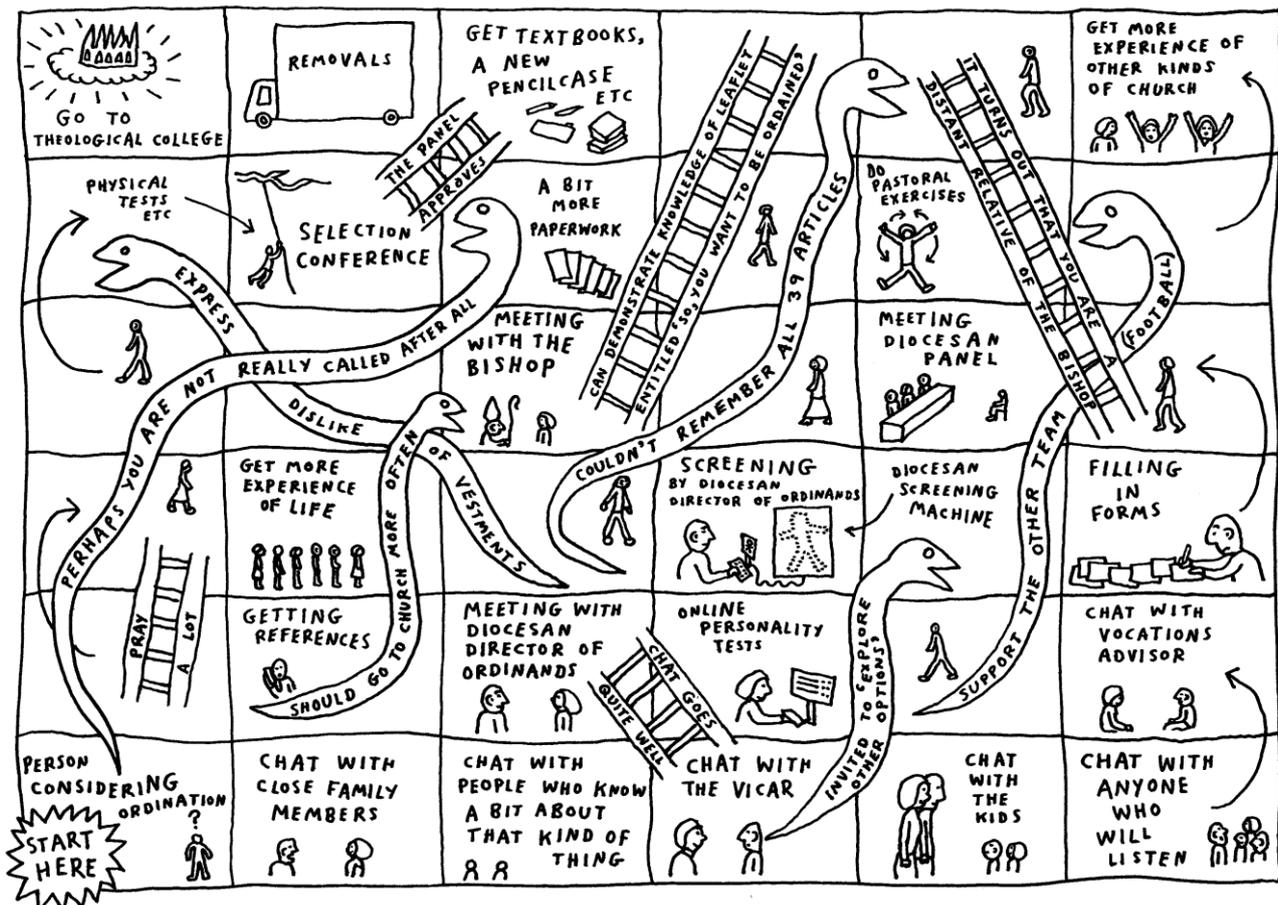


JOURNEYING IN DISCERNMENT WITH THE DDO TEAM

The Diocese of Salisbury

THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

HOW TO BE SELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY



The prospect of meeting with a DDO can be both exciting and daunting, as can be the adventure of discernment itself! The DDO Team are privileged to accompany you on this journey as we seek to discern together whether God is nurturing within you a vocation to ordained ministry. The journey will be significant whatever the outcome, as it will lead us ever closer to glimpsing how God is calling you to respond in living out your faith in the world.

INTRODUCING THE DDO TEAM

The Revd Charlie Allen - Diocesan Director of Ordinands
The Revd Jim Findlay - Associate Director of Ordinands
The Revd Lorraine Dobbins - Associate Director of Ordinands

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JOURNEYING IN DISCERNMENT

Your first few meetings with a DDO will be those of introduction - you will discuss your life/faith journey and reflect on your responses to the nine 'Criteria for Selection'. This will enable your DDO to gain a perspective on the landscape and discern the next steps in the discernment process. These 'next steps' will delve more deeply into the Criteria and may involve a placement, further reading, written reflections, the challenge to explore a new aspect of spirituality or mission ... the adventure is different for everyone as each individual has different experiences to bring. The Criteria are useful tools for discernment as they are the lens through which a vocation is explored at a Bishop's Advisory Panel ('BAP'). As part of your journey you might be invited to join with other enquirers to explore these Criteria together at one of our bi-monthly 'Ministry Seminars'.

Discernment works at many levels, and it often ripples out from the individual to the wider church. You will have already explored a sense of vocation with those around you - the DDO Team are there to enable the Diocese to join in this discernment too. If the Team glimpse this sense of vocation and believe it to be realistic, then they will invite the national Church to discern with us also. This is the point at which your DDO will book you onto a BAP.

If your DDO feels ready to book you on to a BAP they will invite you to complete a Written Reflection and to attend a practice 'BAP Presentation Saturday'. There will be various paperwork to complete and references to obtain. Your DDO will work with you to ensure that you are prepared for a BAP - this is primarily about enabling you to have thought through the Criteria in a personal, informed and articulate way so that you can enter fully into discernment with those who do not know you and will only work with you for a short period of time.

If you are recommended for training at a BAP, your DDO will explore with you which training pathways will be most helpful in enabling your formation for ordained ministry. We ask that that you seek their advice before exploring Theological Colleges yourself as the advice of the Panel, Sponsoring Bishop and DDO Team may give an insight into the pathway that will be best suited to your particular needs.