

Diocese of Liverpool
150 years of Reader Ministry
in the
Church of England

Objectives of presentation:

The origins of Reader Ministry

The development of Reader Ministry

Reader Ministry in the Diocese of Liverpool

Reader Ministry and the Diocesan agenda for Change

The origins of Reader Ministry:

10th of May 1866 Reader Ministry was born.

The bishops recognised the need for a band of people.

1941 Readers allowed to read the epistle and administer the chalice, and preach at Morning & Evening Prayer.

1969 Reader Ministry was extended to women and Readers were allowed to read the gospel and to preach at Holy Communion.

Readers are also known as Lay Theologians

The development of Reader Ministry (1)

Reader Training has changed over many years:

Examinations, licensed subject to qualifying!

Personal mentoring, licensed subject to reports/essays

All Saints Chester course of study. Licensed after 2 years and further PIME training.

The development of Reader Ministry (2)

- Ministerial Development Reviews (MDRs) every 5 years
- Working Agreement and Annual returns for all Readers
- Readers are involved in Local Missional Leaders, Fresh expressions, Pastoral Visiting, Home Communion, Hospital Chaplaincy, Youth Work, Funeral Ministry and much more
- ***Readers do more than just 'keep the show on the road!'***

Reader Ministry in the Liverpool Diocese

Statistics taken from the official return December 2015:

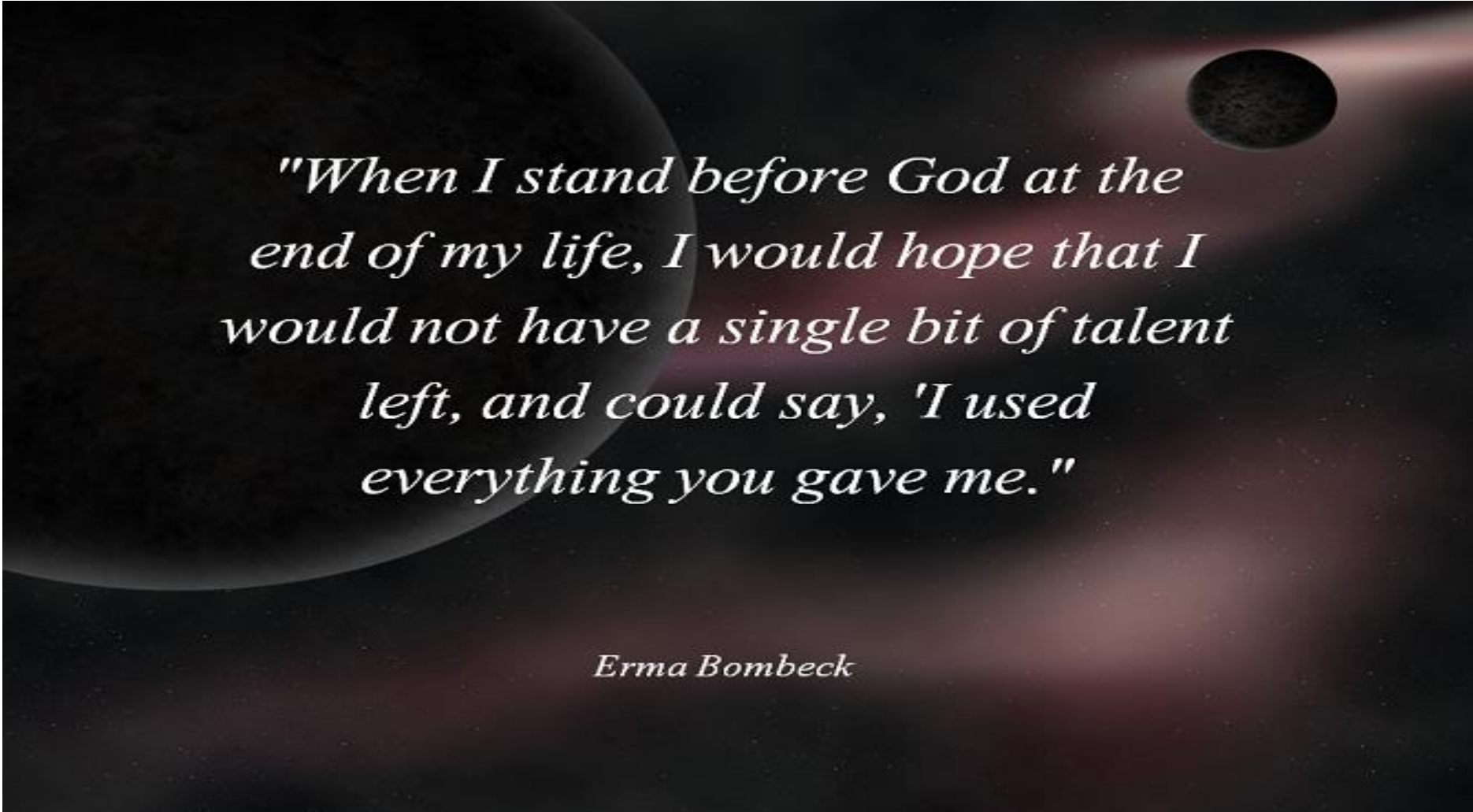
160 Women 139 Men – Fully licensed Readers

39 Women 26 Men - Permission to officiate

0.4% under 40, 25% aged 40-49, 42% aged 60-69, 24% PTO

Total number of active licensed Readers 364

Readers and the change agenda (1)



*"When I stand before God at the
end of my life, I would hope that I
would not have a single bit of talent
left, and could say, 'I used
everything you gave me.'"*

Erma Bombeck

Readers and the change agenda (2)

Transforming Wigan, Growth Agenda, 'Fit for Purpose' etc.
Reader Committee review in January 2016

2 committee meetings a year

Two sub groups created – 1.Communications
2.Recruitment and Selection

Change is challenging, is difficult for some to accept.
However the key to change is:

Readers and the change agenda (3)

Communication, Respect, Courage and Prayer

364 Readers in this Diocese are a formidable band to support and be part of 'Change' that we are all involved in.

This Diocese is blessed with its Reader Ministry in this 150th celebratory year.