

EXPLORE

A VOCATIONAL EXPLORATION PROGRAMME TO EXPLORE CHURCH MINISTRY

Shadowing



Opportunities to **shadow** people already serving through worship, learning & caring, evangelism or service.

Shadowing

What kind of shadowing opportunity should I do?

You might want to shadow someone in a role you feel drawn you, even if you know very little about it.

You might have a strong sense of a particular role you think you are called to, in which case the discernment task initially is whether you should shadow someone in that role, or someone in a very different role to offer yourself challenge and variety. Have that conversation with your church leader, or your Accompanist.

If there is not a role you feel drawn to then you might ask those who know and love you what they think your skills are and your church leader will help you identify a helpful shadowing role. You might want to wait to set up a shadowing experience after you've completed session four in December, "Imagination, stories and a range of ministries", because that session might help you to identify what forms of ministry might be God's call to you.

How to find a shadowing opportunity

The starting point is to speak with the church leader who completed your letter of support. Even if they don't know what options there are local to you, they will know who you can ask, this might include Learning Network, your Superintendent minister, your District Chair or an officer such as a Mission & Evangelism officer. There may also be people you know who you can approach to set up some shadowing with them.

When to engage in a shadowing opportunity

You can do this at any time before the course element starts, during it, or after it. If you are considering candidating for an ordained ministry (presbyter or deacon) then you would be advised to pay attention to this before Discerning Ordained Vocation 1 (DOV1), and it might be that when you are in that process the DOV1 Advisory Panel advise you to have more experience by shadowing a particular ministry.

The **Methodist Church**

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

www.methodist.org.uk

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Safeguarding

It is likely that a church leadership role requires safer recruitment before starting out. Speak to your church safeguarding officer to find out what the safer recruitment processes is for the leadership or ministry role you might shadow.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – including you, so you must find out the requirements and follow them.

Accompanist

You might want to use some time with your Accompanist to identify what kind of shadowing opportunity you want to seek out.

You might want to use some time with them to reflect on the experience after it has ended.

Take the initiative, and use your time with them in the most helpful way for you to explore what God might be calling to you.

Journal

We do encourage you to reflect on all your experiences as an Explorer, and especially the shadowing.

Refer back to the journaling film you were sent if you haven't yet watched it, or if you haven't really begun to journal yet.

Some questions that might help you in journaling about the shadowing:

- Where did I notice the gifts of the Spirit within others and myself? Which elements of the gifts of the Spirit?
- Where there times when I felt 'at peace' or 'at home' during the shadowing? What were there? When else have I felt like this?
- Where there times when I felt a 'jarring' or a 'discomfort' during the shadowing? What were there? When else have I felt like this?
- What might God be saying to me through the experiences and my reflections on them?