How is God calling you?

It may be that for years you have had a deep inner conviction that God is calling you. Or perhaps it's come like a bolt from the blue during a sermon or whilst praying. Maybe friends have recognised it long before you, and only recently have you been able to see it for yourself. God's calling can sometimes be dramatic, and on other occasions it's like a still small voice.

All sorts of different people are called to ordained ministry – those in their twenties and those in their fifties, those who are single and those who are busy parents. God calls regardless of our race or nationality, regardless of our career or our qualifications.

Do you think God is calling you?

What are clergy called to?

Priests and Deacons are called to build up the body of Christ wherever they serve.
They do this through worship and pastoral care, through preaching and teaching, through leadership and serving others.

Clergy are called to enable all Christian people to realise their potential as children of God.

In their lives Clergy are public representatives of God and of the Church. They are called to point to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen.
They are called to encourage all God's people to show love and compassion, to strive for justice and peace.

Do you think God is calling you to this?

What's involved in getting ordained?

First the Church must test someone's calling. This is a thorough process which involves you seeing the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) for a number of months, being interviewed by a local Panel of people, and then attending a residential Bishops' Advisory Panel (BAP). This whole process can take around a year and a half.

All through this process people are asking the question "What is God asking of this person?"
If you are recommended to train for ordained ministry, you will know that your calling has been recognised by the wider church.

Ordinands can train away at a college or at home through the 'Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership'. This will usually take two or three years, and involves academic learning, training in skills, and becoming a person ready for ordination.