

The Readers' Forum - Notes

The following notes / guidelines apply to the Readers' Forum.

1. Forum Principles

1. The Forum is administered (and funded) by the Central Readers' Council primarily for the benefit of Readers and Readers in Training within the Church of England
2. The Moderators and Administrators will take whatever actions they regard as necessary for the smooth running of the Forum for the benefit of its members, within the constraints implicit by its ownership by the Central Readers' Council. This includes, but is not restricted to:
 - requesting that inappropriate postings should be modified
 - removing inappropriate postings or topics
 - retaining postings or topics, at their discretion
 - advising members about inappropriate activity
 - excluding members either temporarily or permanently.Where a member is suspended or banned, the postings or activity leading to the suspension will normally be removed, but other postings/topics may be retained/removed at the Moderators/Administrators discretion.
3. The Forum is open to anyone who has an interest in Christian ministry and agrees to abide by the Forum rules regarding inappropriate material.
4. In the spirit of openness, unverifiable or anonymous applicants will not be accepted, although for the protection of Forum members, personal email addresses are not displayed.

2. Operation Notes

- Joining the Forum - Anyone wishing to join the Forum is required to complete an application and to agree to the conditions of use of the Forum. Applications are verified, to ensure that as far as is reasonable, the identity of all Forum members is known. Details of applicants are no longer available to Forum members until after they have been authorised.
- Prevention of Automated Applications – A visual/audio verification feature has been implemented to try to prevent automated applications to join the Forum.
- Activity Recording – All activity within the Forum is logged. Until a member has logged-on to the Forum (by entering their userid and password) their activity will be recorded as if they were a Guest user.
- Guest Users – Only have access to the Registration / Login screens.
- Housekeeping – The majority of topics are removed after six months of inactivity. Exceptions to this are; prayer topics which because of their short-term relevance may be removed earlier (after one month of inactivity) and topics which are considered to have a more long-term relevance which are made “sticky topics” and retained.
- Leaving the Forum – Anyone may terminate their own membership of the Forum by request to the CRC Administrator. Once verified, the members' details will be removed from the membership list, but individual postings/topics contributed by the member may be retained at the discretion of the Administrator.

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3. Usage / Guidance Notes

Forum Members are asked:

- ❑ To bear in mind the specific focus of each board and try to ensure that they are posting to the most appropriate one.
- ❑ To show at least as much courtesy in messages they would face to face, and as much as they would expect to receive.
- ❑ To note that whilst vigorous and controversial debate on issues is generally encouraged, it should be conducted courteously and legally, and should never become a personal attack.
- ❑ To try to be as concise as possible.
- ❑ To use descriptions (e.g. of other denominations or perspectives within Christianity), which are not likely to cause offence to those described. If someone objects to a description used, members are asked to apologise and not use it again.
- ❑ Not to say anything that they wouldn't want their bishop, minister, congregation or local newspaper to see.
- ❑ To respect copyright. If necessary a short quotation is acceptable and should be accompanied by an acknowledgement of the author. Rather than quote from the Internet, include the web address (URL) with a brief explanation.
- ❑ Not to advertise, unless express permission has been received beforehand from the forum Administrator.
- ❑ Not to post virus warnings – most of them are hoaxes. However they should report receiving a virus attached to a message.
- ❑ To reply personally by email if their message is appropriate only to the individual rather than to the whole forum.
- ❑ Not to give their password out to any other person and NEVER to use another person's account for any reason. This is for the protection of all forum members.
- ❑ To note that any postings of information that the Moderators consider to be inappropriate for the forum will be removed, with or without prior notice.
- ❑ To note that with each post, IP addresses are recorded for security purposes.
- ❑ To note that in extreme circumstances, the Administrator, on behalf of the Central Readers' Council reserves the right to impose a temporary or permanent exclusion. This will normally follow warnings, but may be imposed immediately.