

Hi I'm Megan, I'm 25 and I have just finished my first year of training for ordination in Bristol. From about the age of twelve, I felt a strong sense God would lead me into 'something', but I never thought it would involve ordination! I was working as a youth worker and felt God say it was time to move on, but I had no idea what was next. This led to months of prayer and it wasn't until just before I was set to leave that I felt called to explore ordination. I chatted with my vicar and he encouraged me to contact the Diocesan Director of Ordinands. On meeting the DDO, we chatted about calling and she mentioned the Ministry Experience Scheme for 18–30 year olds and I instantly felt God's peace. I applied and spent the next year working alongside five churches and discerning my call with the DDO and others. It was such a gift and the perfect opportunity to explore ministry, experience different churches, be supported and encouraged, ask questions, see others living out their call and have the space to pray and explore my own calling. I felt so well supported by the team at Bristol Diocese. I didn't know anyone my age who was ordained and so was worried I was too young, but the DDO helped me to authentically and honestly explore if this was what God was calling me to. Whilst it was challenging at times, I felt they were dedicated to listening to God with me and helping me to discern God's calling, whether to ordination or not. My first year of training has been stretching (to say the least!) but throughout the whole process I have felt 'held' by God and supported by the Diocese and look forward to the next steps.