

VOCATIONS

A Quick Guide to the Selection Process

If you have decided to explore your call to Ordained Ministry, once your vicar or other clergy person has indicated their support of you to the DDO, and once you have filled in some basic forms, you will be assigned a Local Vocations Adviser (LVA). Together with your incumbent, the LVA is there to help guide you through the process as you prepare yourself and your paperwork for your Diocesan Selection Panel.

A simple flowchart is contained on the reverse but please be aware that the whole process from your first meeting with an LVA to your Bishop's Advisory Panel (BAP) would normally take anywhere from six to eighteen months. It should be borne in mind that various outcomes are possible, and there is no guarantee that a candidate will be recommended for training.

Whilst your Incumbent, LVA and the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) are on hand to help guide you through the process it is important that you keep driving the process by arranging meetings with your LVA and completing the paperwork in good time.

Please be assured that you are in our prayers as you continue on your journey.

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Phase One— EXPLORATION: Initial conversation through to Examining Chaplain

If you are thinking about exploring ordination you should talk to your vicar or, if your church is on interregnum, another member of the clergy. If he/she thinks you ought to explore this, they will e-mail our DDO indicating their support: this is called a 'clergy referral'. You will then be sent some forms and may be invited to an informal meeting with the DDO.

Having completed the Ministry Exploration form and CV pro forma you will begin to meet with your LVA and, over time, complete your registration form. Once all paperwork is complete and the LVA is satisfied, you will meet with an examining chaplain who will write a report based on your meeting, this report forms part of your papers for Diocesan Panel.

Phase Two — DISCERNMENT: Examining Chaplain to Diocesan Selection Panel

You will now meet with the DDO who will talk you through the Diocesan Panel process, and references from your incumbent and a member of laity will be sought.

Provided the DDO is satisfied you will be invited to a Diocesan Selection Panel. These are hosted by the DDO and the panel is made up of the Diocesan bishop, or his representative, and two other selectors. You will be interviewed by each in turn on the areas of the Criteria for Selection (Vocation, Education & Pastoral)

Phase Three — SELECTION/TRAINING: The Bishop's Advisory Panel (BAP)

Should you be recommended at your Diocesan Panel we will apply for a place at BAP, this will allow time for further preparation.

You will meet with the DDO at least twice before attending a BAP and work on a written reflection, revising your Registration form (if necessary) and completing other paperwork. You will be invited to attend a collective preparatory session before BAP. Occupational and Educational references will also be sought. All paperwork is submitted at least six weeks before your BAP date.

Within the two weeks following your BAP you will meet with the DDO to discuss the report and the next steps, including plans for training.