

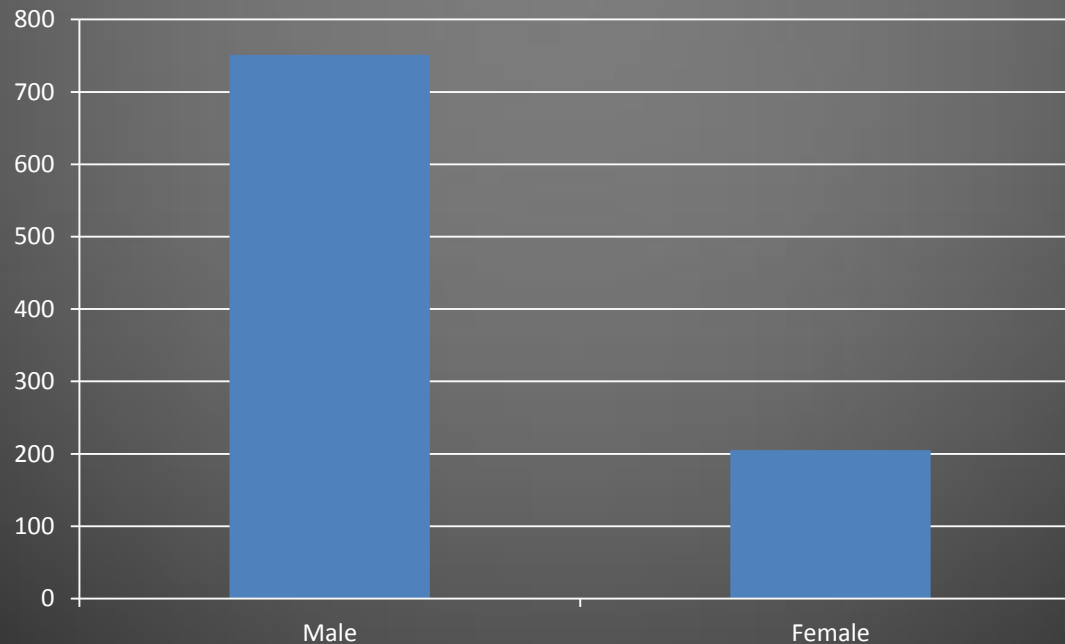
# Journeys Towards Priesthood: Young Vocations

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Archbishops' Council  
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# Young Vocations

- Ageing clergy population
- Gender imbalance

Under-30s seeking ordination (2004-2013)



# Young vocations research groups



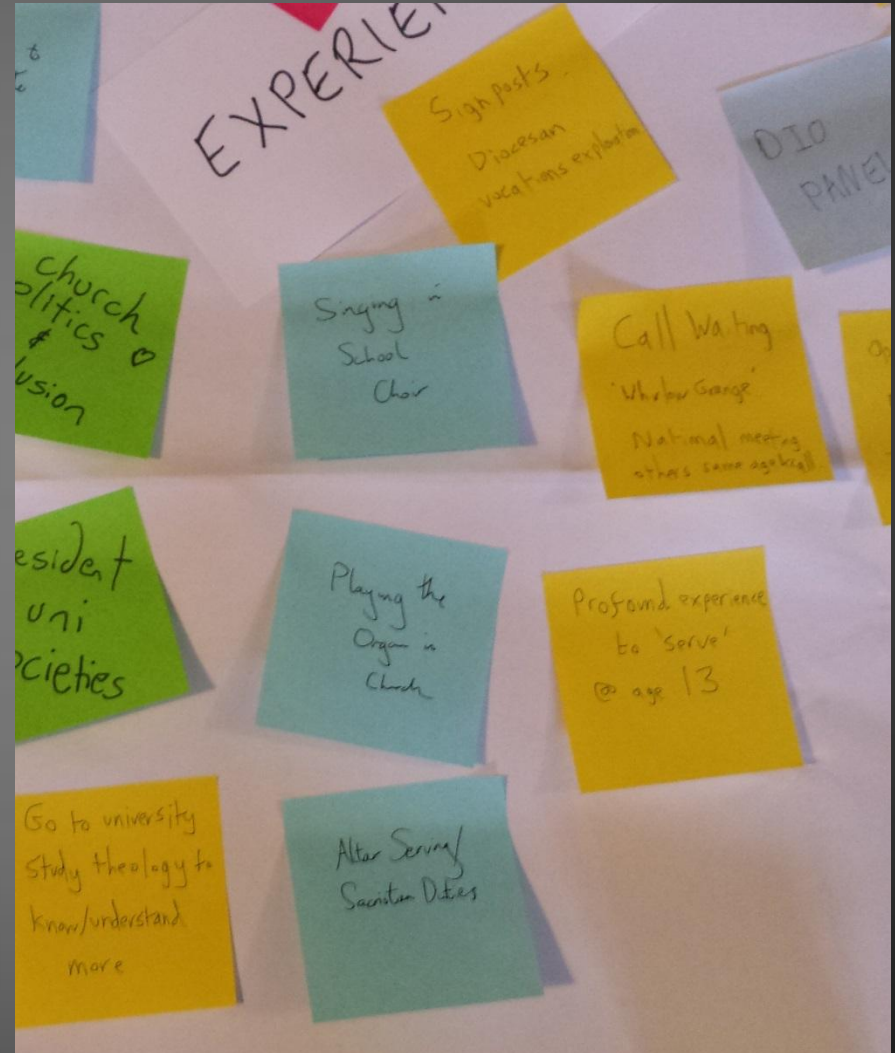
# 'Internal' prompts

“I hope that my calling, conviction, and training in this process is all fuelled by God’s love for me in the gospel, and His way of serving me by Jesus dying, and an outlet of that is that I want to serve the church because of how much Jesus has served me.”

“As I was giving somebody communion, I felt God say, ‘This is what I want you to do.’”

# Childhood experiences

“for Maundy Thursday, we would all come out in our black cassocks, and the lights in the church at the end would all be turned off, and we’d have to literally run out of the doors. I would always look forward to those kinds of bits in the liturgical year where you would get to be engaged emotionally”



# People: role models



“Someone who was an older and wiser and godlier Christian, and an example – you saw the way he lived his life and thought that’s what I want to strive toward”

# People: seed planters

“everybody was being encouraged [by the priest] in general about their vocation, but if there was a chance that you were thinking about ordained ministry, you needed to be thinking about it”

“one of the principle prods towards priestly ministry came through a late night pub trip with two of the chaplains who said, “Yeah, we think you should consider ordained ministry.” It was completely out of the blue and it was at that point that I started taking it more seriously.”



# People: DDOs

“she was the one with the butterfly net, chasing me around everywhere I went, saying, “You’ve got a vocation, get on with it.” So having an ADDO who was actively recruiting vocations was quite important”

“The first person I saw said, “I won’t contact you. If you are interested, contact me. I will never initiate contact with you.” And that was quite difficult because I thought, I want to at least have someone vaguely interested in me. So I thought I’ll never bother going and seeing her again.”



# Practical experience

“I had a parish assistant, intern-type job at a church immediately after graduation. Because it’s a chance to test the water. It’s a chance to think about full time ministry longer term, if you’d like to...”



# Gender-specific barriers

- Perceptions of self and ministry
- Opportunity
- Rejection and hostility
- Marriage and family

“for goodness sake treat me as a person and look at my attributes and my personality rather than my gender or my age”