

What can I do next?

- Ask God in prayer how you may become all that God intends you to be. What are the gifts and experiences God has given you that could be used for the Kingdom?
- Speak to people who know you well and who you trust. Speak to your parish priest or chaplain and begin to explore your vocation with them.
- Look to see what vocations events are running. These will be advertised in Grapevine and on the Diocesan website.
- Contact the Diocesan Vocations Coordinator to hear about other ways in which we can support you to further explore your Vocation.
- Explore our other leaflets and resources at www.salisbury.anglican.org/missionandministry

Contact us

Diocesan Vocations Coordinator
Revd Louise Ellis
Louise.ellis@salisbury.anglican.org
07826 572 764

www.salisbury.anglican.org

**"I have called you by name
you are mine
Isaiah 43:1**

Exploring Ordained Ministry

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

What is ordained ministry?

God calls every baptised Christian into ministry and equips them to work together with others as the Body of Christ. This is about much more than their involvement within and around the church buildings or activities. It's about what they do and what they are as Christians, seven days a week.

Together with the whole people of God, ordained ministers share in the ministry which Christ entrusted to those who follow him as disciples. The Church of England recognises three orders of ordained ministry: bishops, priests and deacons.

Deacons are ordained to a ministry of service, to be ambassadors bearing the message of God's love in Christ and attending to the needs of others. They often focus on the margins of church life, expressing care and compassion for the poor and marginalised – and they help people cross the threshold into church.

Priests are ordained by the church to lead God's people into an ever-deeper relationship of love for God and his world. They are ministers of the sacraments, presiding at the Eucharist, blessing people in God's name, and pronouncing God's forgiveness. Through word and sacrament, a priest shares in Christ's ministry of reconciliation, providing pastoral care and building up the whole people of God to realise their own priestly ministry. All priests are ordained as deacons first and continue to be deacons even after their ordination as priests. Many priests and deacons work in parishes. Others are called to chaplaincy and pioneer ministries. Some are full-time, some part-time. Some are self-supporting and some paid.

Could it be you?

Are you someone who:

- Loves God and has a thorough knowledge of God's story?
- Loves people and knows how to listen?
- Feels an inner sense of call to ordained ministry that is affirmed by others

If the answers are yes, then speak with your church ministers and those who know you well, attend a diocesan Explorers event, or contact the Vocations Coordinator.

Discernment and Training

A Vocations Adviser will work with you to help you discern if this is where God is calling you at this time. After this period of initial discernment, if you and your Vocations Advisor both discern that God is calling you to continue exploring ordained ministry then you will continue your discernment with a Director of Ordinands (DDO). Over several months you will have conversations with your DDO and where appropriate they will prepare you for the National Discernment Process.

There are several possible training pathways, full-time and part-time, residential and non-residential. Your DDO will explore these with you.