



February 2025

## Exeter Ordination Pathway FAQs

### **I am already in the discernment process for ordination, can I transfer to this pathway?**

If you are early in the process and think you fit the criteria, please discuss it with your incumbent and DDO. In general people will continue on the pathway that has been discerned but if this pathway is a better fit for your calling and circumstances it may be possible to transfer to this pathway. Those who have completed the discernment process and are now in training will be expected to continue on the pathway that has been discerned.

### **Is there an age limit on applying for this pathway?**

Aged 69 at point of training on EOP.

### **Is it fast track ordination?**

There is no fast track for ordination. The Church invests in training and formation that is appropriate for a person's abilities, experience and circumstances. This pathway is designed for those with substantial life and ministry experience who have learned and been formed through that. For some people it does not make sense to undertake the same training as those much younger and newer to ministry and likely to move geographically.

### **Will I be properly ordained?**

Ordinands on this pathway will be ordained in the same way and alongside colleagues on other pathways. Ordination is ordination.

### **What if I want to be ordained to serve locally but do not get on with my incumbent?**

You need an incumbent to recommend you. People are ordained to a 'title post' and if that title post is not going to work an appropriate title post would need to be found. So the first thing is to consider whether a move to another church/incumbent might be appropriate. This is a difficult decision to be made, but reinforces that this is a local ministry and the discernment begins in the local context.

### **I am already a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), can I train for ordination on this pathway?**

Experienced LLMs may, with their incumbents, discern a call to ordination, and this pathway may be the right pathway. But lay and ordained vocations are equal though distinctive and we need LLMs ministering.

**How is the training delivered?**

The core of the pathway is delivered by the Bishop of Exeter together with others on (approximately) fortnightly Thursday evenings at the Bishop's Palace in Exeter over the course of a year from September to June.

**What is the time commitment?**

This depends on previous approved learning, but the bare minimum is the Thursday formation evenings together with any modules which have not previously been undertaken (eg preaching, leading worship etc)

**Will I get paid when I am ordained?**

This is a self-supporting ordained ministry and not stipendiary.

**How can I find out if this ordination pathway is something right for me?**

Information is available from the Diocesan Director of Ordinands' office, but the first conversation should be with your incumbent, or your Rural Dean or Archdeacon if in vacancy.

**Will this affect the SWMTC or St Mellitus courses or LLM numbers?**

Experience from other dioceses running this pathway such as St Edmundsbury & Ipswich is that this pathway attracts different people from those undertaking the regional course and numbers have not been affected. The same has been the case with LLMs.