

It was while I was living and working abroad in Italy, that I first felt Called to Ministry. My sense of Calling was a slow, very unexpected but persistent sense of Calling, which encouraged me to ask questions and explore what full time ministry of Word and Sacrament might mean. I was confident that exploring and asking questions would not lead to very much, as I was more than happy to keep living the dream life abroad! Also the more I explored, the more I read, the more I prayed, the more I spoke to people, the more I felt confident, that it was an impossible journey to undertake!

God had other plans. My sense of Calling never went away. Indeed several years passed until I knew that if I did not follow what I understood to be God Calling me, then I was not being true to myself or to God. So in 2005, no longer able to ignore this sense of Call, I returned to live in Scotland and following a period of discernment, my Calling was recognised and tested by the Church at National Assessment.

The journey from National Assessment to Ordination as a single parent, was not a straightforward one, yet I want to share with you that it is one of the greatest blessings God has given to me. I would not change any of it, because it was through the ups and downs of this journey of studying and training, God prepared me for my future ministry and opened my eyes to all that Ministry in the 21st Century has to offer, so I could flourish and grow into the role to which He had first Called me to while I was in Italy.

In 2013 I was Ordained into the post of Associate Minister at St Michael's in Linlithgow. I have been in my role now for over a year, I love my job and would not change it for anything, it is the best job in the world! I have no regrets at all for what I have given up to follow God's Calling and instead give thanks that I listened to His Call and followed it to where it has taken me.

If you sense God is Calling you, I hope my story encourages you to explore your Calling, you will be in for the most amazing journey which may take you where you least expected, but to where God needs you to be. I know because it happened to me.