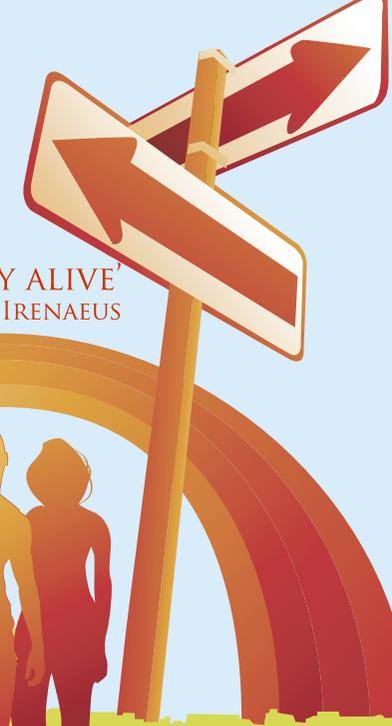




GOD
IS CALLING

'THE GLORY OF GOD IS
A HUMAN BEING FULLY ALIVE'
ST IRENAEUS



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

Church House
Crane Street
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP1 2QB
Tel: 01722 411944
Fax: 01722 411990
e-mail: ldmt@salisbury.anglican.org
www.salisbury.anglican.org

GOD
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IS GOD CALLING YOU
TO BE A PRIEST?

GOD IS CALLING

What is a priest (or presbyter)

The ministry of priest belongs to the ancient threefold order of bishops, priests and deacons. It is an order of ministry that the Church of England shares with the majority of the world's Christians.

The priest (or presbyter) is ordained by the church to lead God's people into an ever deeper relationship of love for God and for his world.

The priest is the minister of the sacraments, presiding at the Eucharist, blessing the people in God's name and pronouncing God's forgiveness of their sins. Priesthood is about the deepening of relationships: relationships between God and his people and between the people themselves.

Through word and sacrament, through prayers of intercession, and through pastoral care, the priest shares in Christ's ministry of reconciliation, transforming, strengthening and building up the whole people of God to realize their own priestly ministry.

What's in a name?

A vicar is always a priest – but a priest is not always a vicar.

If you asked an average person to describe a priest they would describe a vicar.

A vicar or rector is a priest who is given particular responsibility by the bishop for a parish or benefice.

So in addition to their role as a priest, they also have a bishop-like role in leading and being pastorally responsible for an area, usually a parish or a number of parishes.

Could it be you?

Some priests are paid to work in parishes or as chaplains in schools, hospitals, prisons or the armed services. Some priests, whilst ministering in a parish, earn their living in a secular job.

The work of a priest is varied and demanding yet few other occupations can be so rewarding.

After a period of preparation, candidates for ordained ministry attend a Bishop's Advisory Panel organised by the Ministry Division of the Church of England. Those recommended for training by the panel may either go to a residential college or train part time.

What can I do next?

Ask God in prayer... how you may become all that God intends you to be and how best you may serve him.

Reflect on your gifts ... are you able to engage with people and share your faith? Are you someone with caring skills and a willingness to support others? Or are you creative, or a natural leader?

Talk to your parish priest or chaplain ... who will be able to advise you and put you in touch with a Vocations Adviser.

Attend a Diocesan Vocations Day ... held regularly throughout the year. Details are available from your parish priest or from the Learning for Discipleship and Ministry Team at the address or telephone number overleaf.

