



DIOCESE OF TRURO

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM  
GROWING THE CHURCH

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## Conversations & Formation

### Assignment Guidance for Preparing Candidates for Stage 1



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## Carousel Conversation One: Priesthood/Diaconate

**Aim:** exploring the Candidate's ability to describe what attracts them to ordained ministry and reflect with the Adviser on how their vocational exploration and experiences have helped clarify this calling. The adviser may use images and invite candidates to choose ones which resonate about the diaconate and/or priesthood.

**Core Subject Awareness: Vocation/Priesthood/Diaconate.**

### Questions for Reflection:

- What does 'call' or 'vocation' mean for a Christian?
- What vocations do you already exercise and what have you learnt about yourself as a result?
- What role do friends and members of your family play in your vocation(s)?
- What is it about ordained ministry that excites you and why?
- What images or metaphors for priesthood/diaconate in the ordinal do you feel drawn to and why?
- How have you and others helped you test your sense of call?
- What is distinctive about priesthood/diaconate for you?
- What is the difference between ministry and priesthood?

**What is being looked for by the Adviser?** In this Stage One conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Show what it is about the ordained ministry to which you are drawn that excites you
- Reflect on images of priesthood/diaconate contained in the Ordinal that resonate with you
- Talk about the ways in which you have explored and tested your vocation and how this has deepened your understanding of your calling.
- Reflect on what ways you see your ministry as pioneering.



## Carousel Conversation Two: The Church of England

**Aim:** This Carousel Conversation invites you to reflect on the Church of England's mission and ministry within an ever-changing world, and to discuss the role your church or fresh expression plays in your locality, through its activities and distinctive character. The candidate will be given a news story about the Church of England and be invited to talk about it.

**Core Subject Awareness: The Church of England's identity and purpose**

### Questions for Reflection:

- Why are you an Anglican?
- What is distinctive about Anglican spirituality?
- What is particular to and unique about the role of Church of England in society as compared to other denominations?
- How does the role of priest/deacon fit into this?
- Explore how and why the Church of England came into being and then consider what the chief missional challenges for the church are today.
- What is your experience of the Church of England and its various traditions?
- Where do you feel most at home and why?
- How has your church/fresh expression sought to relate to its local context - what have been the successes and the failures and why?

**What is being looked for by the Adviser?** In this conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Talk about the role of the Church of England within the life of the nation
- Reflect on the way the Church needs to change and adapt as it speaks of Christ afresh to the world
- Show that you understand what is distinctive about your own church tradition and how it enriches the broader life of the Church
- Show that you have some understanding of at least one other tradition within the Church of England, and that you are willing to work within the Church's diversity
- Show some understanding of how your church or fresh expression relates to your local context.

## Carousel Conversation Three: Communicating Christian Faith

**Aim:** exploring the Candidate's ability to express and articulate the Christian faith and their understanding of basic themes in scripture and the creeds. They are also asked to show how they can communicate their personal faith in a way that is understandable and attractive to others. The candidate will be invited to use an object, image or hymn/worship song to help articulate how they would describe their faith to another person.

**Core Subject Awareness: Understanding and communication of faith, scripture & evangelism.**

### Questions for Reflection:

- How and why is Jesus important?
- How did you come to faith?
- What difference does being a Christian make in your life?
- What is the significance of the doctrine of the Trinity for Christian Faith?
- Which OT and which NT Bible characters (apart for Jesus!) are most important to you and why?
- Explain what you would say to a group of 8 year old children about why you follow Christ?
- How would what you say change for a young adult?
- When times are tough what has Christian faith got to say to someone in your experience?
- What place have the Bible, Christian tradition and the mind in the daily experience of your faith?
- How has the Holy Spirit been at work in your life recently?
- What is most exciting for you about being a Christian?

### What is being looked for by the Adviser?

In this conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Show that you have an understanding of some key Biblical and theological themes, including those relating to creation, salvation and God's activity in the world
- Draw upon Biblical imagery and theological ideas in giving an account of your Christian faith
- Communicate the Christian faith, and your personal faith, in a way that is understandable, engaging and attractive for others.

## Carousel Conversation Four: Practical and Pastoral Care

**Aim:** exploring the Candidate's ability to show how they exercise pastoral wisdom and compassion in real-life human situations, and that they understand the importance of appropriate boundaries in such situations. The candidate will be shown a video clip of a pastoral situation and invited to talk about it. They will also be given an email and asked to think about the response needed.

**Core Subject Awareness: Pastoral care, good judgement and safe practise.**

**Read** 'Promoting a Safer Church' and policy guidelines of the Church of England and 'Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy'.

(The traffic Light Document for use by A/DDOs)

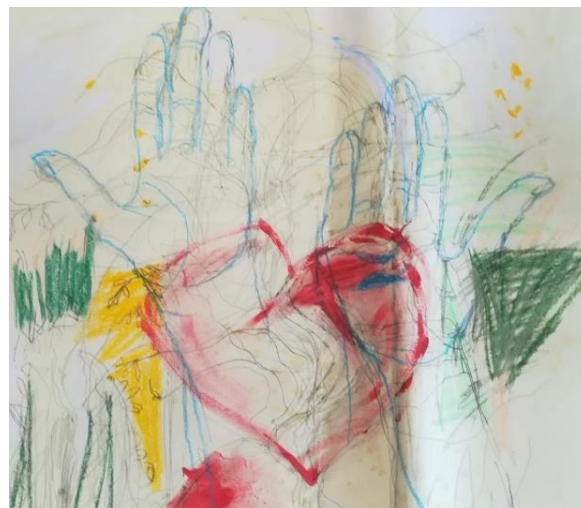
### Questions for Reflection:

- What makes for good pastoral care in a parish context?
- Give some examples of how you are involved. How have you received pastoral care from others and how might it have been improved?
- What are the characteristics of a good listener?
- What in your view can go wrong when appropriate boundaries and safeguards are not in place between human beings?
- What examples have you from your own experience?
- What do you do when people challenge or hurt/offend you?
- What are the particular issues in working with children and vulnerable people?

### What is being looked for by the Adviser?

In this conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Understand with insight and sensitivity a complex and developing human situation.
- Show good listening skills and empathy.
- Show compassion, or exercise pastoral care, in appropriate and sensitive ways.





## Carousel Conversation Five: Living as a Disciple

**Aim:** exploring the Candidate's ability to describe how they resource and develop themselves, and others, as a Christian disciple. The candidate will have to give a 4 minute talk on either how they have grown as a disciple or how they have enabled others to grow as a disciple.

**Core Subject Awareness: Spirituality, resilience, prayer, use of Bible & discipleship.**

### Questions for Reflection:

- Describe your daily /weekly / monthly pattern of prayer and spiritual practice - or what you would like it to be (eg set times for prayer?)
- What materials do you use?
- Do you build in regular retreats or quiet days?
- What about prayer alone and prayer with others?
- Where does the Eucharist figure in your spirituality? If you have not yet established a pattern which nourishes and sustains you, how might you go about doing so?
- What is distinctive about Anglican spirituality?
- How does a spiritual director / accompanier help and support going deeper with Christ?
- Reflect on times when your faith has seemed very dry or at a low ebb. What led to that situation, and what helped you out of it again? How do you build resilience into spiritual life?
- What role does the Bible play in your life?
- What styles of corporate worship/sacramental life feed you and why?
- How do you help nurture the spirituality of others in prayers groups and cells?
- How have you led another person to Christ?

### What is being looked for by the Adviser?

In this conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of the Candidate's capacity to:

- Explain how they seek to live out their discipleship day to day
- Reflect on how participation in worship (including sacramental worship) and engagement with scripture has shaped and changed them
- Explain how they have enabled others to grow as disciples and what they have learnt through this.

## Carousel Conversation Six: Engaging with the World

**Aim:** exploring the Candidate's ability to relate their Christian faith to the life of the world and to reflect on what mission means in their own context. The candidate will be invited to talk to a new story or a film/TV programme or talk about their experience of mission and evangelism.

### Questions for Reflection:

- How has your faith in Christ changed and developed over the years?
- How do you inhabit and make space for each of **the five marks of mission** in your life?
- How does your church community inhabit the five marks?
- Reflect on how issues of climate change and ecological crisis relates to the Bible and Christian faith.
- What is the difference between mission and evangelism?
- Why does mission look different in different contexts?
- Think of examples from your own experience and work?
- How can films/books/TV shows inform us about culture? Give some examples that strike you and explain why you think they are important to consider when thinking about mission.

### What is being looked for by the Adviser?

In this conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of the Candidate's capacity to:

- Make connections between the Gospel and the life of the world around them
- Draw on Biblical and theological ideas to engage with the questions people ask about life and faith
- Reflect on their own faith
- Show some understanding of the principles of mission, as expressed through the Five Marks of Mission.





## RESOURCES

- Sister Margaret Magdalene Vocation: Exploring Call and Identity (Grove Booklet, 2008)
- Francis Dewar Live for a Change
- Francis Dewar Called or Collared
- Steve Walton A Call to live: Vocation for everyone
- Derek Walmsley God Calls Everyone: Finding Our Place in His Great Story (Authentic Media Ltd 2020)
- The Ordinals of the Church of England (priest and deacon)
- Marcus Throup All Things Anglican
- Book of Common Prayer: The 39 Articles of Religion
- Alastair Redfern Being Anglican (Darton Longman Todd 2000)
- Read the Church Times and/or the Church of England Newspaper regularly for a few weeks and other newspapers searching for articles about Christian Faith and Church matters - dip into, to pick up on and think about some of the issues addressed.
- Church of England Website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) particularly the ministry, vocations and governance pages.
- John Pritchard How to Share your Faith
- Tom Wright Simply Christian (2011 Eden Books)
- Tom Wright Broken Signposts: How Christianity Makes Sense of the World (SPCK 2020)
- John McGinley Mission-Shaped Grace: Missional practices for missional disciples (River Publishing 2017)
- Gary Thomas Sacred Pathways. (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2000.)
- Richard Foster Celebration of Discipline, or Dallas Willard, Spirit of the Disciplines.
- The writings of one famous spiritual author, eg Julian of Norwich, Thomas a Kempis, William Law,
- David Runcorn The Spirituality Workbook (SPCK, 2011)
- The Five Marks of Mission
- David Smith Mission After Christendom (DLT, 2003)
- John McGinley Mission Shaped Living (Leaders and Participants guides) (David C Cook 2020)
- Get Sidetracked - Pioneer Practice. 2021
- Fr James Mallon. Divine Renovation.2014.
- John Barton, A History of the Bible. 2019.
- Graham Goldsworthy, The Goldsworthy Trilogy.

And lots more we can add....