

## **Warden of Lay Ministry**

### **Report to the AGM of Lincoln Reader Association**

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Last year I reported that we were in the midst of significant changes.

This year has seen the consolidation of many of those changes at both national and diocesan level.

The document *Resourcing Sunday to Saturday Faith: Readers, Lay Ministers and Everyday Faith* which we all received a copy of with one of the issues of The Reader earlier in the year sets out Central Readers Council and Ministry Division's vision for Reader ministry into the future. The categories of Teachers of the Faith, Enablers of Mission in the Everyday and Leaders in Church and Society are being used to guide Reader students' formation from now on. The document can be accessed electronically at [https://www.readers.cofe.anglican.org/u\\_d\\_lib\\_pub/p348.pdf](https://www.readers.cofe.anglican.org/u_d_lib_pub/p348.pdf).

The academic year 2019-2020 has seen 10 candidates accepted into the first year of formation training.

The working group established with the permission of last year's AGM to consider further the shape that Reader oversight and governance should take has met on a number of occasions and the new Reader Board constitution presented to the 2019 AGM is the result of a lot of hard work and grappling with what the nature and practice of Reader ministry is in our diocese now and what it needs to become over the next few years.

I would like to thank those who took part in that piece of work and especially Nigel Bacon who ably guided the process and formulated the constitution.

9 of 10 training events have taken place on the topics of Leading Worship, Pastoral Care and Mission and Evangelism. Numbers have varied from 7 to 43 but all days have been stimulating and collaborative in the way teaching sessions have been worked with in discussion times and reflected on in quiet spaces. This model of training which incorporates both Readers and ALMs has been well received and, with some adjustments based on feedback, will continue next year.

Thanks to David Shenton for a stimulating, challenging and fun retreat offered at Launde Abbey for 37 Readers and ALMs together at the beginning of September. Next year we are booked into Willersley Castle again for a 'do-it-yourself' retreat. More details will follow in email updates.

2020 is the year when we all go through a Ministerial Development Review process and are relicensed in October. The newly formed Reader Board will work on the process for that early in 2020 and paperwork will be sent out in the Spring. In preparation for that I would ask all Readers to be praying about what needs to be addressed in MDR and to consider areas of development that could enhance your ministry so that training programmes can be devised and/or courses accessed.

Another change announced a little while ago was John Marshall's decision to resign from his role of Chair of the Governing Body at this AGM. I would like to thank John for everything he has done in his service of the Governing Body in a number of roles over many years.

Thank you for all of the wonderful, creative and generous ministry offered across our diocese.

**Sally Buck September 2019**