Dear Friend,

 You are invited to take part in a piece of research which sets out to investigate the different understandings of vocation within the Church of England. The aim is to increase awareness of what God is calling people to be and do, so that the church can become better at recognizing and supporting those calls.

 The attached document asks some questions about your relationship with God and the church. This is usually very personal and private and I am very grateful to you for considering taking part.

 Please answer the questions below as fully as you are able, (the space will expand to fit if you do this electronically) and return to me by email or in hard copy to the address below. Please be assured that all contributions will be anonymised. I will keep your response only for the duration of the research and will destroy it when the research is complete. If you change your mind about participating, you may ask me to discount and destroy your contribution any time before that. (All of which sounds very serious, but it is just good ethical practice in research.)

 Please do feel free to contact me as below for more details, or indeed if you would like to talk about the research or to contribute other comments or observations not accommodated in the questions asked.

 All best wishes and many thanks for your time,

 Sally

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*This research is supported by a Durham University Common Awards Seedcorn Grant. It seeks to inform both*

*the work of the Ordained Vocations Working Group (OVWG), which was set up as an outcome of the*

*Resourcing Ministerial Education (RME) report, and Theological Education Institutes in their nurturing of*

*those called by God into ministry in the Church of England.*

*The overall objective of the research is to create a snapshot picture of the range and types of theological*

*frameworks currently being used to establish and articulate a vocation within the Church of England, and to*

*explore the self-understanding and experience of those who have engaged with these frameworks.*

*This specific part of the research seeks to explore the way in which people describe their experience of*

*being called by God to a particular task or place, and how that ‘fits’ the frameworks for understanding,*

*nurturing and exercising ministry available within the church.*

1. Have you ever experienced God calling you to a line of action or place?

YES / NO

Please describe your experience/s.

1. Are you aware of a specific gifting and / or call to serve God within the church?

YES / NO

How would you personally describe your gifting and / or call?

1. Are you aware of a specific gifting or call to serve God within the world?

YES / NO

How would you personally describe your gifting and / or call?

1. To what extent do you feel your specific gifts and / or calling have been recognized by the church?

Valued Recognized Not recognized Discouraged

Please describe your experience.

1. To what extent do you feel your specific gifts and / or calling have been supported by the church?

Very Well Well Not at all Discouraged

Please describe your experience.

1. What are your present roles in church / the world?
2. How does this relate to your gifts and / or calling as described above?
3. What part of Jesus’ life and ministry most inspires you?
4. If you had no constraints, what would you really like to do in response?
5. Is there anything else you would like to add?

The following information is requested to assist finding patterns within the responses. You may, of course, leave it blank.

 Gender:

 Ethnicity:

 Age:

 Please add anything else you would like to say about yourself:

The next stage of the research will involve a small number of interviews. If you would be willing to be contacted please provide contact details and a preferred contact method below.

Thank you!