



# Exploring Ministry as a Licensed Pastor or Chaplain

## What is a Pastor?

A Pastor is licensed by the Bishop to serve as part of the shared ministry team in the Diocese, usually rooted in a Mission Area and can be connected with an external body such as a College or Hospice (when they might better be termed a Chaplain). Pastors are specialist pastoral ministers. As such they may be involved, as Pastoral Assistants are, in baptism and wedding preparation, in taking communion to nursing homes or the housebound, visiting in time of need or in having a ministry of listening and/or prayer. Additionally, Pastors may take oversight for pastoral care of a particular church congregation or represent the Church to an external organisation. Pastors might oversee and co-ordinate the work of Pastoral assistants and will work as colleagues of clergy in pastoral care. Pastors may also help lead the Church in finding new expressions of Pastoral ministry in the community.

With additional training, Pastors can be licensed to conduct funerals.

Pastors might also be separately commissioned locally as Worship Leaders, but those with a strong vocation to both preaching and worship in addition to leading on pastoral care might seek ordination to the Diaconate.

## How do I become a Pastor?

Mission Areas should discern the need for Pastor as part of their shared ministry teams, and may find the Living and Learning course valuable in doing so. If a person feels called to Pastor ministry, and has the support of their Mission Area, local church clergy then refer potential candidates via the Diocesan Office and they will be given a Vocations Advisor. This person will support the candidate in reflection until they are ready for their discernment boards. There is a one-day board in the Diocese and three-day regional board.

Once recommended for training, candidates will study through the St Padarn's Institute, typically for 2 years. Their pastoral ministry would begin well within this time however. The course involves academic study, usually through Exploring Faith: Theology for Life up to Certificate level. Additional weekend and summer school residentials are held in Llandaff. Students will also have a Formational Cell to reflect with and are expected to have a Spiritual Director as well as joining the Ministry Team of their Mission Area and working with the clergy there to gain experience. Additional, specific pastoral skills and experience training will also be offered, depending on the precise nature of the role discerned locally for the candidate.

On completion of training, Pastors are licensed by the Bishop at a public service.

Those exploring whether this ministry is for them are welcome to join Exploring Faith at the beginning of, or during, their vocational journey, and many find this a helpful step.

## More information.

See the guide: **Ministry Roles, Formation and Training in the Diocese of St Asaph** available from the Diocesan Office and Website  
or contact the Training Officer:  
Rev Dr Richard Hainsworth on 01352 840842 or [exploringfaithasaph@gmail.com](mailto:exploringfaithasaph@gmail.com)