

Not sure?

If you want to explore further what God may be calling you to, you need to:

Pray: take time to pray. Ask others to pray for you and with you.

Talk: go and see your Vicar, who will want to talk this through with you. Speak to other clergy too. There may be a Vocations Day coming up.

You may be advised to undertake the Diocesan 'Discipleship Project' course first.

Reflect: upon the demands that this ministry, and training for it, will place on your life. Share these reflections with your family or friends.



Is God calling you to Ordained Ministry?

If you would like to talk to someone about what God might be calling you to be and do, you can contact one of the Vocations Coordinators. There are three team leaders, in the north, south and west of the county:



vanorth@carlisediocese.org.uk

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Christians are called to serve Jesus at their baptism. This can be lived out in many varied and exciting ways, and indeed may develop and change as time goes on. For a few people this calling involves ordained ministry. In the Diocese of Carlisle you can explore your own particular calling with a Vocations Advisor (VA).

If the Vocations Adviser thinks that it is right for you to explore ordained ministry further you will be referred to the DDO (Diocesan Director of Ordinands) team. The DDO team follow the national Church of England guidelines in discerning a call to ordained ministry. This discernment process may take some time, will be far reaching, and will explore not only a person's past history but also their current church involvement and how they have grown as a disciple of Jesus. The discernment process will look at how you inhabit the qualities set out nationally.

What shape ministry might God be calling you to?

The role of an ordained deacon is to live out the churches calling to serve others. It is a calling that is largely based outside of the church community and is a bridge between community and church. People may live out this form of ordained ministry in many various ways but the focus is on serving both in the context of mission and in the local community.

The role of an ordained priest is to be a leader of the church community, to build up and encourage others in their own callings and to administer the sacraments within the church.



Self-Supporting Ordained or Stipendiary Ministry?

For most of our candidates self-supporting ordained ministry (SSOM) is the path they follow. Usually this means that the candidate serves as an ordained Priest or Deacon within the particular mission community where they live and worship, the person is not paid by the Church of England and so often they will have a paid job as well. The ministry can be diverse and varied depending on the gifts and skills of the individual.

For some candidates they will explore stipendiary ordained ministry. If this is the case candidates will need to meet the national qualities for incumbent status, will need to be ordained before they are 55 years old and will need to be nationally deployable.

To find out more contact one of the Vocations Coordinators



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