

Of Cards and Callings

 By **heatherfl22** on 01/07/2026



Truro Cathedral

Last week Mark wrote about Ember Days and this week I would like to extend that theme with talking about Ember Cards and God's calling.

I have just completed my Initial Ministerial Formation Phase 1 (IME1) and am looking forward very much to being ordained as a deacon on 4 July, and to becoming a curate in our benefice, and continuing to be among you all.

Those being ordained have been encouraged to get Ember Cards, named after Ember Days, which are designed to ask people to pray for us individually as we are ordained – or specially designated for ministry within our churches – in the various cathedrals within our dioceses, and to pray also for our congregations and our families.

The word Ember reminds me of another form of ember, the ones that you may see in a fire; those small burning pieces of wood, vegetation, or building material which may peter out and die, or that might by various means might be fanned into flames which are incredibly useful (or can be very dangerous, depending on the context).

Using the ember analogy, I believe God can take even the smallest, faintest spark or glimmer of faith, and by His Holy Spirit fan it into something that burns brightly, both for the enriching of ourselves and of benefit to others.

We don't need to think that what we could offer is too small or too insignificant. There's a verse in the book of Isaiah (42 v 3) in the Old Testament that speaks of God not wanting to crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering flame. He encourages the slightest faith and trust in him, and he can surprise us by bringing new opportunities our way to serve him.

My journey has certainly been a surprise to me, firstly as a lay minister, and now being ordained this coming weekend. What began as a suggestion (that I dismissed!) more than 15 years, has come into being now. God know us better than we know ourselves, and he equips us for whatever he calls us to do.

A few days I was in Truro and visited the Cathedral where they were preparing for the ordinations taking place later that day. I was very struck by a foundation stone there that was laid as an act of faith that the cathedral would eventually be completed around it, when it would form the base of one of the nave pillars – If you like, an 'ember' that with prayer and time would become a much larger 'flame'. The lower, darker part of the stone (pictured here) was exposed to the weather for a long time because the Nave was not completed for a further 25 years. That pillar is now one of the supports for a grand and beautiful building.

I am sure some people doubted whether that nave would ever be completed, and when the cathedral would ever be fully built, but it did happen, in God's good time. Many things start small and gradually become something more with God's gentle guiding and help.

God can turn any small ember or spark into something far bigger and more far-reaching!