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**speak, the Portsmouth Diocese Team of Evangelists, exists to recognise, equip, encourage and affirm those with a growing ministry of evangelism (lay or ordained, part-time or full time, paid or voluntary) offering training and ourselves as a team and resource to parishes and churches.**

**Spoken evangelism is a key component of God’s mission in the world and this group exists to encourage and promote ourselves and others in speaking about Jesus in our communities across the diocese. We hope to find ways to extend the invitation and message verbally to all that** Jesus is good news for everyone coming to bring us life in all its fullness set free from sin and death.

We plan to meet three times per year, at a central location in the diocese. We may invite a speaker to give input on an aspect of Evangelism, spend time sharing resources and ideas, feeding back progress and learning by way of accountability, and praying together. We offer practical training for evangelism in the diocese and, where invited, the team will make ourselves available to assist in evangelism in places and parishes beyond our own.

**speak** can be summarised as a place of:

* Support and affirmation for evangelists;
* Learning and equipping for evangelists;
* Exploration and inspiration for evangelists;
* Accountability and encouragement for evangelists;
* Team resourcing and training in evangelism for all parishes and churches;
* Raising the profile and drawing out the gift of evangelism in God’s church.

The Portsmouth Diocesan **speak** Team of Evangelists recognises in ourselves and each other:

* That God, in his love, through Jesus Christ, has reconciled us to Himself and has given us a ministry of reconciliation. The message of Jesus is good news for everyone for Jesus came to bring us life in all its fullness, set free from sin and death;
* That God has called us to be evangelists and that He has equipped us by the Holy Spirit with the particular gifting to fulfil that calling. As evangelists we will seek to encourage all God’s people to share their story to be witnesses to His love and grace;
* That our call to this ministry of evangelism is a call to service in the church and the community, and we will not be motivated by a desire for personal gain. Rather we embrace a lifestyle of availability to the direction of God’s Word and the Holy Spirit.

Therefore

* Our practice stems from our conviction of the need to live out the Gospel, and from a recognition that all of humanity is made in the image of God, with inherent value and dignity. We will therefore avoid manipulation and coercion, acknowledging that we are fellow workers with Christ himself.
* We will work in partnership with local churches of all denominations and we will avoid anything that might undermine the ministry of local church leaders.
* Our actions will display an awareness of the importance of different contexts and cultures and a commitment to seek what God is already doing in those contexts and cultures.
* We will endeavour to ensure that those who become Christians are fully supported as they become disciples and are nurtured by a local worshipping community.

For membership of the **speak** Portsmouth Diocese Team of Evangelists please read below to see whether this group is for you. You do not have to have every base covered to join but a willingness to grow and develop in these areas would be important. As you grow, we will encourage and nurture you in the following:

**CALLING**

**Vocation:** a clear and continuing sense of calling to be an evangelist or emerging evangelist.

**CHARACTER**

**Christian Life:** a real and sustained relationship with Jesus; exhibiting fruitfulness, a growing maturity, spirituality, integrity, grace and empathy.

**Balance:** the demonstration of a balanced lifestyle that gives time to God, oneself, one’s family and friends; for rest, recreation and leisure.

**Supported:** recommended by their church leaders and supported by their peers.

**Team:** understanding the need to exhibit the temperament to work in partnership and get on with others.

**COMPETENCE**

**Experience of Evangelism:** ready to step out in practical evangelism and able to relate the Gospel to various kinds of people and situations.

**Communication:** good communication skills and the ability to be flexible, creative and open to others’ ideas.

**Leadership:** the ability to lead or develop as a leader with the wisdom to accept criticism and to learn from experience. Tolerant of failure in self and others while ready to get up and try again. Able to enthuse, attract and train others.

**COMMITMENT**

**Church Commitment:** Rooted in a local church community within the Diocese of Portsmouth. Able to appreciate and work with those of differing Christian traditions.

**Training:** ongoing commitment to personal development in training and learning and, over time, to seek to train and mentor others.

**Wider church:** you will be expected to support mission in other parts of the diocese in prayer and will be invited to be involved as an evangelist in team situations.

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**Application Form**

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| **YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS** |
| **Title** |  | **Home number** |  |
| **First Name** |  | **Mobile number** |  |
| **Surname** |  | **Date of birth** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Postcode** |  |
| **Email** |  |
|  |
| **YOUR BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE** |
| **Occupation / Skills** |  |
| **Home Church** |  |
| **How long have you been involved in the ministry of evangelism?** |  |
| **What training have you received?** |  |
| **Do you have a mentor or spiritual director? Who?** |  |
| **To whom are you accountable in your ministry?** |  |
| **In the space provided, please write something of your own faith journey and of the difference that Jesus has made in your life.** |  |
| **Provide examples of evangelism you have been engaged in and what you are currently doing.** |  |
| **Please describe your pattern of Prayer, Bible reading & worship.** |  |
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| **RECOGNITION OF YOUR MINISTRY** |
| **Does your application have the support of your Vicar?** |  |

We would ask you to provide us with the details of 2 people who could act as referees if so required. They should know you well and be able to say something about your ability to establish and maintain personal relationships, your spiritual life and your pattern of worship as well as something about how you have fulfilled your existing commitments in ministry.

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| **REFEREE 1 CHURCH LEADER** |
| **First Name** |  | **Surname** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Postcode** |  |
| **Email** |  |

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| --- |
| **REFEREE 2** |
| **First Name** |  | **Surname** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Postcode** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **First Name** |  |

*We will be expected to have DBS clearance for any aspect of evangelistic work for which it would be needed. Please return the completed form to Andrew Hargreaves, Mission Development Officer.* *andrew.hargreaves@portsmouth..anglican.org* *023 9289 9676.*