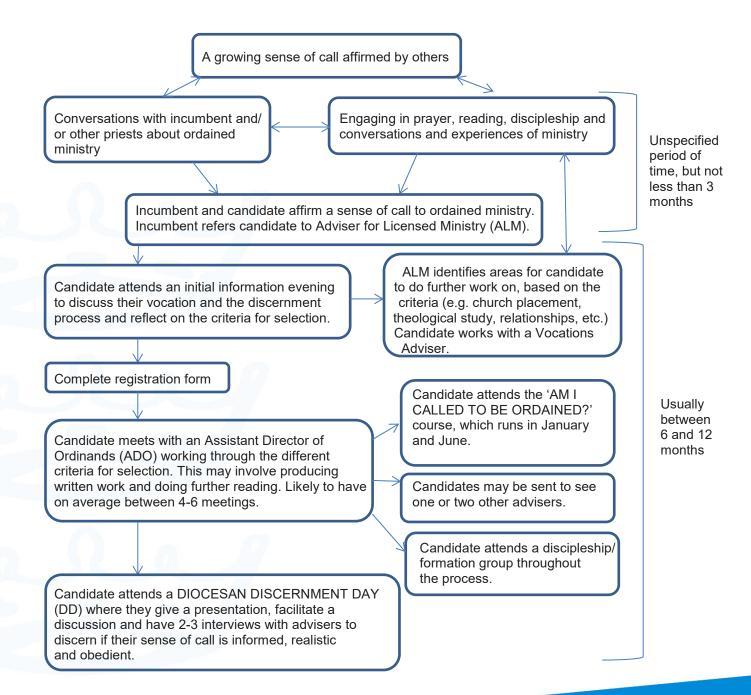


How to.

Become a Vicar

A Process for those exploring an ordained vocation

This document sets out a process for those wishing to pursue a call to ordained ministry. It gives an idea of the various stages of the process and some sense of possible times — which are only illustrative, someone's vocations journey may take much longer. Whilst we are delighted when someone is exploring a call to ordained ministry and wish to fully support them in that process, please be aware that there is no guarantee at any stage of the process that someone will be ordained, or that they will be able to take up a curacy post in Bristol diocese, or indeed any diocese. The discernment process is only ever a recommendation to proceed to the next stage and the Bishop has the ultimate decision about who is ordained and where they will be licensed to serve.



Following a Discernment Day, a candidate is likely to receive one of three outcomes:

Candidate receives a recommendation Candidate is asked to do Candidate is not to attend a Bishop's Advisory Panel Some further work in recommended to (BAP) straight away. (This takes a attend a BAP. specified area(s) before Minimum of 14 weeks, assuming attending a BAP. A availability of BAP dates.) timetable will be set out and support given by ADO. Candidate meets with ADO/ALM to Candidate meets Bishop to verify the DD decision to send them to BAP. review work done and decide next steps. This may involve returning to another DD. Candidate attends a BAP and is debriefed Candidate meets with ALM/ADO or on the outcome by ALM or ADO. Candidate a vocations adviser to discern together meets ALM to discuss future options. what God might be saying about the way forward. Candidate begins training for ordination. This begins in September of each year and can be done in a variety of ways from full time to part time or mixed mode at a variety of training institutions. It usually takes between 2-3 years depending on age and previous experience. If the Training Institution and the Ordaining Bishop are satisfied that the ordinand has met the criteria for ordination and that this is indeed the call on the person, they will be ordained to a parish as a Deacon and will ordinarily serve a 3-4 year training post called a curacy.

The Diocesan Adviser for Ministerial Vocation holds responsibility for overseeing the vocations discernment process. At the appropriate time in someone's journey, make contact with the Diocesan Ministry Development Team who will work with them through the process.

In the meantime, it might be useful to find out more. Try some of these resources:

'The Life and Work of a Priest' by John Pritchard

'The Contemplative Pastor' or 'Under the Unpredictable Plant' by Eugene Peterson

'Called or Collared' by Francis Dewar

'Courageous Leadership' by Bill Hybels

'Making God possible: The task of Ordained Ministry' by Alan Billing

'What Clergy Do' by Emma Percy

'Hearing the Call: Stories of Young Vocation' by Jonathan Lawson and Gordon Mursell http://vocation.churchofengland.org/ or www.callwaiting.org.uk

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