arranging team and involved in fundraising events for the group. When I am not leading or preaching, I regularly assist with other aspects of ministry such as welcoming and leading intercessions. I regular attend Art and Spirituality days ) and recently took part in a two-day retreat

**63:** I do home visiting + home communion; I try to be there for the vicar and support her in any and every way I can. I liaise with Pencalenick School (which I would probably do anyway) I assist with Café Church ; I assist at Funerals and Baptisms.

**64:** have led Bible study for worship leader team; have led small lent group; have started offering funeral ministry.

**63:** for the past 15 years I lead a Bible study very Monday evening. I help with the Food drop at Church every Saturday morning which gives food to those who come, no questions asked.

**64:** since I am now PTO there is little outside Sunday worship apart from day to day witness which we all share.

**65:** mediation group in my house weekly; running a windows into course; messy church; open the book; spiritual director

**66:** Bible study; pastoral care; youth work

**67:** I take some funerals (always via our Priest,) Pastoral visiting; Home Communion Member of the Open the Book team Run, with the willing assistance of some congregation members, a Coffee Stop; PCCs etc Sharing with our Methodist friends, Sunday worship and other events; Simple chatting with the folk I meet when out with the dog; Getting involved with and supporting events across the Cluster Willing to support / assist Angela with anything as I can, thus a variety of things

**68:** As I am in full time appointment I have a limited role although I have lead Advent course and will seek to lead similar courses in the future.

**69:** my Reader Ministry has lasted for 25 years nearly. I have done many things and enjoyed it. There have been some not nice times, but with my Lord, I have survived. I have slowed down somewhat as my sick friends have died. I fill in Baptism forms, Baptism register. I attend our prayer healing group, and Mother and Toddler group and am sacristan, so I am still busy.

**70:** Being visible and invisible in the community. Leading concluding worship at village Lantern Festival Attending AMD Lead Messy Church 10 times a year Secretary of Christians Together Up the Creek Stepping in at last moment as required Resource for others with questions/ needs Attending local village markets to be a presence of the church ( 2 markets two Saturdays a month)

**71:** working with the ATC (Chaplain) and British Legion as Chaplain. Working with local schools

**72:** I organise Filling Station meetings; I help with Messy Church, Open the Book, Cabin Coffee Club (monthly meeting for the elderly) organise House groups.

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## **5E Support in Ministry**

**1:** I feel very well supported, by people in my parish, by the course leaders, and by others I encounter from time to time.

**2:** fresh resource material is always helpful – ie links to web sites.

**3** Yes, please encourage clergy to use and value their Readers. Don't assume that we are "just" or "only" the Reader. The fact that we are sometimes seen that way by other laity is useful, because we are "ordinary" which means they don't have to look at what they say before they say it! So "more tea Vicar?" is avoided. But perhaps some clergy need to think differently, note the courses we attend, the books we read, the love we have for the people we try our best to serve and realise that we too have much to contribute.

VTBS is not cheap but is immensely valuable as an opportunity to have a week talking and sharing with a wide range of Readers and Clergy and listen to some top scholars. A great educational and social chance. Both times I have self funded a week there have been great but I was the only one from Cornwall. The nearest was Professor Catchpole from Devon, also a Reader and lecturing on Luke's Gospel! I cannot be the only Reader who would enjoy this time in Cambridge, is any funding possible for those who cannot afford the whole cost?

**4:** I am hoping to work with children and will need to accumulate up to date resources for younger children.

**.5:** when I retired I vowed to God that I would give myself to his service for as long as I could. When our vicar came I vowed to serve her as Deacon as best I could. All I seek is to have the opportunity to keep these vows.

**6** encouraging discipleship training – possibly across parish boundaries

**7:** I look at the CMED courses and will willingly attend any that are relevant to my ministry. Other than that, I get support from my parish priest.

**8:** Only by doing the impossible and providing more ministers. With 8 churches (probably to become 10 under re-organisations proposed for MMF purposes) and only 1 stipendiary +, thankfully, 2 retired priests and 1 Reader (yours truly), providing cover for services is difficult. It is only the restriction placed on me by the requirements of ordination training (should not do more than 1 up front commitment per month) which prevent this becoming almost a full time occupation in itself

**9:** I feel the Diocese is very supportive of its readers, and I know that Bishop Chris, having been a Reader is anxious to maximise the role played by Readers in Cornwall. I do feel that given the paucity of Clergy in our Diocese, together with the great reliance we place on Retired Clergy, we might consider using '**Locally Ordained Ministers**' who have been used to great effect in other areas of the Country. I have no doubt that many of our Readers, given that they have the calling, would be thrilled to be considered for this type of Ordained Ministry.

**10:** there is a great need for people as Readers/Licensed Lay Ministers to not only be heard but to be able to work together with the current Incumbent if a Parish/Team Ministry/Benefice instead of being blocked or shut out of fulfilling their Ministry in Jesus Christ. I hope that the new Bishop of Truro will take this on board on our behalf because I feel sure that I am not alone in the lack of support in my ministry.

**11** continue involvement in expanding the scope of Reader Ministry – more for the future than for me

**12** now and again I would value a 'chat with a colleague away from the Benefice.

**13:** your emails prayer and the two days we have together as readers have been a great support.

**14:** be assertive in maintaining the identity and standards of Reader Ministry.

**15:** I would like to see potential financial support for on-going / refresher training. While I appreciate that on-going training is available through the CMT programme and through our annual Reader Day, the CMT material is aimed largely at ordained ministers and not all can get to the Reader Day. Support to attend SWMTC sessions as a 'sitter-in' or to attend 'Windows into . . 'courses might be helpful.

It would be most helpful if the Readers section on the Diocesan website could perhaps include a resource directory for materials that other Readers have found helpful, whether that be for worship, leading small groups, spiritual growth or reflection, developing community etc.

**16:** Well, first of all, actually doing something about 5c instead of explaining why it is impossible and invoking General Synod as an excuse would be a start. The new Bishop should consider ordaining Lay ministers to a diaconate, no further, with permission to baptise. That would be a fillip to the lay ministry. So many of us are grandparents, to baptise our grandchildren would be a joy and a privilege.

Lay ministers are the interface with the community, almost all of us have had a secular career, and it is vital that the church should speak and preach in ways which will reach the man and woman in the street. Many people are Christian in general belief but neither attend church or have more than a vague understanding of faith, least of all the central person of Jesus.

Priests have particular skills and responsibilities which are vital, but the lay ministers need to be given a greater authority to do their work, deployed better rather than work in the shadow of the priesthood.

**17** it return to an aspect raised in previous years – allocation (where appropriate) of 'mentors' (buddies) – no implied criticism of Chaplain and Deanery Steward support whatsoever.

**18** I feel well supported currently. I have asked that the academic programme be posted early so I can use quieter work periods (ie the summer when I am not travelling as much) to do reading/preparing.

**19:** perhaps a forum for meeting with other Readers other than once a year at the Reader Day. Also I would value having a Spiritual Director.

**.20:** encouraging more Readers to development days with the rest of clergy so it feels less like a 'reader amongst vicars'

**21:** many thanks for all the support that is already offered

Attended Reader Day at Bodmin, EXCELLENT, shame Royal Wedding 'photo bombed' our day as I missed our local events which I was invited to at as local church presence. (We had at the time one priest eight churches and I couldn't help.)