

Church stewards and the Sunday experience...

Some of the responsibilities Church Stewards have are

- Contacting the visiting local preacher before the service to fill them in on the traditions and customs of their church.
- Welcoming the local preacher before the service. The preacher might have travelled quite a distance or feel nervous, so a friendly face and prayer will probably be most appreciated.
- Looking after the local preacher when the service is over.
- Working with others who are also involved in the Sunday service, for example worship leaders, organists, crèche and Sunday School leaders to ensure that the service runs smoothly.
- Greeting all churchgoers. Whether they are new faces or old friends it is vital that people feel welcomed in our churches. A genuine smile can make all the difference!
- Organising an alternative service if the appointed preacher does not turn up!
- To make sure the offering is taken and that the announcements are made.



What to do next...

If, after prayerful thought, you feel you want to find out more:

Talk about your sense of call with your Minister or a Church Steward.

Church stewards' duties are set out in the constitution of the Methodist Church, The Constitutional Practice and Discipline, which is known as the CPD. To find out more about this go to the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk





God calls people

through:

- inner promptings
- frustration and anger
- challenge
- questioning
- invitation
- another person
- a need
- a desire
- a longing to proclaim the faith within you
- a leaflet like this

God calls people to be Church Stewards

- Church stewards have a key role to play in enabling a worship service which expresses Kingdom values of grace, love & unity.
- Church stewards are responsible for practical things
- Church stewards are crucial in creating a positive experience both for the visiting local preacher or minister and the congregation on a Sunday morning
- Church Stewards provide support for the Minister during the rest of the week as well!



Is God calling me?

God reaches out to all people in love and invites us to respond as disciples of Jesus

The role of the Church Steward is to be

- Supportive
- Welcoming
- Caring
- Enthusiastic & friendly
- Trustful
- Reliable
- Mindful of others needs

You will need

- To have vision good planning skills
- Good communication skills
- To be practical and organised
- To be able to be confidential
- To be able to attend Church meetings
- To keep up with safeguarding matters

Church stewards work in a voluntary capacity, so their responsibilities are balanced alongside their personal commitments, family and social life.

If you are a church steward you will know that you rely a great on your organisational strengths and deep reserves of patience!

It is possible that this exploration leads to a realisation that the call is for another role within in the church. That is fine! There are many ways to serve God.



What do church stewards do?

Church stewards have been around since the 18th century when John Wesley recognised that ministers, who because of the itinerant nature of their role, are often unable to oversee every matter in church life. And so, the role is tightly woven into the DNA of the Connexion.

The practical duties church stewards carry out are crucial to creating a positive experience both for the visiting preachers or ministers and the congregation on a Sunday morning. For many people the Sunday service is where they find their main point of connection with the church. More churches are also finding that a growing percentage of their congregations feel a strong sense of belonging but are unable to attend every week. For church goers, and for the regulars, there is an even greater need for continuity and quality in the church service.

There are also responsibilities which have more of an overarching reach. For example, church stewards focus on fostering unity within the church and 'talent spotting' those with potential, encouraging them to become involved in leadership roles. They also make sure that any new policies which are made by Synod and the Church Council are communicated to their congregation, ensuring that decisions are upheld and acted upon.