

Diocese of Bristol | Ministry Development

Vocation, Discernment and Selection in the Bristol Diocese

Hearing God's Call

Am I Called to be Ordained?

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What is the purpose of the ‘Am I Called to be Ordained?’ Course?

The aim of the course is to help potential candidates for ordained ministry:

- to explore and think through the major issues associated with this form of ministry
- to come to an informed decision as to whether this is the appropriate calling for them to pursue
- to help them to gather and effectively present evidence that they meet the criteria set down by the national church for ordained ministry
- to grow toward a better understanding of their role in God’s Church in fellowship with other potential candidates

The course is equally appropriate for stipendiary or self-supporting ministers, ordained local ministers (OLM) or ordained pioneer ministers (OPM)¹. During the course, we hope that candidates will answer the following questions, amongst others, for themselves:

- what is ordination?
- how does the Church of England understand the concept and role of a priest - recognising that there are a wide range of ways in which priests live out their calling?
- what kind of a priest² am I called to be?
- do I have the character, gifts and skills to support this calling?

It is not the aim of the course to answer these questions for the candidate – we aim to provide a framework of support which enables candidates to come to the answer themselves. Neither is the aim of the course to be a ‘hurdle’ which candidates for ordained ministry are made to jump in order to go to national selection – every question we ask you to consider, every skill we ask you to demonstrate, is important in preparing you not only for national selection but also, and much more importantly, for ensuring that your call is **informed, realistic and obedient** and that you will be able to support the stresses and strains of a life in ordained ministry. Our over-riding aim in this course, as in over-seeing the rest of your preparation for ordained ministry, is to ensure as far as we are able that you will flourish in ministry. We are acutely aware that too many ordained people are broken by the demands of ministry or cause damage to the Christian communities for which they have responsibility.

The course provides an opportunity for the Advisers for Licensed Ministry to gather important evidence which they will use to complete the Sponsoring Papers required for national selection. Whilst there are other ways of gathering this information, our experience is that this a very good way of doing it and enables us to present a picture of you to the Bishops’ Advisers which is well-rounded and accurate.

How does the AICTBO? course relate to Diocesan strategy and to the rest of the ‘Hearing God’s Call’ programme?

The purpose and structure of the course is designed to reflect key elements of the Diocesan strategy:

- It is **collaborative**: candidates work in small groups to explore ideas together and to learn from each other; it also encourages the open sharing of support for each other – candidates are invited to share their hopes and fears and to seek support from each other as well as learning how to offer appropriate support and prayer for other ministers;
- It encourages **mutual respect for difference**: people called to different kinds of ordained ministry – potential incumbents, assistant ministers, chaplains, ordained local ministers and ordained pioneer ministers – work together to explore the different skills and gifts they bring to

¹ More information on these different categories may be found in the Appendices

² We also recognise candidates for the permanent diaconate in this course; many of the issues of character and competence are common to both ministries and both are encouraged to attend the course.

their different roles; we also encourage candidates to graciously explore different models of priesthood, churchmanship, and theology so that all candidates gain a wider perspective on the breadth and diversity of today's Church and understand and appreciate the value and significance of these emphases.

- It sets out the **leadership** qualities required in today's Church and its ordained ministry.
- It provides a **clear process** for formation which can be understood by all - candidates, their incumbents, Advisers and other supporters of the process – which is owned by all, and which makes the best use of available resource.

The AICTBO? course is one of the elements of our Hearing God's Call programme – 'Formation'³. The other two phases are common to all those seeking to confirm their call: the Exploration phase encourages everyone to deepen their commitment to Christ and his Church through widening their experience in mission, spirituality, theological understanding and church leadership; and the Discernment phase encourages people to make themselves open to the discernment of the wider church in identifying their gifts. This third phase, Formation, complements the other two phases, focussing candidates on developing a deeper understanding of their chosen ministry, whether ordained, licensed lay ministry, evangelism, pastoral care, spiritual direction or being a church leader / change manager. The AICTBO? course is one strand within this Formation phase, providing a framework within which candidates can begin to explore what ordination would mean for them, theologically and practically.

Do I have to come to the AICTBO? course if I want to be sponsored by Bristol Diocese for national selection?

All candidates for ordained ministry in the Bristol Diocese are required to attend a national selection conference (a BAP - Bishops' Advisory Panel) and to be recommended by the BAP for training. We strongly encourage all candidates to attend the AICTBO? course before attending a BAP as we believe that it offers the best route for preparing candidates for the BAP and, more importantly, builds a strong foundation for making the important decision as to whether to commit your life to ordained ministry in the Church of England. After baptism, confirmation and marriage, this is the single most important public commitment that you will ever make and we want to make sure you have every opportunity to explore what it means before making the life-changing decisions consequent on choosing this path.

However we recognise that there will be people for whom the course is not appropriate / possible. You will need to discuss this with one of the Advisers for Licensed Ministry (ALMs) who will endeavour to support you in an alternative programme of formation and preparation.

How do I apply for the AICTBO? course?

Candidates should firstly talk through their application with their vicar or chaplain. Candidates for 'deployable' ordained ministry (ie stipendiary and self-supporting ministers) normally require the support of their incumbent before progressing but there is no requirement for you to receive the formal support of your local church at this stage (although it would be advisable). Candidates for Ordained Local Ministry will normally need to have the formal support of both their incumbent and the PCC before attending the course. If this is an issue, please contact an ALM to discuss.

If they have not already done so, candidates should register to be a member of the Hearing God's Call programme. The Registration form is available in the Appendix to this paper, from the Diocesan website, or from the Administrator of the Hearing God's Call programme⁴. Candidates should then indicate by email to the Administrator of the HGC programme their intention to attend the next course and will be sent details of where and when the course is being run when those details are available. Candidates who are not already known to the ALMs through having been a part of the Exploration

³ More information on these two phases is available in the companion papers to this document: Hearing God's Call Enquirer's Pack and Hearing God's Call – the Diocesan Discernment Day.

⁴ Stella O'Brien (stella.obrien@bristoldiocese.org.uk or telephone 0117 906 0100)

phase of the HGC programme should contact one of the ALMs directly for a conversation before arranging to attend the course.

How regularly are AICTBO? courses held and what is the time commitment involved?

The course is run once a year starting in June. We aim to have at least one course at each end of the Diocese, ie at least one in Bristol and one in Swindon/Chippenham. The course comprises 4 evening sessions spread across 8 weeks. Each session requires preparation in the form of reading and written work. Candidates will vary in how much preparation time they require but an average of 5 – 10 hours per session would be a sensible target.

What happens in the AICTBO? course?

The course is loosely based on the John Pritchard book 'The Life and Work of a Priest' which you will be required to read. The four sessions explore different aspects of priesthood which reflect the four sections of Pritchard's book:

Session 1: 'Pointing to God' - the priest as 'sacrament' - the role of the priest as:

- worship leader
- a person of prayer: having and being seen to have a prayerful life
- preacher
- apologist: representing God to the world
- theologian: interpreting the world through God's eyes

Session 2: 'Embracing the World' - the priest as 'missionary' - the role of the priest as:

- intercessor: bearing pain, reconciling the world
- pastor: compassion and challenge, building relationships, listening, accompaniment
- apostle: Kingdom spotter, partnership
- parson: iconic presence
- prophet: friendly irritant, striving for justice

Session 3: 'Renewing the Church' - the priest as 'leader' - the role of the priest as:

- team leader: scanning the horizon, setting direction and priorities, building a team
- evangelist: building a church worth joining
- teacher: building a learning community
- pioneer: new shapes of church
- manager: keeping the show on the road

Session 4: 'Living life to full' - the life of a priest

- three levels of calling: deacon, priest and episcopate
- growing in ministry, growing in Christ
- the importance of character in sustaining a wholesome ministry
- setting boundaries; personal holiness, including Issues in Human Sexuality
- practical issues: eg funding, housing, Canon C4 requirements etc.

The course is mentored / facilitated by the Advisers for Licensed Ministry. In addition we invite a 'guest' priest to each session who explores with the group different aspects of priesthood from their perspective. Each session begins with worship, normally led by course participants, and involves a mixture of 'teaching' and small group work.

Participants are expected to have read the designated section of the John Pritchard book before each session and to have produced a first draft of the assignments for each session. A final version of the assignment should be submitted within a week of each session for review and comment by the course leaders. The assignments are a mixture of practical and theoretical pieces of work designed to help you present evidence that you meet the national selection criteria effectively. This aspect of

the course is invaluable in helping candidates prepare themselves for a BAP.

What happens after the AICTBO? course – will I automatically then go forward for selection for ordained ministry?

We would hope that by the end of the course it should have become clear to you whether your call is realistic or not. Candidates who feel that their call may not be to ordained ministry will be encouraged to pursue a different calling, perhaps to licensed lay ministry, evangelism or church leadership. Where candidates feel that they do have a call to ordained ministry but that they need more time before presenting themselves for wider discernment, they will be encouraged to remain a part of the Potential Ordinands' Fellowship Group and will continue to explore one or more of the development options recommended in the Exploration phase of the HGC programme⁵.

Candidates who believe that they have an informed and realistic call to ordained ministry which is affirmed by an ALM will be invited to apply for the Diocesan Discernment Day to be held in October or March. Preparation for this will involve:

- completion of an application form
- taking four references, one each from your incumbent, a lay member of your church, your employer and someone qualified to give you an educational reference
- an interview with one of the Advisers for Licensed Ministry, and
- for OLM candidates only, drawing up a detailed job description and parish profile and seeking the formal approval of the PCC to attend the Discernment Day.

More information on the Discernment Day may be found in the companion paper to this document: Hearing God's Call – the Diocesan Discernment Day.

During the Discernment phase, potential ordinands will be encouraged to meet regularly as a fellowship group, guided by the ALMs. Details of the Potential Ordinands' Fellowship Groups will be made available by the ALMs when available.

Where can I find more information on the AICTBO? course?

The Advisers for Licensed Ministry listed on the front of this paper are always happy to answer questions regarding any aspect of this process. Additional advice for getting the most out of this Course is to found in the Appendices.

⁵ See 'Hearing God's Call – Enquirers' Pack' for more details

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of Authorised Ministries in the Bristol Diocese

Appendix B: Criteria for Selection for all Authorised Ministries

Appendix C: Recommended Reading for those exploring their vocation

Appendix D: Registration Form for 'Hearing God's Call' Programme

Appendix A: A Summary of Licensed Ministries in the Bristol Diocese

Ministries currently licensed at Diocesan level comprise:

- Ordained Minister with the potential to become an Incumbent or Incumbent Status (ISM)
- Ordained Assistant Minister (AM)
- Ordained Pioneer Ministry (OPM)
- Ordained Local Ministry (OLM)
- Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM)

Other ministries may be recognised and commissioned at a deanery or parish level, eg Evangelist, Pastoral Care Assistant, Youth Worker, Worship Leader, etc.

Policy statements regarding authorised ministries in the Bristol Diocese are available from the Adviser for Licensed Ministry on request. In summary:

ISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age range at ordination normally 23 – 50 • Normal preparation time prior to starting training: 1 – 2 years • Training period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ two years full time (or three years part-time) at college if over 33 (three years if under 33), then ○ three – four years in a full time curacy at a parish which is not the ‘sending parish’ • National Selection Criteria apply, however, this Diocese places particular emphasis on the candidate’s ability to lead people in mission • Candidates may be either stipendiary or non-stipendiary (ie paid or self-supporting)
AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age range at ordination normally 23 – 55 • Normal preparation time prior to starting training: 1 – 2 years • Training period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ three years part-time on a course if over 33 (four years if under 33), then ○ four years in a part-time curacy at a parish which is usually not the ‘sending parish’ • National Selection Criteria apply, however, this Diocese places particular emphasis on the candidate’s ability to lead people in mission. • Candidates will normally be non-stipendiary (ie self-supporting)

OPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category reserved for exceptional, entrepreneurial candidates who have already set up and are leading a Fresh Expression of church but who also have the capability to undertake a more traditional pastoral, liturgical and sacramental role. Significant ability to reflect theologically on today's culture will be required. • Age range at ordination normally 23 – 50 • Normal preparation time prior to starting training: 1 – 2 years • Training period to be undertaken usually whilst maintaining an existing Fresh Expression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ two years at college if over 33 (three years if under 33), then ○ three – four years in a full time curacy, at least 75% of which is spent leading a 'Fresh Expression' , but will also be required to fulfil standard training requirements of an Anglican curate.
OLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age range at ordination normally 55 – 70 • Normal preparation time prior to starting training: 1 year • Training period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ three years part-time at Trinity College (may be reduced if candidates have prior theological learning or lay ministry experience) • three years in a curacy at their sending parish • OLMs must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ able to satisfy the national criteria for ordained local ministry, judged by a national selection conference ○ settled in their community and unlikely to move to a new parish ○ exercising an existing ministry in their church which is recognised and affirmed by the local church ○ able to define with their parish an ordained role which is likely to be an extension of their existing ministry ○ part of a collaborative mission-oriented ministry team in their local context
LLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age range at licensing normally 18 – 70 • Training period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 years part-time on Exploring Christianity plus a further year of vocational training⁶; or ○ 2 years part-time on a specially designed course run by Trinity College • LLMs must be able to satisfy national criteria for selection as amended by Bristol Diocese to take into account the higher degree of supervision in ministry pertaining to this category. Candidates will normally attend a Diocesan Discernment Day to confirm their calling. • In Bristol Diocese LLMs will not normally be permitted to pursue a calling to ordained ministry within 3 years of being licensed. (This stipulation applies to all those licensed after February 2008)

⁶ or for 2010/2011 only, two years training on the EGP course plus attendance at the Pastoral care course

Appendix B: Summary of the Criteria for Selection

Criterion A: Vocation

Candidates should be able to articulate a sense of vocation to the ordained ministry and reflect on the effect of this on their life. They should be able to speak of the development of their inner conviction and the extent to which others have confirmed it. They should be able to show an understanding of what it means to be a deacon or a priest. Their sense of vocation should be obedient, realistic and informed.

Criterion B: Ministry within the Church of England

Candidates should show an understanding of their own tradition within the Church of England, an awareness of the diversity of traditions and practice, and a commitment to learn from and work generously with difference. They should be able to speak of the distinctiveness of ordained ministry within the Church of England and of what it means to exercise public ministry. They should be able to reflect on changes in contemporary society and the implications of this for ministry and the Church.

Criterion C: Spirituality

Candidates should show evidence of a commitment to a spiritual discipline, which involves individual and corporate prayer and worship. They should be committed to a developing pattern of disciplined prayer, Bible study and the regular receiving of Holy Communion. They should be able to show how they discern God's activity in their life, how their spiritual practice may have changed over time and how it is changing them. They should be able to reflect on how engagement with the world and others both affects, and is affected by, their practice of prayer. Their spiritual practice should be able to sustain and energise them in daily life and future ministry.

Criterion D: Personality and Character

Candidates should be sufficiently self-aware, mature and stable to show that they are able to sustain the demanding role of an ordained minister. They should be able to demonstrate how they have faced change and pressure in a balanced and flexible way and how they manage stress. Candidates should be seen to be people of integrity who can generate trust and display honesty. They should be able to speak of how they have coped with difficult life experiences, how they have reflected upon them and incorporated them within their life and understanding.

Criterion E: Relationships

Candidates should show the capacity to build healthy personal, professional, and pastoral relationships. They should demonstrate an awareness of the need for, and ability to establish and sustain, appropriate boundaries between personal and professional life and within pastoral relationships. They should be able to manage conflict and show an ability to negotiate difficult relationships. Candidates should demonstrate good interpersonal skills, the willingness to learn from experience, and a commitment to building inclusive relationships within diversity. They should show the potential to exercise effective pastoral care. Candidates must be willing to live within the discipline of *Issues in Human Sexuality*.

Criterion F: Leadership and Collaboration

Candidates should demonstrate an ability to offer leadership in the Church community and in the wider community as appropriate. This ability includes the capacity to offer an example of faith and discipleship which is inspiring to others and witnesses to the servanthood of Christ. They should show a commitment to identifying and nurturing the gifts of others and be able to collaborate effectively. Candidates should be able to identify their own leadership style, and reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of this and of the different ways in which leadership may be exercised within the Church. They should be able to be flexible and adaptable in leadership and demonstrate ability to guide and shape the life of the Church community in its mission to the world.

Criterion G: Faith

Candidates should show an understanding of the Christian faith and a desire to deepen their understanding. They should demonstrate a personal commitment to Christ and a mature, robust faith which shapes their life and work. Candidates should show an ability to reflect critically on their faith and make connections between faith and contemporary life. They should demonstrate a capacity to communicate their faith engagingly and effectively.

Criterion H: Mission and Evangelism

Candidates should demonstrate a personal commitment to mission that is reflected in thought, prayer and action. They should show a wide and inclusive understanding of mission and the strategic issues and opportunities within contemporary culture. Candidates should be able to articulate the good news of the Kingdom appropriately in differing contexts and speak of Jesus Christ in a way that is exciting, accessible, and attractive. They should enable others to develop their vocations as witnesses of the good news. They should show potential as leaders of mission.

Criterion I: Quality of Mind

Candidates should have the necessary intellectual capacity and quality of mind to undertake satisfactorily a course of theological study and ministerial preparation and to cope with the intellectual demands of ministry. They should demonstrate a desire to learn through the integration of academic study and reflection on experience and a commitment to this as a lifelong process of learning and formation. Candidates should show flexibility of mind, openness to change and challenge, and the capacity to facilitate learning and theological reflection within the Church community.

An incumbent (or incumbent status) candidate should fulfil all the Criteria for Selection and in addition fulfil the core elements in the Criteria for Selection for ministry at incumbent level namely:

Criterion F (Leadership and Collaboration)

Able to assess, set objectives and take church and community forward. Capacity to become team builders and leaders, enablers and sustainers. Able and willing to guide and shape the life of the church in its mission to the world. Able to build community and to offer a ministry of reconciliation and mediation.

Criterion H (Mission and Evangelism)

A sense of how to lead a church/churches in defining and implementing its/their mission tasks. Potential as leaders of mission.

Criterion I (Quality of Mind)

Enthusiasm for theology as a tool for life for the whole people of God. Wide ranging intellectual interest.

An assistant minister candidate should fulfil all the Criteria for Selection.

An ordained local minister candidate should fulfil all the Criteria with different emphases in two areas:

Criterion B (Ministry in the Church of England)

A greater emphasis upon knowledge and experience of the local church rather than the wider Church. However they will be expected to show that they are open to broadening the experience of their own church through leading their congregations in using aspects of other traditions in their local context.

Criterion F (Leadership and Collaboration)

A greater emphasis upon collaboration and working as a member of a team rather than primary or sole responsibility leadership.

An ordained pioneer minister candidate should fulfil all the Criteria for Selection for an Incumbent status candidate (see above) and also fulfil the following criteria for pioneering ministry namely:

Criterion B (Ministry in the Church of England)

Have a track record and experience of leading or involvement in a fresh expression of church or have the potential for such ministry.

Criterion C (Spirituality)

Have a spiritual life with sufficient depth to sustain and energise them in the demanding role of spiritual leadership in the church.

Criterion F (Leadership and Collaboration)

Have the leadership skills and an ability to collaborate with others which point to the capacity to deliver imaginative, pioneering ministry.

Criterion G (Faith)

Have good and effective communication skills with an ability to present the gospel in an attractive way.

Criterion H (Mission and Evangelism)

Have passion for mission and evangelism and an enthusiasm for reaching out to those outside the church.

Criterion I (Quality of Mind)

Have the capacity to think on their feet and 'outside the box' in a way that is creative and imaginative.

A Licensed Lay Minister should fulfil all the Criteria for Selection⁷ with three main differences:

Criterion A (Vocation)

An understanding of the role and responsibilities of Licensed Lay Ministers in the Church of England

Criterion B (Ministry in the Church of England)

A greater emphasis upon knowledge and experience of the local church rather than the wider Church. However they will be expected to show that they are open to broadening the experience of their own church through leading their congregations in using aspects of other traditions in their local context.

Criterion F (Leadership and Collaboration)

A greater emphasis upon collaboration and working as a member of a team rather than primary or sole responsibility leadership.

⁷ Note: our Licensed Lay Ministers will be increasingly responsible for leading local congregations under the oversight of an ordained minister who may have responsibility for multiple churches and congregations. We therefore expect them to meet similar criteria regarding spirituality, personality and character etc to their ordained colleagues, recognising that their role will be more closely supervised and supported than that of an incumbent and is lay rather than ordained.

Appendix C: Recommended Books

Vocation

- Live for a change by Francis Dewar. pub: DLT
- Called or Collared by Francis Dewar. pub: SPCK
- Life calling: a 5-session course on vocation for Lent by Robert Warren and Kate Bruce. pub: CHP
- What color is your parachute? 2009 by Richard Nelson Bolles. pub: Ten Speed Press
- The Abolition of the Laity by R. Paul Stevens. pub: Paternoster Press

Ordained Ministry

- The Life and Work of a Priest (Very highly recommended- start with this one if you are considering being ordained) by John Pritchard. pub: SPCK
- Being a Priest Today (Recommended) by Cocksworth/Brown. pub: Canterbury Press
- Ministry in Three Dimensions by Stephen Croft. pub: DLT
- Here I Am by Richard Giles. pub: Canterbury Press
- The Christian Priest Today by Michael Ramsey. pub: SPCK
- Praying for England by Samuel Wells and Sarah Coakley. pub: continuum
- Working the Angles/Contemplative Pastor by Eugene Peterson. pub: Eerdmans
- The Curate's Guide edited by John Witcombe. pub: CHP
- If You Meet George Herbert on the Road, Kill Him by Justin Lewis-Anthony. pub: Continuum

Licensed Lay Ministry

- Bridging the Gap – Reader Ministry Today edited by Gordon W Kuhrt and Pat Nappin. pub: Church House Publishing

Ministry/Leadership

- Jesus' People – What the Church Should Do Next by Steven Croft. pub: CHP
- Mission Shaped Church/Generation Y/Evangelism in a Spiritual Age. pub: Church House Publishing (CHP)
- Transforming Community by Steven Croft. pub: DLT
- Courageous Leadership (don't miss Chapter 11!!) by Bill Hybels. pub: Zondervan
- Beyond the Good Samaritan (Mowbray) and Journeying Out (Morehouse) by Ann Morisy
- The Provocative Church by Graham Tomlin. pub: SPCK
- Who moved my cheese? by Dr Spencer Johnson. pub: Vermilion
- Leadership by the Book by Blanchard, Hybels and Hodges. pub: Harper Collins

Spiritual Development

- Silence and Honey Cakes by Rowan Williams. pub: Lion Hudson Plc
- God of Surprises by Gerrard Hughes. pub: DLT
- Anything by Henri Nouwen but particularly : The Return of the Prodigal; The Wounded Healer; The Way of the Heart; and In the name of Jesus (all published by DLT)
- The Life You've Always Wanted by John Ortberg. pub: Zondervan
- Spirituality Workbook by David Runcorn. pub: SPCK
- Now is the time by Sr Stanislaus Kennedy. pub: Town House (Dublin)

Theology

- Introduction to Theology by David Ford. pub: OUP
- The Christian Theology Reader by Alastair McGrath. pub Blackwells
- Exploring Faith: theology for life series Ed: Leslie Francis/Jeff Astley. pub: DLT
- What is the Point of Being a Christian? by Timothy Radcliffe. pub: OP Burns and Oates
- The Wild Gospel by Alison Morgan. pub: Monarch
- Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire by Brian J. Walsh, Sylvia Keesmaat. pub: Authentic Media Paperback

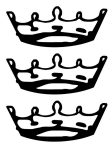
Emerging Church / Emerging Theology

- A is for abductive: the language of the emerging church by Sweet, McLaren and Haselmayer. pub: Zondervan
- Anything by Philip Yancey but especially: What's so amazing about grace?, The Jesus I never knew, The Bible Jesus read.
- The Vision and the Vow by Pete Greig. pub: Survivor
- Velvet Elvis by Rob Bell. pub: Zondervan
- The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning. pub: Authentic
- Christianity Rediscovered by Vincent Donovan. pub: SCM
- After MacDonaldization by John Drane pub DLT
- The Forgotten Ways by Alan Hirsch pub Brazos Press
- How (not) to Speak of God by Peter Rollins. pub: SPCK

Cross Cultural Mission

- Distinctly welcoming by Richard Sudworth pub Scripture Union
- Grace for Muslims? by Steve Bell pub Authentic Media

Appendix D



Diocese of Bristol

CONFIDENTIAL

Registration form for the Hearing God's Call programme

1	Candidate's Full Name and Title	
2	Gender	Male/Female
3	Any Previous Name	
4	Address	
5	Telephone	
6	Email address	
7	Parish	
8	Incumbent's name Is he/she aware of your interest in vocational exploration?	Yes / No
9	Date of Birth:	
10	Date and place of Baptism:	
11	Date and place of Confirmation:	
12	Marital Status Date of Marriage:	Single/Engaged/Married/Separated/ Divorced/Widowed
13	Have you or your spouse been married previously and your former spouse is still living? <small>Note 1</small>	Yes / No
14	Name of Spouse	
15	Academic Qualifications (incl details of theological study undertaken)	
16	Occupation	

17	Do you have a CRB Enhanced Disclosure Certificate obtained through Bristol Diocese?	Yes / No
18	Do you have any disability / health issues that may affect your future ministry? Have you suffered a significant bereavement or similarly traumatic experience in the last 2 years? ^{Note 2}	
19	Positions of responsibility held in the church, past and present	
20	Which ministry / ministries are you interested in exploring at this stage?	
21	Signed	
22	Dated	

Please complete and return this form to: hannah.barker@bristoldiocese.org or to Hannah Barker, Church House, 23 Great George Street, BRISTOL, BS1 5QZ

Note 1: Divorce and remarriage

Those who feel a call to ordination who have been divorced and remarried (or whose current spouses have been divorced) should be aware that the Church of England requires the Diocese to investigate the circumstances of their previous relationship before attending a BAP. This can be a difficult process for some. In addition, the Archbishop's Office requires that the new marriage be at least 3 years old before attending a BAP. Please contact the ALM if you would like to discuss the implications for you. No such requirement exists for Licensed Lay Ministry.

Note 2: Bereavement

Pursuing a vocation can be a costly experience, both emotionally and spiritually. We therefore do not recommend that anyone begins the process of exploration who has, in the last 2 years, undergone a significant bereavement, whether the loss of a close family member or friend or, in some cases, a serious injury, retirement, or redundancy. Please contact the ALM if you would like to discuss your circumstances before applying.