



The Ordinal and MDR

This purpose of this list of questions is to provide a foundation for our work of ministerial review by taking us back to our common calling and authorisation in ordination. It draws on the questions, promises and prayers in the Ordination Service of Deacons and Priests. It is designed to help you, and so the reviewer, keep a deep and spiritual as well as ministerial focus in this review. Please use it as a stimulus to responding to the MDR form itself.

Affirming and developing your discipleship and ministry, with the Ordinal

1. 'Will you be diligent in prayer...

You might reflect on your relationship with God, your prayer life, how you are using the Daily Office, other ways of praying, time on retreat or at a conference, work with a spiritual director or mentor...

2. ... in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?' 'Do you believe the doctrine of the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it, and in your ministry will you expound and teach it?'

You might reflect on how study has sustained you as a disciple and minister in the recent past? What has gone well in your preaching and teaching ministry? Where might there be potential for development?

3. 'Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel.'

You might reflect on how you are leading God's people? How have you been helped by your training, diocesan provision (MLG) or other CMD? How would you describe your charism in leadership?

4. 'Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?'

You might reflect on how you have engaged in the ministry of evangelism? And helped others to engage in this ministry? What has gone well in these areas of ministry in the last year? What could be different or better?

5. 'Will you strive to make the love of Christ known through word and example, and have a particular care for those in need?'

What is 'poverty' in your context? You might reflect on how you and your church(es) have engaged with the diocesan priority of helping our communities to tackle poverty?

How do you and your church(es) engage with ministry with children and young people? How do you and your church(es) relate to the schools in your parish(es) ?





6. **‘Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?’**

What is your ministerial practice regarding the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the other occasional offices? When did you last review this and how?

7. **‘Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled with God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God’s peace in the Church and in the world?’**

What has been your experience of ministering ‘as an instrument of God’s peace’ in the wider public context, as well as among people who are already involved in the church?

8. **‘Will you work with your fellow servants in the Gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?’**

How are relationships with your ordained and lay colleagues? In what ways have you found it possible to engage in collaborative ministry in your churches, and to encourage it? What examples of partnership working are there in your wider context and what challenges and opportunities do these present?

9. **‘Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church and respect authority duly exercised within it?’**

What has gone well in your relationship with ‘diocesan support structures’ [senior staff, Mission and Ministry Support Team, other staff in Cuthbert House] this year? What might have worked better?

10. **‘Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ’s people?’**

How is the balance between your ministry, work and family life? To what extent do you receive the ministerial and personal support which you need? Do you have any particular concerns?

11. **‘Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?’**

What have you experienced recently as affirming your calling? How have you felt the gifts of God’s Spirit developing in you? How might you offer your gifts in the service of the wider Church?

