Suggested Reading for those exploring their vocation to ministry

Getting started

Please don’t feel that you need to buy all of these—your vicar or ministry team may have some they could lend or try ordering from your local library

Vocation

John Adair How to Find your Vocation (Canterbury Press 2000)

Ministry

Christopher Cocksworth & Rosalind Brown: Being a Priest Today (Canterbury Press, 2002)
John Pritchard: The Life and Work of a Priest (SPCK, 2007)

Church of England

Paul Avis: The Anglican Understanding of the Church (SPCK, 2013 rev. ed.)

Biblical Studies

Read through the Bible (books in any order)

Moving on

Again please don’t feel that you need to buy all of these—your vicar may have some they could lend or try ordering from your local library. Your vicar, Vocation’s adviser or DDO might suggest you read a particular book, or explore books from a particular section.

Vocation

John Adair: How to Find your Vocation (Canterbury Press 2002)
Francis Dewar: Called or Collared (new edition SPCK 2000)
Francis Dewar: Invitations: God’s Calling for Everyone (SPCK 1996)
Edward Hahneneberg: Awakening Vocation: A Theology of Christian Call (Liturgical Press 2010) mainly the second half is of interest, using Ignatian discernment as a model of vocational discernment
Margaret Magdalen: Vocation: exploring call and identity (Grove, S105, 2008)
Stephen Platten: Vocation - Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land (SPCK 2007)
Charles Richardson: This is our Calling (SPCK 2004)

Ministry

Justine Allain-Chapman: Resilient Pastors: The Role of Adversity in Healing and Growth (SPCK 2012)
Paul Avis: *A Ministry shaped by Mission* (T&T Clark 2005)
Rosalind Brown: *Being a Deacon Today* (Canterbury Press 2005)
Andrew Bowden (editor): *Ordained Local Ministry in the Church of England* (Continuum 2012)
Matthew Caminer: *A Clergy Husband’s Survival Guide* (SPCK 2012) for spouses
Steven Croft: *Ministry in Three Dimensions* (DLT, 1999)
Richard Giles: *Here I am* (Canterbury Press 2006)
Robin Greenwood: *Transforming Priesthood* (SPCK 1994)
George Guiver: *Priests in a People's Church* (SPCK 2001)
Henri Nouwen: *In the Name of Jesus* (DLT 1997)
Gordon Oliver: *Ministry without Madness* (SPCK 2012)
Christina Rees (ed): *Voices of this Calling* (Canterbury Press 2002) on women priests
Miranda Threlfall-Holmes and Giles Legood: *Being a Chaplain* (SPCK 2011)

**Christian Doctrine, Theology and Apologetics**
Anthony and Richard Hanson: *Reasonable Belief* (OUP 1981)
Brian Hebblethwaite: *The Essence of Christianity* (SPCK 1996)
Mike Higton: *Christian Doctrine* (SCM Core Texts 2008)
Alastair McGrath: *Theology: The Basics* (Blackwells 2004)
Francis Spufford: *Unapologetic* (Faber & Faber 2013)
Dave Tomlinson: *Re-enchanting Christianity* (Canterbury Press, 2008)
Rowan Williams: *On Christian Theology* (Blackwell 1999)
Rowan Williams: *Open to Judgement* (DLT 1994)
Rowan Williams: *Lost Icons* (T &T Clark 2000)

**Biblical studies**
J Drane: *Introducing the OT* (rev. ed. Lion 2011)
J Drane: *Introducing the NT* (rev. ed. Lion 2010)


C Rowland: *Christian Origins* (SPCK 1985)

G Stanton: *The Gospels and Jesus* (OUP 1989)

Anything on the bible by Bishop Tom Wright/ N.T. Wright (same author)

### Prayer and Spirituality

*Common Worship Lectionary* (CHP)

*Common Worship Daily Prayer*

*Reflections for Daily Prayer* (CHP)

There are Apps with Morning Evening and Night Prayer renewed every day including Psalms and Readings available for iPhones, iPads, Android phones etc.

Cynthia Bourgeault: *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening* (Cowley 2004)


Gerard Hughes: *God of Surprises* (BRF 1993)


Melvyn Matthew: *Both Alike to Thee: The Retrieval of the Mystical Way* (SPCK 2000)

Michael Mitton: *Restoring the Woven Cord: Strands of Celtic Christianity for the Church Today* (BRF 2010)

Donald Nicholl: *Holiness* (DLT 1981)

Henri Nouwen: *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (DLT 1994)

J I Packer: *Knowing God* (Hodder 2005)

John Wilkins (Ed): *How I Pray* (DLT 1993)

Rowan Williams: *Silence and Honey Cakes: The Wisdom of the Desert* (Lion 2011)

Rowan Williams: *The Wound of Knowledge* (DLT 1990)

The booklets in the Grove Booklet series are often good introductions to aspects of spirituality.

### Self Knowledge and Pastoral Relationships

Alastair Campbell: *Rediscovering Pastoral Care* (DLT 1986)

Wesley Carr: *Handbook of Pastoral Studies* (SPCK 1997)

Malcolm Goldsmith and Martin Wharton: *Knowing Me Knowing You* (SPCK 1993)

Vanessa Herrick & Ivan Mann: Jesus Wept – reflections on vulnerability in leadership (DLT 1998)

Michael Jacobs: Swift to Hear (SPCK 2000)

Michael Jacobs: Still Small Voice (SPCK 2001)

Henri Nouwen: The Wounded Healer (DLT 1994)

Henri Nouwen: Compassion (DLT 1982)

Philip Sheldrake: Befriending Our Desires (DLT 1997)

Leadership

John Adair: The Leadership of Jesus and its Legacy Today (Canterbury 2001)

Sheila Murray Bethel: A new breed of leader, 8 leadership qualities that matter most in the real world (Berkley Penguin 2009)


Eddie Gibbs, Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk: The Missional Leader, equipping your church to reach a changing world (John Wiley 2006)

Bill Hybels: Courageous Leadership (Zondervan 2012)

Keith Lamdin: Finding your leadership style (SPCK 2012)

Eugene Peterson The Contemplative Pastor (Eermans 1993)

Michael Sadgrove: Wisdom & Ministry: The Call to Leadership (SPCK 2008)


Henri Nouwen In the Name of Jesus, Reflections of Christian Leadership DLT 1989

Ethics and Human Sexuality


Samuel Wells and Ben Quash: Introducing Christian Ethics (Wiley-Blackwell 2010)


Anglicanism


Stephen Spencer: Anglicanism (SCM 2010)

A Guide to the Church of England by Martin Davie (Continuum 2008)
Paul Avis: *The Anglican Understanding of the Church* (SPCK 2000)
Mark Chapman: *Anglican Theology* (T&T Clark 2012)
Monica Furlong: *C of E: The State it's In* (SPCK 2006 rev. ed.)
Richard Giles: *How to be an Anglican* (Canterbury Press 2003)
Bob Jackson: *Hope for the Church* (CHP 2002)
Michael Nazir-Ali & David Hope: *Shapes of the Church to Come* (Kingsway 2001)
Alastair Redfern: *Being Anglican* (DLT 2000)

**Worship, Liturgy & Sacrament**

Paul Bradshaw: *Two Ways of Praying* (SPCK 1995)
Stephen Burns: *Liturgy* (SCM 2012)
Mark Earley: *Beyond Common Worship* (SCM 2013)
Ross Thompson: *The Sacraments* (SCM 2006)

**Mission (including Fresh Expressions and Pioneer Ministry)**

Paul Bayes: *Mission-shaped Church - Missionary Values, Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church* (Grove Booklet Ev 67, 2004)
Alan Billings: *Lost Church* (SPCK 2013)
Doug Gay: *Remixing the Church* (SCM Press 2011)
Robin Greenwood: *Transforming Church* (SPCK 2002)
David Goodhew, Andrew Roberts & Michael Volland: *Fresh!: An Introduction to Fresh Expressions of Church and Pioneer Ministry* (SCM 2012)
J Andrew Kirk: *What is Mission* (2002 DLT)
Ion Mobsby and Graham Cray (ed.): *Fresh Expressions and the Kingdom of God: Ancient faith, Future Mission* (Canterbury Press 2012)
Michael Moynagh: *Changing World, Changing Church* (Monarch 2001)
Michael Moynagh: *Emergingchurch.intro* (Monarch 2004)
Alan Smith: *God-Shaped Mission: Theological and Practical Perspectives from the Rural Church* (Canterbury 2008)
Dave Tomlinson: *How to be a Bad Christian* (Hodder & Stoughton 2013)
Dave Tomlinson: *Re-enchanting Christianity* (Canterbury Press 2008)
Pete Ward: *Liquid Church* (Paternoster 2002)
Rowan Williams, Fr Damian Feeney SSC, George Lings & Chris Neal: *Mission-Shaped Church* (CHP 2004) a must read
Also - out of print but available on Kindle
Vincent Donovan: *Christianity Rediscovered* (SCM Classics 2001)
Alison Milbank and Andrew Davison: *For the Parish: A Critique of Fresh Expressions* (SCM 2011)

**Religious Life**

*Anglican Religious Communities Year Book* – current edition (Canterbury Press)
Barbara Fiand: *Refocusing the Vision: Religious Life into the Future* (Crossroad 2001)
Basil Hume, O.S.B.: *Searching for God* (Gracewing 2002)
Isabel Losada: *New Habits: Today’s women who become nuns* (Hodder & Stoughton 1999)
Timothy Radcliffe, OP: *Sing a New Song: The Christian Vocation* (Dominican Publications 1999)