

Before the service on the day:

- Ask about sitting somewhere with a good view and where you can get out easily
- Check where the toilets are, how long it will take to get there, and how to get there and back. Often toilets will be in a different building.
- Check where the spaces are and where you and your child or children might be able to move about - apart from Communion time, there probably won't be another 'organised' chance to move around
- Is there a space set aside for children? Is there anywhere they can have some free time and run around before the service starts?
- Is there a quiet space where children can go if they feel overwhelmed?
- Is there scope for your child or children to explore the church and things to look at? Where are the different spaces which will be used during the service? Can you find ordinands' chairs, bishop's chair, kneelers for the ordinands, pulpit for the sermon, choir stalls for the choir, altar and kneelers for Communion?

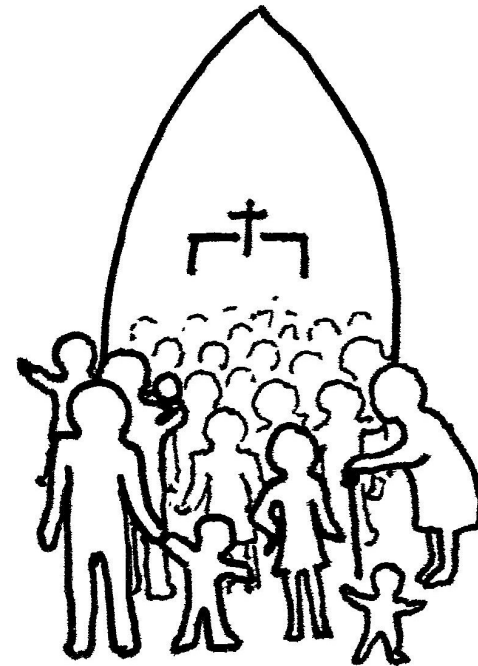
During the service

- Enjoy! Ordination services are very special
- The 'Ordination Explored' booklet leads through each section of the service
- At the Peace, don't forget to find the newly ordained person and give them a handshake, hug, kiss or high five!
- Are there songs or hymns which have actions, or where you could make up some actions?
- Please ask if you need help or are wondering about something - stewards and sidespeople are there to help you.

After the service

- Congratulations to the new deacons or priests!
- Thank you for being here!
- Now it's time for photos! Can you borrow any special clothes??

Ordination Explored



Hints and tips for parents and carers

Welcome!

Thank you for coming to this ordination service with your child or children. It is wonderful for children to be present and involved in the ordinations of all our new deacons and priests.

The 'Ordination Explored' booklet has been put together with primary school aged children in mind, but hopefully there are some things for younger children too. There are things to do before the service, during each part of the service and afterwards. It has been created by a combination of children, people preparing to be ordained or who are recently ordained, and people who are passionate about helping children participate in the love of God and get the most out of being part of church. If possible, please print the booklet on yellow or cream coloured paper, as this is best for accommodating people with dyslexia or visual impairments. A large print version can be printed using A3 paper, or photocopied from an A5 version—the cathedral may be able to help with this if you ask in advance.

This leaflet has some hints and tips to help you and your child or children enjoy the ordination service - Please feed back to the church about things they can improve. Please let us know of anything else you wish you'd known in advance:

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If you are reading this **before the day**:

Ordination services are special and joyful times to celebrate the love of God. There are lots of people, usually in a large church or Cathedral with loud music from an organ and choir, with lots happening and plenty of things to watch. They usually last longer than a normal church service - usually between an hour and a half and two hours. How can you best prepare for this?

Normally you'll need to be there well ahead of the service starting and this should help you get a good view. Sometimes there are screens showing the things you can't see from your seats.

Things to bring:

- ordinary pencils, colouring pencils or pens (you'll need these for the 'Ordination Explored' booklet)
- snacks like dried fruit, crackers, a drink
- 'Ordination Explored' booklet
- Depending on the age - quiet books and toys

Things to think about...

- What does your child or children know about churches and people who work there? Are there ideas you can explore together? Maybe they would like to write or draw or create something to show their ideas? Maybe you could visit your local church to get ideas? You can put your postcode into <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>
- Where is the new deacon or priest living or serving? If you don't live there already, can you visit the place(s) and church(es)? What can you find out about their new job?
- What does your child or children love about the person becoming a deacon or priest? What do they think the new deacon or priest will be really good at?