



Year Three Theological Reflection – Some Guidance

As we approach the end of your third year in ordained ministry, you are now asked to submit a theological reflection that engages with some of the ministry that you have been doing.

At the end of Year 3, we ask for a reflection focussed around **Worship and Discipleship**. This is deliberately broad, so you should find space to engage with something that you have been doing.

The reflection should offer the following:

- An analysis of what has happened, or what the current situation is;
- How you have worked, with others, in this area and the effect of this;
- What leadership you brought to the situation;
- What theological issues are at stake in this situation, and how your actions are seeking to engage with them.

One of the purposes of the reflection is to demonstrate that you have met the relevant sections of the Formation Criteria. In year 3 we are looking at sections A (Christian Tradition, Faith and Life); C (Spirituality and Worship); and F (Leadership, Collaboration and Community) of the criteria. F was part of year, but please do enable us to see that you have met all these sets of criteria. For convenience, I have placed the details of the sets of criteria at the end of this note. Please remember that if you are preparing for Incumbent ministry, then there are additional Formation Criteria to meet.

Some guidance for this:

1. Please write between 2000 and 3000 words.
2. You are not being assessed on spelling and grammar, nor will you get a percentage or grade for this reflection.
3. There is no particular model of Theological Reflection that we are expecting you to use.
4. It may be helpful to talk through the reflection with your Training Incumbent both while you are doing this, and with the end product. Your reflection may even originate with something you discuss in a supervision session!
5. Set the scope of your reflection large enough to meet all of the relevant areas of the qualities and the requirements of the Curacy Handbook. So, for example, reflecting on one service of worship may not be enough to demonstrate everything; whereas a reflection on developing worship around being a follower of Christ may provide enough material to work with.
6. The deadline for submitting this reflection is **22nd April 2024**. Do please ask if you will need an extension.



Key Formation Criteria to consider in your reflection:

A. CHRISTIAN TRADITION, FAITH AND LIFE

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
1	Ordained ministers sustain their public ministry and personal faith in Christ through study and reflection that is open to new insights. They ...
a	understand the Bible as text and as holy Scripture for the church and the world through regular critical engagement with Old and New Testament texts and issues relating to their interpretation.
b	are able to interpret Scripture in a wide range of settings, using their exegetical and hermeneutical skills to communicate clearly and accurately in ways that enable others to learn and explore.
c	are able to engage in independent study of Christian beliefs and practices and communicate their findings in diverse settings.
d	are able to supervise lay and ordained people in positions of responsibility in formal and informal settings of training and practice.

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
2	Ordained ministers work with and value the breadth and diversity of belief and practice within the Church of England. They ...
a	are able to engage in independent study of how Christian beliefs and practices shape the moral life of individuals and communities.
b	are able to reflect critically on how Christian doctrine and ethics relate to discipleship, church and society, communicating this appropriately inside and outside the church.

For Incumbents:

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
3	Incumbents ...
a	are able to exercise theological leadership for the church in mission.

C. SPIRITUALITY AND WORSHIP

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
1	Ordained ministers are sustained by disciplined personal and corporate prayer shaped by the responsibilities of public ministry and corporate worship in the tradition of the Church of England. They ...
a	are able to relate different approaches to, and traditions of, personal and corporate in prayer to sustain and develop their own prayer life and those of all ages, backgrounds and in a range of life circumstances.

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
2	Ordained ministers ...
a	are able to demonstrate good reflective practice in preaching and in leading – and where appropriate, presiding at – public worship, including pastoral services, using appropriate forms of liturgy in a variety of settings.



	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
3	Ordained ministers are growing in the love of God and in Christ-likeness as members of the body of Christ and can testify to the grace of the Holy Spirit in their lives and ministries. They ...

For Incumbents:

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
5	Incumbents are sustained in the strains and joys of leadership by a life of prayer.

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
4	Ordained ministers' spirituality permeates their perceptions of and interactions with others inside and outside the church. They ...
a	are able to relate spiritual traditions to corporate and individual practices that sustain and develop their own spirituality, and those of others of all ages, backgrounds and in a range of life circumstances
	are able to help others discern God's presence and activity in their relationships world.

F. LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
1	Ordained ministers seek to model their servant leadership on the person of Christ. They:
a	are able to participate in and lead communities, reflecting on, and being alert to, the use and abuse of power.
b	are able to lead collaboratively and competently, working as a member of a team within a community, as an ordained person.

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
2	Ordained ministers share leadership by actively looking for, recognizing and nurturing the gifts of others. They:
a	are able to use authority appropriately in ways that release, equip, enable and empower others, including colleagues, to fulfill their calling to mission and ministry from within a Christian community.
b	are able to supervise and mentor others in a limited range of roles and responsibilities in mission and ministry.

For Incumbents:

	At the end of IME Phase 2 ...
3	Incumbents ...
a	are able to facilitate change creatively and sensitively, exercising leadership within an entrepreneurial and forward looking approach
b	show skill and sensitivity in enabling the formation and flourishing of corporate life in the presence of diversity
c	are able to lead teams collaboratively in a variety of settings including multi-parish benefices.
d	are able to supervise lay and ordained people in positions of responsibility in formal and informal settings of training and practice.