



Readers Annual Return Report For the year ended 30th June 2020

The information in this Report is taken from the information supplied by Readers in the Annual Return for 2019/2020, and the information that is held in the Diocese and by the Secretary to Readers. The information is as at 30th June 2020.

We continue to receive a brilliant response by our Readers in the submission of the Return. It is always amazing to learn what Readers across the Diocese are actually doing both in their Ministry within the Church itself and what happens outside. There is a wide variety of activities that are undertaken with the parishes for which we give thanks.

Licensed Readers (LR); Readers with Permission to Officiate (PTO) and RIT is Readers-in-Training.

At the end of June, a Return was sent to all 127 Readers and an impressive 99 Returns were submitted – the response can be seen below with comparisons shown for years ended 2018 and 2019.:

No. of Returns submitted by Reader status:

2020	2019	2018
LR: 43 out of 61 or 70%	46 out of 60 or 77%	47 out of 59 or 80%
PTO: 46 out of 54 or 85%	41 out of 50 or 82%	44 out of 47 or 94%
RIT; 10 out of 12 or 83%	12 out of 14 or 86%	8 out of 11 or 73%
Total: 99 of 127 or 78%	99 of 124 or 80%	99 of 117 or 85%

As can be seen in the figures above there continues to be a decline in the total number of Returns submitted compared to the previous two years.

Number of Readers in the Diocese as 30th June 2019

On 30th June 2020 there were 127 Readers either Licensed, with PTO or Readers-in-Training. This is made up of 61 LR (60*) 54 PTO's (50*) with and 12 (14*) RIT. This is an increase of three on 2019. See chart 1 *2019 figures

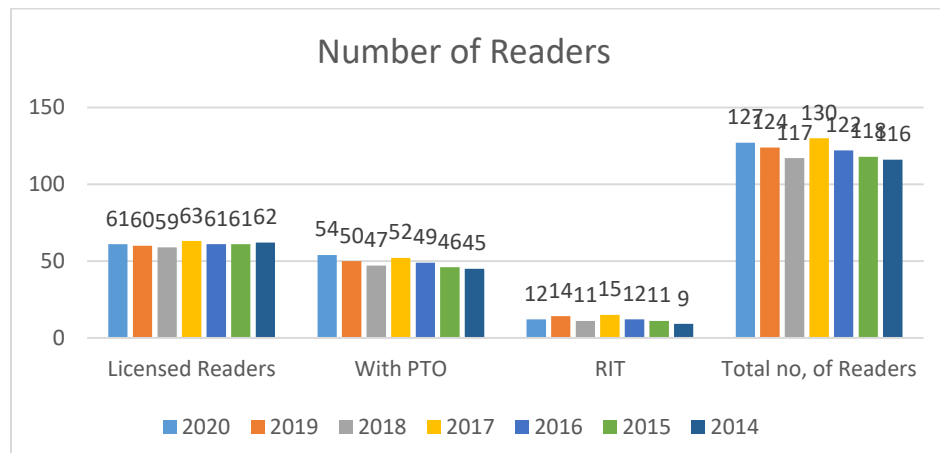


chart 1

As at 30th June 2020 the 127 Readers were as follows::

66(65)* Male Readers: of which **28 (29)*** were LR, **34 (30*)** with PTO and **4 (6)*** RIT;
61 (52)* Female Readers: of which **33 (31)*** LR; **20 (20)*** with PTO and **8 (8)*** RIT.

* 2019 ages

In 2020 the youngest Reader was **41(40)*** the oldest **90 (89)***; the youngest (RIT) **51 (32)*** and the oldest is **69(70)***. The overall average age of all Readers saw a small increase to **69** compared to 68 in 2019.. See As can be seen from the chart (2) below the average age of Readers has remained fairly constant.

*2019 ages.

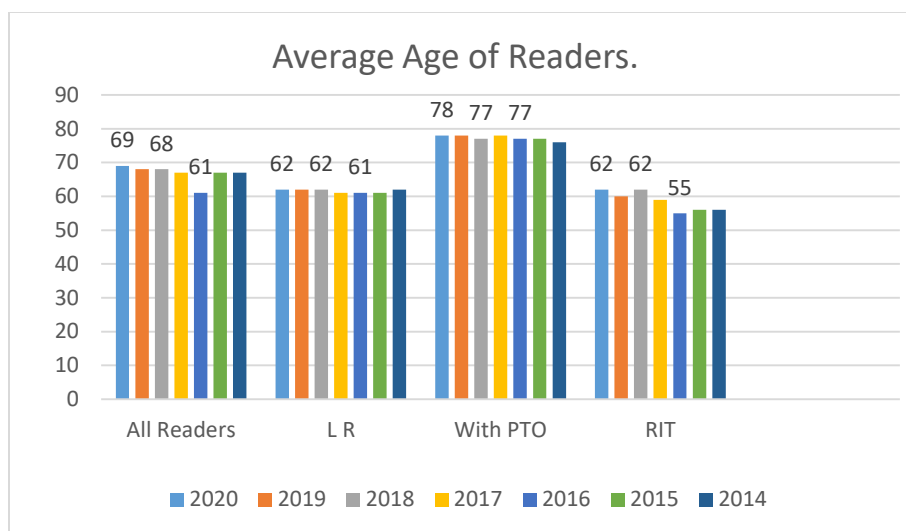


chart 2

Ministerial Information

As can be seen above In the year to 30th June 2020 information was submitted by 99 out of 127 Readers compared to 99 out of 124 Readers in the year to 30th June 2019 who had submitted Return. The information below represents information from the Readers who submitted a Return and not the total number of Readers in the Diocese. It is only by using percentage rates is it possible to show the changes that have taken place.

Due to the unusual circumstances from March with churches closed and some churches holding services on-line eg Facebook or Zoom the data shown in the Ministerial duties may reflect only nine months rather than a full year for many Readers.

The submitted Returns show that preaching and leading worship, continue to be a major part of Reader Ministry as does leading the intercessions which was discovered in this year's Return. Other duties undertaken by Readers include, reading the lessons and Gospel, as Assisting Minister (Deacon), Communion Assistants, taking and assisting at funerals and visiting homes or nursing homes to provide the Holy Sacraments. For accurate figures See Chart 3

The questions asked were different than in previous years. The Readers were asked to give accurate figures rather than within a given range which means comparing with previous years will not be possible. But the answers given gives a fuller picture of what Readers are actually doing within Services. For other important aspects of Reader Ministry ie outside of worship please refer to the Question 3 on the attached Summary of Supplementary.

Preaching

Ministry	99 of Readers	% of Readers	No. undertaken
Preaching	96	98%	1422 Sermons
Leading Worship	91	93%	1,350 Services
Intercessions	96	98%	at 1001 Services
Read Lesson	75	77%	at 684 Services
Read Gospel	74	76%	at 739 Services
Communion Assistant	70	71%	At 600 Services
Deacon/Assistant Minister	43	43%	At 441 Services
Visited homes/nursing homes for Communion	30	31%	320 visits

Chart 3

Funeral Ministry

Although it is not possible to compare data for most aspects of Reader activities it is possible to see the trend in Funeral Ministry

Funeral Ministry is an important part of Reader Ministry with many being disappointed in not being able to undertake this Ministry and others unexpectedly finding this ministry surprisingly rewarding.

Year	No. taking Funerals	No. of Services	No. Assisting at Funerals	No. of Services	Total no. of Readers
2020	43 (44%)	137	22 (22%)	36	65 (66%)
2019	33 (34%)	171	19 (5%)	49	52 (52%)
2018	29	181	23	58	52
2017	31	156	25	60	56
2016	23	121	28	59	51
2015	32	136	29	61	61
2014	32	57	26	42	58

Chart 4

Comparing 2019/2020 to year the 2018/2019 there are more Readers undertaking this Ministry. The chart does show that fewer funerals were undertaken but this could reflect in that they do not cover a full year.

State of Reader Ministry for the year ended 30th June 2020

During the year to 30th June 1 Reader died and three with Permission to Officiate gave up the Blue Scarf. One Reader moved into the Diocese.

From 1st July until October three Licensed Readers resigned with another two reluctantly having to resign due to ill health and one with PTO stepping down. One Reader transferred into the Diocese and two new Readers-on-Training began their journey. In the pipeline are another two Readers who have moved into the Diocese and are awaiting for Licensing in due course. In October 2020 there will be six Readers Admitted and Licensed during our two Services.

Licences and Permission to Officiate

Under the new Five Year rule of renewing Licenses six Readers will be seeking to Renew their Licenses; and five Readers will be obtaining Permission to Officiate for the first time. Thirteen Readers with PTO will be seeking to renew their PTO. Due to the unusual circumstances with Churches closed and Parochial Church Councils not meeting during closure the application for renewal of Licenses and the issuing of Permission to Officiate has been extended from beginning of August to 1st December 2020.

As I write this Report the state of the future Reader Ministry in the Diocese of Truro remains positive even though there have been an unprecedented number of Readers resigning or retiring during the year. With the arrival of Bishop Hugh Nelson as our Warden of Readers I am sure that Reader Ministry will be in safe hands.

Thank you all for your support during the past year.

Carrie Tucker
Secretary to Readers
September 2020