



Rev James Grier  
Leader of Unlimited Church  
Diocesan Youth Church Adviser  
**57 Cowick Street, Exeter. EX4 1HR**  
james.grier@exeter.anglican.org  
07825 610288

I am a Devonian, born and bred and passionately committed to the Church of England in Devon.

Over the years, I have appreciated the breadth of the Church of England in this Diocese. I grew up in Plymouth, attending a traditional church in Tamerton Foliot. My secondary school years included being part of an Anglo-Catholic chapel and the youth group at St Andrew's Plymouth, whilst still attending St Mary's, Tamerton Foliot as a server.

I have been ordained for 19 years. I served my curacy in Oxford and was then an Associate Vicar in Birmingham, before returning south to Devon. For my first 5 years back in Devon, I was half-time Team Vicar in Clyst Mission Community, a wonderful team of 5 varied churches. This gave me such an appreciation for the wonderful value and opportunities of parish ministry in Devon. During my time there as well as introducing All Age Worship to one of the churches, we also reintroduced an 8.30am BCP service.

In the other half of my time, I was Diocesan Youth Church Adviser responsible for pioneering a church to reach unchurched youth. We began Unlimited Church, a multi-generational church which exists for young people with little or no experience of faith or church. In 2012, I moved to leading Unlimited Church full-time, whilst still giving a day a week to the Diocese as Youth Church Advisor.

One of the greatest delights and privileges of parish ministry is working with people at all stages of life. Many of my most significant moments have been with people towards the end of life. I have a particular concern for those who live with Dementia. My dad died at the beginning of the year having had dementia for over 7 years. When I moved to work full-time with youth I wanted to ensure that I still had contact with the elderly and those facing death and so am on call for the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital one night each week.

Unlimited not only works with Exeter youth, but youth from across Devon because of our links with Exeter College. At our main midweek cafe, 3/4 of the youth have at least an hour's travel to get to college. We meet youth from as far as Barnstaple, Plymouth, Bideford and Lyme Regis. This gives me a connection with, and concern for, youth from across the Diocese.

I also lead Soul Exeter, a monthly youth celebration which has been running for 15 years. It offers something for young people across the region who want to get together with other young people for an evening of worship and teaching in a way that the churches they attend can't provide. It is an event full of joy and celebration whilst at the same time addressing the challenges of living as a Christian young person.

In 2016, I coordinated *Upload* as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations. It was a big youth outreach event at the Cathedral with bands, inflatables, a skate park, a football cage, cafe etc. 1500 young people attended and 200 people helped out on the evening. It attracted people from everywhere from Cornwall to Bristol. Many young people had never set foot in the Cathedral before or had any real experience of church or faith. We're holding *Upload* again for 13-18 year olds on 12th May 2018 at the Cathedral. [www.uploadexeter.com](http://www.uploadexeter.com) in case you are interested!)

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In 2017, I became Chaplain to St Mellitus South West, based in Plymouth, for a day a week in term time. Over the years, I have been part of various people's exploration of vocation and journey to ordination, it is wonderful to now support this next part of the journey. It is a privilege to offer pastoral support and encouragement. It also gives me insights into the challenges and opportunities facing those about to enter ordained ministry. In 2018, Unlimited will take on its first curate as part of a strategy for pioneering ministry in the future.

Since helping start a youth group in Tamerton in my teens, I have always worked in some way with young people, whether youth or students. For the last 13 years, I have been Pastoral Coordinator and a seminar speaker for Soul Survivor. Soul Survivor holds festivals in the summer, which annually gather over 25000 young people and adults from across the country and abroad.

In 2015, I became chair of the board for South West Youth Ministries. SWYM trains youth, children and families workers across the South West and beyond. They thus provide youth and children's workers to parishes across the Diocese, often to churches which otherwise would have no hope of youth or children's work. In my role I help SWYM look at how best to resource and equip youth and children's ministry in churches and communities of all shapes, styles and churchmanship.

Unlimited invests heavily in schools-work, especially in one of the Diocese's church secondary schools. I was also a governor in our village primary school when a team vicar. Much of our work in schools involves offering pastoral support and hope for those who are really struggling. I am deeply concerned about the pressures facing young people and their mental health not just today but even more so in the future. The church has lost touch with the vast majority of young people and even children. Much needs to be done not only to reconnect with them but also to make church a place where they can grow as disciples in effective and relevant ways. This needs addressing nationally rather than simply locally. The church also has much to say and offer in terms of mental health and emotional well-being not only for young people but all ages. Throughout my ministry, I have been very involved with the pastoral care of those who are struggling with their mental health, past abuse and relational breakdown. The church has a unique hope to offer.

As I began by saying, I love the Church and am deeply committed to it. There is so much of immense value to preserve and invest in with traditional church models. At the same time we need to look at new and fresh ways of reaching people who have no thought of church let alone interest in it. We need both/and not either/or. My experience of and passion for both is a key reason I would like to represent this Diocese at General Synod. We live in a world that is more desperate than ever for the Good News of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed afresh in this and every generation.

Thank you so much for reading all of this.

Ever yours,

