



WHAT'S YOUR CALLING?

Ordained Ministry

WHAT IS ORDAINED MINISTRY?

As Christians we are all called through our baptism to be witnesses to Christ, but some are specifically called through ordination to serve in the threefold order of bishops, priests and deacons.

When someone is first ordained they will be a deacon, normally for a year, before being ordained priest. Some are called to remain as distinctive deacons; the diaconate is a go-between ministry, working within the church but also reaching out to the whole community

A priest's work is to build up the Body of Christ through:

- the celebration of the sacraments,
- teaching,
- preaching, and
- pastoral care.

Many will work in a parish, but others will be chaplains in schools or hospitals, prisons or

the armed forces, or pioneer ministers working in Fresh Expressions of church.

Being obedient to God's call on their life to ordained ministry some deacons and priests minister in the Church without remuneration and are called Self-Supporting Ministers.

COULD GOD BE CALLING ME TO BE ORDAINED?

The Church in the 21st century needs a wide range of ministers to serve the mission of God.

Throughout history, God has called people of all ages, ethnic groups and educational backgrounds, to play their part in building His kingdom. We are all given uniquely precious gifts.

The Church of England is keen to encourage people from all backgrounds to explore their call to ordination. This website may be helpful: www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations

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Resisting God's will is futile. Stop laughing about the idea of YOU being a priest and embrace his call on your life! Pursue it with all your heart, mind, soul and strength until God apprehends you. After all, he's brought you this far already and he won't leave you now.

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Caz Mills, Ordinand





I wish to bring the hope and encouragement I received from God through this passage to my parish community.

Folake Makanjuola, 
Priest



DISCERNMENT AND TRAINING

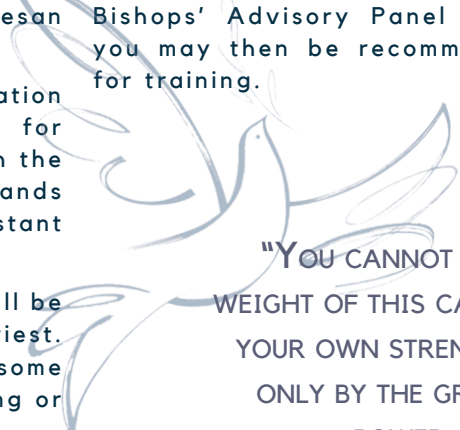
In the Rochester Diocese, if you feel called to ordained ministry you must first attend an 'It's Your Calling' day and then meet with one of our Diocesan Vocations Advisers

If it is agreed that ordination may be the right ministry for you, then you will meet with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) or one of the Assistant DDOs.

At this point, a reference will be required from your parish priest. You might be asked to do some written work, further reading or visit other churches.

This time of discernment is used to explore whether you have the

necessary gifts and potential to fulfil an ordained ministry; it could take at least 15 months. If you are invited to attend a Bishops' Advisory Panel (BAP) you may then be recommended for training.



"YOU CANNOT BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THIS CALLING IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH, BUT ONLY BY THE GRACE AND POWER OF GOD."

(ORDINATION SERVICE)

What can I do next?

Pray...

With an open mind and an open heart, ask God how you might become all that He intends you to be and how best you can serve Him.

Get some advice...

Talk about your sense of calling to your parish clergy and to people whose opinions you trust. Find out more about ordination and the variety of roles in which you might serve.

It's Your Calling...

Come to an 'It's Your Calling' day. These are run by our team of vocations advisers in different venues throughout the year. You'll have a chance to meet people on a similar quest and have time and space to reflect on what exciting plans God might have in store for you.

Who can I contact?

If you would like to discuss this further, speak to a member of the Vocations team at an It's Your Calling day or contact:

Email vocations@rochester.anglican.org

Phone 01634 560000

Web www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/ordained-ministry

