

## Recommended for training?

Once the Bishop has confirmed the Panel's recommendation you can be sponsored for training. This will depend on you and the different ministry you are to exercise in the church. The DDO will discuss the different options and generally this will be for two or three years and (depending on your age) can be full time at a residential college, a full time mixed mode course or a part time non-residential course.

## Ministry Pathways

**Incumbent:** Responsible for a parish as vicar or priest in charge. they combine evangelism with pastoral care, preaching, teaching and leading worship and aim to develop the life of the whole people of God in their service of the Church and the world. They will normally be paid by the Church and work full time although some will offer to serve as financially self-supporting and will not receive payment.

**Assistant:** Not anticipating ministry at incumbent level will work as an assistant minister in a parish, either full or part time. They will be financially self-supporting.

**Locally Deployed Self-Supporting Minister:** Established in their home parish with a proven lay ministry these assistant ministers are financially self supporting,

**Distinctive Deacon:** Ordained, deacons model a ministry of service within the Church and wider community and normally serve as an assistant minister.

**Ordained Pioneer Minister:** Priests or deacons with a vocation to serve and guide the Church in developing fresh expressions of church life in a wide variety of ways focussing on initiating new projects. OPM candidates undertake an additional process to test their vocation as a pioneer.

**Chaplain:** On completion of initial training in a parish (title post) Chaplains are (normally) paid appointments in a specialist ministry to e.g. hospitals, prisons, industry, schools, colleges and the armed forces.



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

# Ordained Ministry

## How to respond to your call

The Church needs women and men to serve as ordained ministers. There are many different pathways.

For more information talk to your vicar or email  
[ddo@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:ddo@chelmsford.anglican.org)

## Talk to your Parish Priest

The slightest hint of a whisper to serve God as an ordained minister is enough to go and talk to your parish priest. It may well seem strange, though it is surprising how often you find they have been waiting for you to come and see them. It is helpful to chat and pray through your feelings with close Christian friends. Your Area will provide Vocations Events, and there are Deanery Vocations Advisers.

## Talk to your Area Ordination Adviser

If you and your parish priest feel there is a potential call to ordained ministry then he/she will refer you to the DDO who will send you to see an Area Ordination Adviser (AOA). You will visit him/her several times as they outline the discernment and selection process and check if there are any matters that need addressing before entering the formal Diocesan process.

Once they are satisfied that you could be a potential ordinand, they will refer you on to the Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

## The Shared Discernment Process

You will meet with either the Director or the Assistant Director of Ordinands for a series of interviews helping you to clarify your vocation to ordained ministry and to prepare you to attend a national Selection Panel. These sessions will be based on the Six Qualities for discernment.

## Steps in the Shared Discernment Process

Reading and  
Written Work

Anglicanism  
Seminar

held at the Cathedral  
twice a year

Interview with  
a Bishops' Advisor  
*Psychotherapeutic Assessment*

Placement in  
another parish  
if your experience  
of the Church of  
England is limited

Weekend at  
Pleshey

a time to pray together,  
learn more and have a  
go at things that happen  
at a Panel

**12 to 18 months**  
from meeting with AOA to training

The DDO or ADDO will decide if you are ready to attend an online **Stage 1 Panel** organised by the National Ministry Team. If that goes well, you are sponsored by your Area Bishop to attend a Stage 2 Panel.

**stage 2** At the end of this 2 day residential conference at a retreat house the Advisers write a detailed report to the Bishop stating whether they recommend that you enter training for ordained ministry