



Ministry Development Team: Worshipping God

This document contains information for the priest and AMD Advisor (or other facilitator) to help with the Ministry Development for the Worshipping God theme.

Date, location and participants

Ideally, the Ministry Development Team should take place about two weeks after the Clergy College. It lasts about *90 minutes* and should be held in a comfortable environment.

The Ministry Development Team involves a core group of between six and 12 people. The priest identifies and invites participants. They can include clergy, Readers, Local Worship Leaders and Pastoral Workers, and Church Wardens.

Aims of the Ministry Development Team

The aims of the Ministry Development Team are:

- to form a bridge between the learning that takes place during the Clergy College and Ministry Development; and
- to form a group that is aware of and understands the theme of Ministry Development and can help support the priest in its delivery.

The Ministry Development Team will also be a chance to remind people about how AMD works, to talk about the Clergy College and to help build a common understanding of what you're trying to achieve.

Content of the Ministry Development Team

The structure of the Ministry Development Team will usually be as follows (timings are a guide only, but try not to run over unless you aim to reduce another section in advance):

A Welcome and Prayer led by priest, facilitator or others: *5 minutes*

B Outline of Ministry Development and discussion led by priest or facilitator: *25 minutes*

C Input by priest on a topic from the Clergy College and discussion: *25 minutes*

D Appreciative Inquiry of the church exploring 'Worshipping God' led by facilitator: *25 minutes*

E Summary of discussions and Concluding Prayers: *5 minutes*

The following pages contain further resources for each of these sections.

- Depending upon the time of day it may be good to provide suitable refreshments.
- Arrange the room so that everyone can participate in the conversations.
- If you are using Powerpoint, or other visual aids, ensure everyone can see properly and prepare the equipment (laptop and projector) in advance.



A: Welcome & Prayer

- Welcome:
 - ❖ explain that this is the final Ministry Development Team
 - ❖ check that everyone knows each other – especially important if churches have recently started working together and/or new people are involved
 - ❖ outline the aims of the Parish Programme Launch (see Aims above)
 - ❖ outline what will happen during the session (see Content above)
- Prayer:
 - ❖ use an appropriate form of prayer, focussing on Worshipping God. 5 minutes

B: Outline of the Parish Programme

[NOTE – it would be possible to spend much more than 25 minutes on this theme and you may decide to reduce one of the other sections, e.g. the priest’s input, in order to allow this to happen]

- State the theme: ‘Worshipping God.’
- EXERCISE IN PAIRS: Try completing the sentence “Worship is ...”; compare your responses.
- In *Common Worship* this is said about worship: “In the worship of God, the full meaning and beauty of our humanity is consummated and our lives are opened to the promise God makes for all creation – to transform and renew it in love and goodness” (p. iv).
- EXERCISE IN PAIRS: say whether this is your experience of worship; compare your responses.
- Song/hymn: (suggestion – The Servant King by Graham Kendrick; lyrics and music available online)
- EXERCISE:
 - ❖ Setting the scene: During the song, a selection of books or religious objects (e.g. a cross, candles, vestments etc.) that could be used in worship are displayed on a suitable table in the centre of the group
 - ❖ Each member of the group is invited to choose a book or object from the table, to hold and study it for a minute or two
 - ❖ Each member is asked what the purpose of their chosen book or object is in enabling the worship of God.
 - Key point: The word ‘worship’ means different things to different people and we have to get used to the varied use of the word.
- INPUT & DISCUSSION:

We might say that worship is ‘giving God his worth, or what he deserves, or glory’. Christians in the seventeenth century said ‘The true end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him for ever’. Taking those comments and your own reflections as a starting point how do the following paragraphs reflect your own experience and understanding of worship?

 - ❖ **Worship is a door open in heaven** - We lift up our hearts, listen in to what God is saying, join the angels and archangels and all the saints in heaven in praising God’s eternal holiness. We are there and he is here.
 - Allow people to reflect and comment



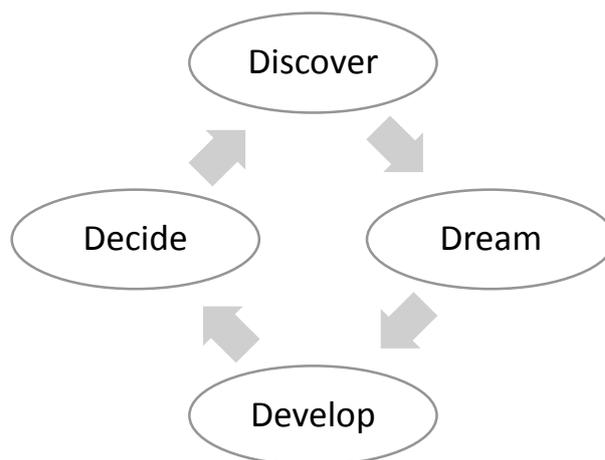
- ❖ **Worship is a door open to the inner depths of life** - Suddenly, as we worship, there is a wholeness, shalom, peace, as all the fragmented bits of our being are put into God's perspective. Things make sense, and there is something to hold on to which has hitherto seemed just beyond the grasp of our mind.
 - Allow people to reflect and comment
- ❖ **Worship is a door open to the rhythms of life** - Through festivals, simple rituals, a weekly rhythm, worship marking morning and evening, the whole of life, time and space claimed for God and given back to him. In the worship he gives it to us again, to use for him, and we know he is concerned with our hopes and fears, politics and problems, families and finance.
 - Allow people to reflect and comment
- ❖ **Worship is a door to our hearts open in obedience to God** - He commands us to worship in spirit and in truth. We respond to the overwhelming majesty of his beauty revealed in creation, to his overwhelming love and grace revealed in his word and in his Son. And as we worship we are changed...
 - Allow people to reflect and comment
- DISCUSSION:
 - ❖ Think of your church's worship and consider the following questions:
 1. What does God think of it? (Does this worship achieve its aim of ascribing 'worth' to God?)
 2. What do we think of it? (Does this worship help all those who have come to the service to be able to offer their worship together?)
 3. What do they think about it? (Are there some things about the way we worship together which make it harder than it need be for new people to join us in worship?)
- This should lead onto the priest's input.

C: Input by priest

- The priest should select a topic that really interested him/her at the recent Clergy College.
 - ❖ It can be anything from the Clergy College, not necessarily something relevant to the theme of Worshipping God, but you may like to think about the material presented in the session entitled 'In Spirit and in Truth'.
 - ❖ Please provide any learning resources you require; feel free to copy anything provided at the Clergy College if that's helpful to the group or take an idea from the Parish Programme resources, e.g. a video or website story or something that you would wish to do with the youth or children. *maximum of 10 minutes*
- Discuss the topic and its relevance for the church
 - ❖ You may like to suggest questions for the group to discuss or ask them to participate in a creative activity—remember that different people have different learning styles. *around 15 minutes*
- Conclude the discussion
 - ❖ Try and conclude on a positive note, which will lead well into 'Appreciative Enquiry'.

D: Appreciative Inquiry

- Appreciative Inquiry is a way of asking questions that helps people focus upon what has been good about the past and the positive aspects of our present. It leads a group to think about building upon what has worked well rather than becoming preoccupied about what's going wrong.
 - ❖ If you are interested in finding out more about Appreciative Inquiry the Accompanied Ministry Development team can suggest some resources, although the following website: www.clergyleadership.com contains a useful summary
- There are various elements to Appreciative Inquiry. Typically they are:
 - ❖ Discover – Appreciate what is present when things go well
 - ❖ Dream – Imagine the features of a flourishing future
 - ❖ Develop or Design – Identify what you will do
 - ❖ Decide – Create this future
- The cycle looks like this:



- As part of the Ministry Development Team churches will concentrate upon the 'Discover' element of Appreciative Inquiry; the other elements could be very suitable topics for PCC meetings, for example.
- If there are more than six people present, it's best to divide into smaller groups so that everyone has an opportunity to speak. If only a few people are present, stay as one group. The structure of this part of the Ministry Development Team is as follows
 - ❖ In pairs, ask each person to think about and briefly describe a meaningful experience of worship in which they took part. Ask them to identify and sum up in one sentence what it was that made it special. Ask each person to feed back their sentence and summarise it on a flip chart. Draw out some of the common themes which begin to emerge as to what make up a positive worship experience. *10 to 12 minutes*
 - ❖ Come together as a whole group and in the light of what has been said, ask everyone to give two hopes for how your church might help people 'Live for God.'

5 to 10 minutes



E: Summary and Concluding Prayer

- Thank people for coming
- Conclude with prayers for the church and for each other and for any other pressing issues in your community and the wider world. *5 minutes*