

It was science for me at school. I went to university to study physics, captivated by the questions of the Very Big and the Very Small. But sometimes you know that something just isn't fitting right – and physics and me were becoming an increasingly ill-fitting match. It was at that point that I started to take seriously the nudges other people had been giving me, pointing me towards ministry.

I'm not sure I ever seriously thought I'd do anything different. That's not to say I've ever had a lightning bolt moment of clarity in my calling, but neither have I resisted nor run away from the idea of being a minister. Certainly I've wrestled and grappled with the idea, within myself and prayerfully with God, but always in a testing and 'making sure' type of way. I was slow compared to some – it took me five years of wrestling before I finally entered the formal discernment process for ministry in the Church of Scotland.

For most of that time I was studying. Although I hadn't entered into the discernment process, I had decided that instead of physics, it was to be theology that would allow me to explore the Big Questions I was really interested in. After graduating, I set to finding work and moved to Dundee to be a Recycling Information Officer. This meant I spent most of my working days sitting in bin lorries, counting how many recycling bins people put out. When that finished, I washed caravans for a while. Somewhere along the line I found myself texting in to Radio Scotland and found myself talking on national radio about my secret ingredient for the 'perfect' omelette. Perhaps an odd path towards training for ministry, but it suited me well enough. It was also very good for me to be discerning my sense of call to ministry alongside working 'in the real world', after having finished studying.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time of discernment and now my training for ministry. I encourage anyone with an inkling, an itch, or an unresolved sense of God nudging them towards ministry to become involved with the process, and see where the journey leads.