

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!
- To make sure the offering is taken and that the announcements are made.
- Arranging for payment of visiting preacher's expenses in collaboration with the church treasurer.
- Organising an alternative service if the appointed preacher does not turn up - Don't worry most churches keep a prepared service for emergencies!

You won't be expected to know everything from day one! There are always more experienced Church Stewards to provide guidance and many churches use a shadowing period to ease new stewards into the role. In addition, many of the churches separate some of the duties from the main role creating support teams in the form of Assistant Stewards, Communion Stewards and Welcoming or Door Stewards.

There are also a host of other roles which take on responsibilities to help the service run smoothly - Sound Desk Operators, Readers and Musicians. The Church Steward on duty takes overall responsibility by coordinating, ensuring that information is distributed in a timely manner and sorting out any problems that arise.

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 Senior Church Steward.



Are you called ...?



to be a Church Steward



Who becomes a Church Steward?

Across the Connexion, and among church stewards, all backgrounds, ages and races are represented. 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:

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

What is a Church Steward?

Church Stewards are right at the heart of the local church.

Working as a team with other stewards, and alongside ministers, they have responsibility for the full scope of the church's life and activities. They are also crucial in creating a positive experience for both the visiting local preacher, or minister, and the congregation on a Sunday morning.

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 deal on your organisational strengths and deep reserves of patience!

Is God calling you to serve your church in this way?

What do Church Stewards do?

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

While Church Stewards are responsible for practical things, such as:

- looking after local preachers who are visiting their church
- and making sure the offering is taken and announcements are made.

However that's not where it ends! There are also responsibilities which have more of an overarching reach:

- Church Stewards focus on fostering unity within the church;
- 'Talent spotting' those with potential, encouraging them to become involved in leadership roles;
- Attending official church meetings which include the Church Council, the annual General Church Meeting and could also include the Pastoral Committee and Circuit Meeting;
- Making sure that any new policies made by Synod and the Church Council are communicated to their congregation;
- Ensuring that decisions are upheld and acted upon.

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 document follow this visit the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk

Church Stewards and the Sunday Experience

The practical duties that the church stewards carry out are crucial to creating a positive experience both for the visiting local preacher, or minister, 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 churchgoers, and for the regulars, there is an even greater need for continuity and quality in the church service.

Church stewards have a key role to play in enabling a worship service which expresses Kingdom values of grace, love and unity.