Initial Ministerial Development: Phase 2

A handbook for Curates and Training Incumbents

The second year

2023_24
May the blessings released through your hands
Cause windows to open in darkened minds.

May the sufferings your calling brings
Be but winter before the spring.

May the companionship of your doubt
Restore what your beliefs leave out.

May the secret hungers of your heart
Harvest from emptiness its sacred fruit.

May your solitude be a voyage
Into the wilderness and wonder of God.

May your words have the prophetic edge
To enable the heart to hear itself.

May the silence where your calling dwells
Foster your freedom in all you do and feel.

May you find words full of divine warmth
To clothe the dying in the language of dawn.

May the slow light of the Eucharist
Be a sure shelter around your future.

*John O’Donohue*

*Benedictus – A Book of Blessings: 2007*
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The First Four Years

Introduction

Welcome to the second year of IMD in the Diocese of Gloucester. You have survived the orientation (and disorientation!) of the first year which was all about getting used to a public representative ministry, exploring the diaconate and preparing for the priesthood. This second year aims to equip you with all the skills and resources necessary for the life of a priest/deacon in the long term.

The second year is really the hinge around which your curacy turns: at the beginning of the year you may well feel like you’re only just beginning, by the end some of you will be thinking about moving on to your next role. So, this is also the year to reflect and pray about the emerging shape of your ministry: how do you do’ priesthood/diaconate, how long might you curacy need to last to prepare you well, and what might your next role look like?

The second year curacy review aims to help you do that. It not only includes feedback from your incumbent and curacy reviewer, but feedback also from lay people in your church and community. Do use it to get as honest and helpful feedback as you can. This review also allows us to look at the way your curacy has developed and to see if there are any areas of ministry you haven’t had an opportunity to experience, and what your priorities might be for the final twelve to twenty four months.

The second year is also the year when attendance at IMD can ‘slide’ as your parish responsibilities increase. Please can I ask you to try to resist this slide as this is also the year when we cover the major areas in which you need to have confidence for your future ministry. You have also invested a lot in your relationships with one another already and you will really reap the benefits of those this year.

Just a reminder that the aims of IMD are:

1. To provide an overall discernment process for the first years in ministry, which will seek to help you acquire the values of public representative ministry and to point the way forward for their future public ministry within the Church of England.
2. To provide a peer group which you can belong to and from which you can explore the varieties of ministerial responsibilities and experiences, receiving both nourishment and challenge within a safe and nourishing environment.
3. To provide ministerial education and formation that will be truly transformative.
4. To equip you with all the skills necessary in order that you may be fully formed into the public representative ministry of a priest.
5. And, above all, to equip you to maintain a deep seeking after God amidst all the busyness and activities that go to make up the life of an Anglican deacon or priest.

Feedback on the extent to which we are or are not achieving these aims is always welcome.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if anything is unclear or you want to make suggestions for future development. On behalf of the Bishop, thank you for your commitment to the current and future ministry of Christ’s Church.

David Heywood, Interim Coordinator of Curate Training, Diocese of Gloucester
The Shape of the Initial Ministerial Development Programme

In our three neighbouring dioceses of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester, we share the following overall shape in our programme, already described:

1st year – is about learning to live in public representative ministry, the curate learning to be who they are in the new role

2nd year – is about considering priestly ministry, and developing appropriate skills for sustaining a life of priestly ministry

3rd year – is recognising and beginning to develop the unique character of each individual’s ministry, and discerning their vocation for the future

These outcomes, and the Formation Criteria as a whole, are delivered through a programme which includes:

- **Peer supervision groups.** This is at the heart of the IMD programme. Each group is made up of half of the year group of curates. It will meet twice a term at a time and place agreed by the group. Curates will bring issues, events or relationships they would like to reflect on in order to develop their practice, understanding, self-awareness and theology. It will be facilitated by a trained facilitator and is a safe and confidential space.

- **Core events for the year group.** These cover the essentials of the theology and practice of mission and ministry in the Anglican Church. Over the three years, we look at baptisms, marriage, funerals, evangelism and fostering disciples, and in the third year, the ministry of reconciliation, healing and deliverance. These are held on Sundays at 4 College Green.

- **Core events for the whole curate body.** In a programme that is trying to be flexible, events for everyone are rare. The most important of these is the annual spirituality day at the start of the year.

- **A residential weekend on leadership.** Time away together is valuable, and costly. We have a residential two years out of three – the third year being the diocesan clergy residential.

- **Mornings with training incumbents.** There will be two Saturday mornings each year shared with training incumbents. One will be in the year group looking at aspects of collaborative ministry. One will be with all the year groups together looking at an aspect of shared interest.

- **Into Incumbency.** Into Incumbency is a programme of events aimed at those moving into an incumbent’s post. Third year incumbent status curates will focus on this course, though they may want to spread it over two years. This course will be shared with people new to incumbency moving into the diocese, and some events will be shared with experienced incumbents. This course will help curates manage the step up into incumbency.

- **Events for Specific Sub-groups or Training Needs.** Special events for those arriving, leaving, etc. are arranged in conjunction with neighbouring dioceses, and we have also arranged specific training events (e.g. for those working in Church Schools). If a group would like a specific area of training arranged, this should be possible.

- **Church swaps.** Curates are encouraged, especially towards the end of the first year or the beginning of the second, to visit each other’s churches and to take the opportunity to experience and minister in a different context and tradition.
Third year placements are a valued element within the programme. These have normally taken place during the Autumn of the third year, and typically lasted for five weeks (or pro-rata for part time curates). It is quite possible for them to happen elsewhere in the year if this is more convenient. The purpose and content of the placement should be clearly agreed with the Head of Ministerial Development beforehand – an additional information sheet is incorporated in the appendices.

Further Study. Curates who would like to undertake further study as part of their formational development need to discuss this with the Co-ordinator of IMD. We would usually support this, and it may be possible to provide some limited financial support.

Attendance at the peer supervision groups and core events is very important both for the sake of each individual minister and the group as a whole. If a core event is unavoidably missed one year it will need to be attended the following year. Reasons for absence need to be communicated to Julie as soon as they arise (a wedding is rarely booked a week before a training event!) and attendances are recorded at each session. Frequent absence will suggest the need for review of training with curate and training incumbent by the Head of Ministerial Development, to address any particular issues. Part time ministers will be expected to attend core events and peer supervision groups.

The fourth year is a time of transition. As we expect full-time deployable curates to be able to move on from the beginning of their fourth year, it is essential that the Formation Criteria have been met by then. Full-time ‘incumbent’ status curates will continue to attend the Into Incumbency course until they leave for their next post. If they move within the diocese they are expected to finish the Into Incumbency course in their first year of being an incumbent.

‘Assistant’ curates in their fourth year are not required to be present at IMD events, but should discuss their individual training pattern with their training incumbents and the Head of Ministerial Development.
Leadership and collaboration

Second year curates have become well established and respected in the church and community. So this is the time to take on areas of significant responsibility and leadership if you have not already been able to do so. This is particularly important for curates moving on to incumbent posts as you will need to be able to demonstrate your capacity for leadership in a variety of situations, but all of you have demonstrated leadership potential in the discernment process and that needs to be expressed in ministry. It will also be important for your second year assignment which is on an area of leadership. Taking a lead on a new project, facilitating a particular parish group or managing an area of work will all give you opportunities to supervise others, demonstrate skills of facilitation and mediation and explore a variety of leadership styles for different contexts. If, when you have discussed this with your incumbent, this seems difficult to develop in your community please talk this over with the Head of Ministerial Development.

Year 2 placements

There are no formal placements in the second year, but all curates are encouraged to explore the possibility of informal ‘pulpit swaps’ or exchanges with colleagues at some point during the second year. Third year curates find their placement extremely rewarding but have reported that other placement experiences earlier in the curacy would be valuable. Therefore can I encourage you to talk with your colleagues and arrange to visit one another’s churches and take part in worship of a style you are not familiar with. You do not need to write a formal report of these visits, but they may provide valuable evidence to include in your portfolios.
IMD portfolios – a reminder!

As part of your IMD training curates are asked to put together a portfolio of your experience in curacy over the first two years. This forms part of curacy review in the first two years.

Purpose of the Portfolio

The process of creating the portfolio is as important as the final result. Gathering together information about significant aspects of your ministry and reflecting upon them will aid your ministerial development. This is not just about individual tasks - it is about your growth in your vocation and discipleship. It will also help you to reflect upon the ministry of your church community in your area of work, be it parish or secular employment. As you gather evidence related to different Formation Criteria you should become aware of areas where you need to be proactive in searching out training opportunities. This is particularly important for those whose formal ministry is limited to a few sessions per week and for those in full time ministry whose parishes offer limited learning opportunities. This can then be raised at supervision.

The finished portfolio will enable you to;

- Demonstrate your growth in the calling which God has given you.
- Demonstrate your competence in areas of ministry described in the Formation Criteria
- Demonstrate your development as a reflective minister
- Demonstrate how you have been able to use your gifts and prior experience in your ministry.
- Demonstrate your particular areas of gifting.
- Demonstrate your ability to discern, with others, where God is leading you and your church community.

Your Portfolio Is Directly Related To Your Current Ministry

Gathering together the portfolio should not be burdensome. Storing documents that you devise on your computer in a portfolio file and retaining written material from others can become an habitual way of working.

More importantly we hope that compiling the portfolio will be part of developing your way of working as a minister. At a time of rapid change, in church and society, the Church needs ministers who can look reflectively on what they are doing and the possibilities that are around them so to enable the kingdom to be proclaimed and kingdom values to be lived.

What Do I Put In The Portfolio?

The list of contents below will tell you what reports and reflections need to go in every portfolio. Then there is the largest section which is the every-day evidence of meeting the Formation Criteria. You can put almost anything connected with your ministry, which you have written or created in this part of the portfolio. Some items are probably quite obvious - a presentation you have done for the PCC, the PCC minutes or committee minutes that describe a spoken presentation, services you have devised, housegroup material that you have prepared. You can also include materials that others have given you, e.g. a thank-you letter following a baptism, wedding or funeral, a section from the annual report recording a new venture you have been involved in or a teacher’s assessment of a collective worship that you have led. Keep a record of your supervision which demonstrates your development as a
‘reflective practitioner’. You may wish to put a record of some sessions in a portfolio and perhaps also a record of your Training Incumbent’s comments. You might like to include a reflection upon the content of an IMD training event. You should include the long and short reflections that you will be doing throughout your curacy. Your learning agreement includes time for study so you could include reflections upon books or articles that you have read. Please make clear the nature of these documents although you are not required to use a particular referencing system. If you are doing an academic course you can include relevant extracts from material that you have produced for assessment.

Theological reflections

There are three types of theological reflection that are required.

1. Short notes on significant events which demonstrate you have reviewed, processed and learned from the event. These reflections are frequent and informal.

2. Short reflections (500-1000 words) – one on each of the seven Formation Criteria. These are best spread out over the course of the curacy, for example by doing three in the first year, three in the second and leaving one for the third year. These short reflections take a good example which illustrates one of the Formation Criteria, and goes into more depth, following a clear learning cycle. These are often best written up after a supervision session dedicated to that subject. These reflections are included in your portfolio and read as part of the annual curacy review.

3. Long reflections (1,500-2500 words)
   There is one long reflection each year focussing on a particular theme – community engagement in the first year, leadership in the second, and worship in the third. You are expected to delve beneath the surface of the event/issue, drawing from previous experience, theology, or other disciplines to examine the event from different perspectives. The aim is not to tie the event down, but to open it up to the possibility of new ways of seeing and new ways of thinking. These are included in your portfolio and read as part of your annual curacy review.

How Long Should the Portfolio Be?

The whole portfolio should fit into a single ring bound file of whatever size. Please don’t attempt to include everything you have done but choose those events that either best demonstrate evidence against the Formation Criteria, or were most significant for you. Remember, the main body of the portfolio is a working record of your ministry and reflections on it, not a submission for academic assessment. It needs to be readable, but not pristine!

When Do You Want To See The Portfolio?

Your reviewer will want to see your portfolio at the first year review, just to see how you are getting on with it. They will then want to see the finished result as part of your second year review (between Easter and the summer of your second year of curacy) and if there is more to do, at Christmas of year 3. The portfolio will be part of the evidence that you have fulfilled the Formation Criteria.

Please use the list of contents below. It is recommended you use the Learning Plan from the first year as your list of contents of evidence linked to the criteria. You will find an electronic copy at:
https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/curates-and-training-incumbents/

Portfolio list of contents
Section headings

1. Working agreement(s)
   (Most current in front)

2. Year 1 working agreement review papers

3. Year 1 pre-ordination (priesting) reports and assignment
   For distinctive deacons this is the first year summer report

4. Year 2 curacy review papers

5. Year 3 curacy review papers

6. Short theological reflections
   
   A. Christian faith, tradition and life
   B. Mission, evangelism and discipleship
   C. Spirituality and worship
   D. Personality and character
   E. Relationships
   F. Leadership, collaboration and community
   G. Vocation and ministry within the Church of England

7. Long theological reflections
   
   a. Year 1 Community engagement
   b. Year 2 Leadership
   c. Year 3 Worship

8. Year 3 Placement Rationale and report

9. Evidence of meeting the Formation Criteria
   
   This section accounts for the bulk of your portfolio and can be ordered in different ways. Please use this contents list as it will help your reviewer navigate their way round your portfolio. Be selective about what you include. You don’t need every funeral ‘thank you’ letter to demonstrate your pastoral sensitivity. The dispositions are included in the shaded sections, skills and knowledge in the left hand column.
Year 2 Long Reflection

Leadership

Reflect on an experience when you are exercising a leadership role. Please refer back to the document ‘how to write a theological reflection’ in your first year handbook before you start.

As in the first year reflection this will be an incident in the broad area of leadership which makes you stop to think. It could be a surprising outcome, an uncomfortable feeling, a confusing conclusion, an unforeseen conflict and so on.

The key thing is that it’s not clear and all wrapped up in your mind but needs some thinking through. This is not an assignment where, generally, you know the conclusion before you start. This is a process of reflection which means grappling with not knowing and wondering what might emerge.

The finished reflection will primarily demonstrate your ability to respond to an experience using the discipline of a reflection cycle and not simply responding from habit. It will also:

- Demonstrate your involvement in leadership
- Demonstrate your ability to reflect critically and theologically on your own practise
- Demonstrate an engagement of Scripture with life experience
- Demonstrate an openness to other insights

Word limit 1,500 – 2,500 words to be submitted and/or presented with your portfolio at the second year curacy review.
Year 3 Long Reflection …for those who like to think ahead

**Act of worship**

Choose an experience which relates to an act of worship (cf Ministry in the C of E)

Follow the reflection cycle, as before, and see if there is anything new to learn.

About 1,500-2,500 words

This reflection will provide part of the evidence that you have fulfilled the Formation Criteria.

To be submitted to your curacy reviewer by the start of December of Year 3 as part of your third year curacy review.
Third Year Placements – for those who plan ahead

The placement aims to:

- Address any weaknesses or omissions in the primary training context – for example, occasional offices
- Offer the opportunity to explore future ministerial contexts – for example, chaplaincy
- Provide further preparation for posts of responsibility
- Ensure that curates are equipped to play their part in meeting future strategic needs of the diocese
- Provide a contained environment in which to revisit skills of theological reflection (and to write a reflective report)
- Hold up a mirror to the primary training context
- Generally broaden the curate’s experience

Planning a placement

Placements will need to be planned carefully, in consultation between curate, training incumbent and the Head of Ministerial Development. They should usually take place in the Autumn of the third year of curacy. A placement may take place later with the agreement of the Head of Ministerial Development.

The placement may take a number of forms, but a ‘standard form’ would be that of a five week ‘block’ placement, in which the curate was completely released from commitments in their title parish. This would enable a thorough engagement with the placement context, and avoid unmanageable strains upon the curate.

Parishes, chaplaincies and other communities are blending physical and virtual presence so a placement may include both. All the aims of a placement listed above are still possible with a combination of physical and virtual presence.

Placements might take place:

- In another parish, within or beyond the diocese
- In a hospital, university, or other chaplaincy
- Overseas
- In an exchange with another minister
- In any other context which would allow the aims listed above to be fulfilled

Some SSMs are unable to do a block placement due to other responsibilities, in which case another pattern which reflects the amount of time they would normally give to ministry is possible. It is important that curates doing this kind of placement don’t attempt to continue responsibilities in their primary context. The final year is a year of transition even if a curate is staying in their current context, and the curate’s absence from the context for the placement helps both curate and context with the transition.

The essence of a successful placement is effective supervision within the placement – both in the creation of a programme, and providing good opportunity for reflection, both intellectual, emotional and spiritual - and this needs to be a vital part of considering possible placements.
The proposal

The initial proposal for a placement is likely to come from the curate, and will need to indicate:

- The proposed placement context
- The aim of the placement – what training or other needs is it intended to fulfil
- The content of the placement
- The proposed supervisor
- The dates envisaged
- Financial implications
- Implications for the training parish, and an indication of how these may be managed
- Anything else that will need to be borne in mind!

It would be helpful if a draft proposal is submitted to the Head of Ministerial Development at an early stage of exploration and a final version at least one month before the start of the placement. The Head of Ministerial Development may also be approached for advice, if a curate has an aim for a placement, but is unsure how it may be fulfilled. It may also be necessary, on occasion for the Head of Ministerial Development to suggest a placement in order to address an apparent training need.

A report on the placement will form part of the curate’s portfolio.

The placement will clearly have a significant impact upon the curate’s work within their training parish, and will need planning for with care. It may be possible, through an ‘exchange’ programme, to lighten the burden for a training parish during a placement. However, the purpose of a curacy is for training, and we would not expect that a curate would be unable to undertake a placement for reasons of workload in the training parish. The placement will need to be explained carefully to the PCC and members of the parish.

Curates who are part-time with a parish focus would normally be expected to commit a similar number of hours to the placement as they are accustomed to committing to their weekly ministry. Those who are self-supporting with a work-based focus (ie Ministers in Secular Employment) may not be able to undertake a placement in the same way as described here, but would be encouraged to explore the possibilities and opportunities available to them.

Locally deployable curates would need to ensure that a placement offered an appropriate context for them to exercise their particularly collaborative character of ordained ministry.

Hopefully placements will not normally carry major financial implications. Training parishes are not expected to contribute financially: allowable expenses (primarily travel) may be claimed from the IMD budget, within a limit of around £150 per person.
The Third Year Placement Supervisor’s Report

Thank you for your help and support in having the curate on placement with you. I would be very grateful if you could write a brief report on your experience of them during the placement. This will help them with the evidence they need to provide to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the Learning Outcomes for a curate. Please discuss this report with the curate and show them what you have written – honest feedback helps us all develop.

Please respond to these questions (if it is a short placement, a sentence or two will probably be sufficient).

1. Work report (experience gained and activities undertaken - what was the candidate invited to observe, experience and do?)

2. (a) impressions given at outset
   (b) impressions given at end of placement

3. Personal relations:
   (a) ability to work in the framework of the (parish) team
   (b) acceptability to (church) members and ability to form relationships (empathy but not over-involvement)

4. General ability: initiative, common-sense, powers of observation, etc.

5. Ability to understand situations, the general style and aims of ministry in the context.

6. Ability to relate theory to practice, i.e. to apply theological understanding to the placement experience, and vice versa.

7. Ability to set learning goals and progress in achieving these.

8. Ability to organise work, e.g. planning time (to include leisure, keeping appointments, recording efficiently, etc.)

9. Any particular gifts (e.g. teaching, leading worship, pastoral) which are becoming evident in the placement situation.

10. Attitude to authority and supervision, and relationship with supervisor (willingness to discuss work freely and not to conceal weaknesses nor minimise gifts, etc.)

11. Any particular difficulties that have arisen for the candidate, or candidate’s family, in relation to the placement.

12. Overall assessment:

Impressions of candidate’s progress during period and potential for future development. Please note any strengths and weaknesses not mentioned elsewhere.
Second Year Curacy Review Process – flow chart

Reviewer will ring curate and TI separately in September to check in informally with how you’re doing.

Curate
Completés form using evidence from experience, portfolio, journal and written work.

Incumbent
Completés form using evidence from observation, discussions and anecdotes from others.

Two Church Wardens
(or senior church leaders)
Complete form and send to the Incumbent.

Two others from church or community
Complete form and send to the Incumbent.

Curate and Incumbent
Meet to discuss reports.
Incumbent discusses lay feedback with curate.
Each may add comments to the other’s report.
Each signs to say they have read the other’s report.
Incumbent sends all finished reports to curacy reviewer by agreed deadline.

Curate
Sends portfolio (including reflections and assignments) to curacy reviewer by agreed deadline.

By end of May Year 2

Curacy Review Team Member
Receives all reports.
Meets with the curate and incumbent to explore the reports, and portfolio.
Compiles a report which is sent to the curate and Training Incumbent for comment.
Emails their final report and all other paper work to the Head of Ministerial Development who will forward it to the Bishops.

By mid-June Year 2

Head of Ministerial Development
If helpful HMD meets with curate and training incumbent to agree any specific training or additional experiences the curate might need in their third year.
Reviews Curate’s Working Agreement.

By end August Year 2

Curate
Begins year three with (hopefully) greater awareness of gifts, skills and successes, together with areas for development.
Second Year Curacy Review

Who is this for? All second year curates.

Purpose of review.

This review is intended to support the curate in the process of:

- discerning continuing and emerging gifts/ministries – including areas of potential for ministry
- evaluating progress on the Formation Criteria and indicating if significant extra support or experience is needed in order to achieve these by the end of the curacy
- determining priorities for issues of further training and experience in the curacy that remains
- offering guidance as to where future ministry might lie, in the case of SSM and stipendiary curates

Who is involved:

- Curate
- Training Incumbent (who is responsible for setting up the review process in consultation with the curate)
- Two church wardens or other senior church leaders where this is more appropriate (where more than one church is involved choices must be made).
- Two others from the church(es) or community chosen by the curate (ideally who have worked with the curate in some capacity of ministry and experienced his/her ministry). The churchwardens and others together are the lay reviewers. The lay reviewers do not have to be church members. A voice from the community, such as the local school or a community project with which the curate has worked, will be very valuable.
- Member of the Curacy Review Team

This is a 360 degree review, therefore, involving those with whom the curate ministers as well as the Training Incumbent.

Using the forms

There are separate forms for the curate and the incumbent. You will need to refer to the Formation Criteria agreed by the House of Bishops for those in training for ministry in the Church of England. (The training period is regarded as ending at the end of curacy). Those whose ministry will continue in an assistant post should be working towards the standard criteria while those whose ministry will be of incumbent status (regardless of whether this is a paid or unpaid post) should also be working towards the additional criteria at the end of each section. Please share your forms with each other. There will be space to comment upon what each other has said. The completed forms should then be sent to the Curacy Reviewer.

Using the form – lay reviewers

Lay reviewers have their own form. As shapes of curacies, skills and ministries and patterns of teams vary widely, please use these questions as a starting point and ask lay people to add further comments in the boxes where appropriate. When completed, the forms should be sent to the incumbent who will discuss them with the curate and then send them to the Curacy Reviewer. In some parishes it may be
thought that the lay reviewers would have difficulty completing a form because of their lack of experience in review and assessment. Previous experience indicates that a good way forward is for incumbent and curate to gather together the lay reviewers and explain the form to them. This is also a useful opportunity to explain that critical feedback can be helpful and is not seen as disloyalty. In some places lay reviewers have gathered together after a morning service to talk through their feedback with the curate. The important thing is for the curate to receive honest and helpful feedback and for that to be passed on to the Curacy Reviewer – please adapt this process to help your lay reviewers to do that most effectively in your context. Both curate and incumbent may want to comment on the lay feedback in their reports, but please make a first draft solely on your own impressions before being too influenced by what others have said.

Reporting

The Curacy Reviewer will contact the curate and incumbent to book a meeting to discuss the reports with reference to the Formation Criteria, and any other issues that are relevant. The curacy reviewer usually meets the incumbent and curate separately and then together, as in the first year, but this can be adapted according to circumstances in negotiation with the reviewer. The curacy reviewer then compiles a report which they share with the curate and training incumbent for additional comments or corrections of fact. Attention will be paid to areas where the curate is particularly gifted, where the curate struggles and needs more support, where they have had little or no experience in the parish and where further training (most usually in an area of parish ministry) would help.

The curacy reviewer then sends the report to the Head of Ministerial Development who will forward it to the bishop. It will form part of the final assessment of curacy upon which the bishop will base his final reference.

The Head of Ministerial Development will arrange to see all curates with their training incumbents to discuss the implications of the report and the next steps in the curacy as soon as possible after receiving it.

Timing of Review

Between March and the end of June of the second year of curacy.
Report from the Curate for Assessment in the Training Post

Name ........................................................................................................

Name of incumbent ...................................................................................

Date ..........................................................................................................

This is an in-depth reflection on your experience of ministry since your ordination as deacon. Please take time over it, pray about it, discuss it with people who know you well and can be honest with you. The more you can learn about yourself now, the more fruitful will be your final year as a curate.

You are asked to comment upon the following headings taken from the Formation Criteria, in relation to your ministry. Please give examples in each section. One example may fit a number of Formation Criteria. You can refer back to an example in an early section from a later section. If in doubt about where to record some evidence, what is important is to make sure it goes in somewhere. You are being trained either for a permanent assistant post or for an Incumbent status post so please have the relevant Formation Criteria in front of you as you write this self assessment. This report is one of a number that will help the Curacy Reviewer and the Bishop to decide if you are ready to occupy a position of more responsibility. When you have finished the report it should be shown to your Training Incumbent, who should sign it and have the opportunity to comment on it, and then sent to your Curacy Reviewer.

- The questions below are for guidance only. Please feel free to comment on anything you think is relevant in each section but please illustrate your comments with evidence from your experiences.
- ‘Community’ is used to refer to church/congregation/parish/workplace or wherever you locate your ministry.
- Feel free to include recent pre-ordination experience where relevant but indicate that this was received before your curacy.

For what category are you training?

- (ie what were you sponsored for at your BAP?) Incumbent/Assistant

What community/(ies) do you minister in?

When was your last curacy review?

How frequently are you meeting your Training Incumbent for supervision?

What training (IMD) have you done since your last review?

Dates (Month) .............. Title of events.............................................
...................................................................................................................
...................................................................................................................
...................................................................................................................
A  **Christian faith, tradition and life**
How is your understanding of your faith developing and deepening as a result of your ministry?
How is your ministry (worship, pastoral care, mission, evangelism, decision making) informed by your developing faith?
What is your ‘good news’ and how do you communicate it in public or personally?

B  **Mission, evangelism and discipleship**
What opportunities for mission and evangelism have you detected that are not currently being engaged by others in your community?
What opportunities for mission and evangelism have you engaged with and developed?
How have you gone about nurturing faith in others?
How have you been able to relate the gospel and articulate it in your wider (ie non-worshipping) community?

C  **Spirituality and worship**
What feeds your spirituality?
What routines or rhythms of private prayer and worship sustain you and connect you to God?
How do your spirituality and your growing ministry reflect one another?
What kind of worship have you planned and led?
Please reflect on worship you have led from the authorized liturgies of the Church of England.
Please reflect on worship you have led that might be described as innovative, alternative, informal or designed for a special occasion.
What has felt comfortable/uncomfortable, challenging, inspiring, life giving or deadening?

D  **Personality and character**
Everyone brings resilience and strengths into ministry. What are you aware of and how do you use them?
Everyone brings wounds and weaknesses into ministry. What are you aware of and how are you managing them?
Is there any aspect of your personality that you find frustrating in ministry?
Have you got any concerns about the demands ministry is making and will make on you?
What other steps are you taking to ensure your wellbeing?
What do you need to develop in order to ensure your wellbeing?
Specifically for SSMs
How are you finding balancing a number of responsibilities and calls on your time?

How is your obvious public ministry affecting the way you minister in other areas of life and how is ministry in those other areas affecting your ordained ministry?

E  Relationships
Have you had opportunities to supervise others – how did it go?

In what ways have you contributed to the corporate life of your community?

How have you managed an experience of conflict?

When have you needed to manage confidentiality – what issues have arisen for you?

Have you noticed times when pastoral boundaries have been difficult? What did you do?

F  Leadership, collaboration and community
Please refer to the Formation Criteria summary which makes a clear distinction between the expectations of those moving to an assistant ministry and those moving to an incumbent ministry.

Please describe any leadership roles you have undertaken.

How would you describe your preferred style of leadership?

What similarities/differences are there with your incumbent’s style of leadership?

Reflect on an experience of collaborative leadership – how successful do you think it was?

How do you use power?

What group dynamics have you discerned in your community and how do you relate to them?

G  Vocation and ministry within the Church of England
How has your sense of vocation developed?

What areas of ministry confirm that vocation?

Are there any areas of ministry that make you question the direction of your vocation?

Please give examples where you have changed your practice as a result of reflecting on a particular experience.

What experience have you had of the traditions and practices of the Church of England – where has it felt comfortable and where have you felt a ‘pinch’?

Where have you needed to be aware of canon law and the need to interpret it in different situations?

How have you engaged in the wider society as a representative of the church eg school assemblies, community groups, Civic services? How has it felt to be a representative minister and has that changed over the last 18 months?
Length of curacy

By the end of the second year curacies begin to diverge into different pathways.

Stipendiary curates may be ready to move on at the end of the third year, or may need a little more time to be ready. They have until the end of the fourth year to find a new role unless there has been significant disruption such as long term illness or maternity/paternity leave in which case the bishop will advise about the need for and possibility of an extension.

SSMs are in a wide variety of circumstances and may be aiming for an assistant or incumbent role. The time at which you are ready to move on to a new role will depend on your experience of ministry before ordination, the time available to experience and reflect on ministry tasks and roles in curacy and the pace at which formation takes place. In general the less time available for ministry the longer you can expect a curacy to be. SSMs have up to five years to complete the curacy so no one should feel under pressure to finish.

In your discussions with your training incumbent what are your expectations, if any, for the end point of your curacy?

Review of Working Agreement

Please take a look at your working agreement and see if there need to be any changes to reflect the changes in your pattern of ministry. Please send a revised working agreement to your curacy reviewer.

Finally

Have you got any insights at this stage about the ministry to which you believe God may be calling you in the future?

What further support and training might you need?

Is there anything else you want to say that isn’t included in the above sections?

Curate

Signed  
Date

(Typed is fine)

Training Incumbent

Please sign to say you have seen this report.

You are welcome to add any of your own comments below if you would like.

Signed  
Date

(Typed is fine)
Report from the Training Incumbent for Assessment in the Training Post

Name

Name of Curate

Date

The second year of curacy is an important moment to reflect on nearly two years of a curate’s ordained ministry with still a significant time (often the most fruitful time) to learn new skills and take on new experiences and areas of ministry. Therefore this second year assessment is the most in-depth. The time you spend on your reflection and writing your report is greatly valued and important both to the curate and to the Bishop – so thank you in advance.

This report is one of a number that will help the Curacy Reviewer and the Bishop to decide if the curate is suitable to occupy a position of more responsibility. The curate upon whom you are reporting will have been engaged in training for a permanent assistant post or for an Incumbent status post. You are asked to have the level of training in view as you make your comments. At the end of each section you are invited to make any further comments that you wish in relation to the criteria for that section. Please sign it at the end, give it to your curate to see and add comments if they would like, and then send it to your Curacy Reviewer.

The questions below are for guidance only. Please feel free to comment on anything you think is relevant in each section but please illustrate your comments with evidence from what you have seen or experienced of your curate’s ministry.

‘Community’ is used to refer to church/congregation/parish/workplace or wherever they locate their ministry.

A Christian Faith, tradition and life

Please comment upon the curate’s habit of study and reflection with evidence of how it has informed worship, pastoral/mission strategy and parish decision-making.

Please comment upon the effectiveness of the curate in communicating the gospel in public and personal contexts and on the effectiveness of his or her reflective thinking.

B Mission, evangelism and discipleship

How far does the curate understand the local community and the possibilities for mission and evangelism? How effectively have they engaged in mission and evangelism? (For Incumbency curates) How far have they been able to ‘lead others in faithful witness’.

Has the curate shown the ability to nurture others in faith?

Has the curate shown the ability to articulate gospel truths in a relevant manner within the community?
C  Spirituality and worship

Please comment upon the curate’s reliance on grace and how their ministry and spirituality reflect one another.

In what ways has the curate shown him/herself able to devise, lead and reflect upon the leadership of worship? Please comment upon this in relation to leading worship from the authorised liturgies of the Church of England and in relation to more innovative worship perhaps designed for a special occasion.

D  Personality and character

Please comment upon the strengths of this curate and any areas that are challenging and need particular attention. In your opinion are the areas for development realistic in the time left in the curacy or have you got any concerns that they might not be?

In the case of those hoping to move to an Incumbent status post please particularly include reflection upon their leadership ability.

How sensitive to and careful are they with pastoral boundaries both to safeguard their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of those they serve.

E  Relationships

Please comment upon the curate’s ability to deal with conflict, to further the corporate life of the community (particularly for Incumbency curates), to relate in a professional manner to others and to supervise others.

F  Leadership, collaboration and community

Please refer particularly to the assessment criteria in this section. There are some major differences in the criteria for those who are moving to an assistant ministry and those who are moving to an Incumbent status ministry.

Please describe leadership roles that the curate has undertaken in their ordained ministry?

Was the curate able to work in a collaborative manner in the above?

In what ways has the ministry of the curate empowered and enabled you?

Please comment upon the ability of the curate to discern group dynamics and to understand the use and abuse of power in a variety of situations.

G  Vocation and ministry within the Church of England

Does the curate demonstrate the abilities to engage effectively in the basic tasks of ministry e.g. leading worship, pastoral care, communicating faith.

Does the curate show evidence of reflection upon their ministry that is borne out in changed actions?

Has the curate shown themselves aware of the traditions and practices of the C of E and an ability to work within them?

Has the curate shown an awareness of canon law and the ability to interpret it in different situations? Please give examples.
In what ways has the curate engaged in representative ministry eg school assemblies, talking to community groups, Civic services? Has the curate ministered capably in these areas?

**Length of curacy**

By the end of the second year curacies begin to diverge into different pathways.

Stipendiary curates may be ready to move on at the end of the third year, or may need a little more time to be ready. They have until the end of the fourth year to find a new role unless there has been significant disruption such as long term illness or maternity/paternity leave in which case the bishop will advise about the need for and possibility of an extension.

SSMs are in a wide variety of circumstances and may be aiming for an assistant or incumbent role. The time at which they are ready to move on to a new role will depend on their experience of ministry before ordination, the time available to experience and reflect on ministry tasks and roles in curacy and the pace at which formation takes place. In general the less time available for ministry the longer you can expect a curacy to be. SSMs have up to five years to complete the curacy so no one should feel under pressure to finish.

In your discussions with your curate what are your expectations, if any, for the end point of the curacy?

**Review of Working Agreement**

Please take a look at the working agreement with your curate and see if there need to be any changes to reflect the changes in your pattern of ministry. Please send a revised working agreement to your curacy reviewer.

**Finally**

Have you got any insights at this stage about the ministry to which you believe God may be calling your curate in the future?

**Incumbent**

Signed Date

(Typed is fine)

**Curate**

Please sign to say you have seen this report.

You are welcome to add any of your own comments below if you would like.

Signed Date

(Typed is fine)
Report from the Curate for Assessment in the Training Post-Ordained Pioneer Minister

Name .......................................................... 

Name of incumbent ............................................. 

Date .............................................................. 

This is an in-depth reflection on your experience of ministry since your ordination as deacon. Please take time over it, pray about it, discuss it with people who know you well and can be honest with you. The more you can learn about yourself now, the more fruitful will be your final year as a curate.

You are asked to comment upon the following headings taken from the Formation Criteria, in relation to your ministry. Please give examples in each section. One example may fit a number of Formation Criteria. You can refer back to an example in an early section from a later section. If in doubt about where to record some evidence, what is important is to make sure it goes in somewhere. You are being trained either for a permanent assistant post or for an Incumbent status post so please have the relevant Formation Criteria in front of you as you write this self-assessment. This report is one of a number that will help the Curacy Reviewer and the Bishop to decide if you are ready to occupy a position of more responsibility. When you have finished the report it should be shown to your Training Incumbent, who should sign it and have the opportunity to comment on it, and then sent to your Curacy Reviewer.

• The questions below are for guidance only. Please feel free to comment on anything you think is relevant in each section but please illustrate your comments with evidence from your experiences.
• ‘Community’ is used to refer to church/congregation/parish/workplace or wherever you locate your ministry.
• Feel free to include recent pre-ordination experience where relevant but indicate that this was received before your curacy.

For what category are you training?
(ie what were you sponsored for at your BAP?) Incumbent/Assistant

What community/(ies) do you minister in?

When was your last curacy review?

How frequently are you meeting your Training Incumbent for supervision?

What training (IMD) have you done since your last review?

Dates (Month) ............... Title of events.............................................................
..............................................................
..............................................................
Formation Criteria
Criteria in italics are specific to Ordained Pioneer Ministers
These are national criteria so will need to be adapted to the distinctive nature of each pioneer context.

A Christian faith, tradition and life
How is your understanding of your faith developing and deepening as a result of your ministry?
How is your ministry (worship, pastoral care, mission, evangelism, decision making) informed by your developing faith?
What is your ‘good news’ and how do you communicate it in public or personally?

B Mission, evangelism and discipleship
How has your development in IMD equipped you to plant, lead and mature a fresh expression of church?
How have you been able to articulate the faith to those outside the church in a variety of ways and contexts?
How have you gone about nurturing faith in others?
How have you been able to relate the gospel and articulate it in your wider (ie non-worshipping) community?

C Spirituality and worship
What feeds your spirituality?
What routines or rhythms of private prayer and worship sustain you and connect you to God?
How do your spirituality and your growing ministry reflect one another?
What kind of worship have you planned and lead?
Please reflect on worship you have led from the authorized liturgies of the Church of England.
Please reflect on worship you have led that might be described as innovative, alternative, informal or designed for a special occasion.
What has felt comfortable/uncomfortable, challenging, inspiring, life giving or deadening?

D Personality and character
Everyone brings resilience and strengths into ministry. What are you aware of and how do you use them?
Everyone brings wounds and weaknesses into ministry. What are you aware of and how are you managing them?
Is there any aspect of your personality that you find frustrating in ministry?
Have you got any concerns about the demands ministry is making and will make on you?
How have you been able and willing to develop sustainable, personal and communal support in a fresh expression context within a mixed economy, including belonging to a peer learning network?

E  Relationships
Have you had opportunities to supervise others – how did it go?
How have you been able to inspire and nurture the risk-taking of others?
How have you enabled others to develop the capacity to learn from failure and success?
How have you managed an experience of conflict?
When have you needed to manage confidentiality – what issues have arisen for you?
In addition, incumbent pioneers are able to supervise lay and ordained pioneers and leaders of fresh expressions of church in both informal and formal settings of training and practice. What is the evidence of your ability to do this?

F  Leadership, collaboration and community
Please refer to the Formation Criteria summary which makes a clear distinction between the expectations of those moving to an assistant ministry and those moving to an incumbent ministry.
How have you been able to identify, train, develop and use leaders within fresh expressions of church and release them to develop ecclesial communities in other contexts? If your context has not yet allowed this, where do you think you are up to in the process and what are your hopes for the future?
How would you describe your preferred style of leadership?
What similarities/differences are there with your incumbent’s style of leadership?
Reflect on an experience of collaborative leadership – how successful do you think it was?
How do you use power?
What group dynamics have you discerned in your community and how do you relate to them?
In addition, incumbent pioneers understand the legal, canonical and administrative responsibilities of those having oversight and responsibility, including Bishops’ Mission Orders. What evidence is there of this?

G  Vocation and ministry within the Church of England
How has your sense of vocation developed?
What areas of ministry confirm that vocation?
Are there any areas of ministry that make you question the direction of your vocation?
Please give examples where you have changed your practice as a result of reflecting on a particular experience.
What experience have you had of contextualising the Church of England’s tradition and practices for a fresh expressions of church? If you minister in more than one context, how have you adapted your model for the different contexts?

Where have you needed to be aware of canon law and the need to interpret it in different situations?

How have you engaged in the wider society as a representative of the church eg school assemblies, community groups, Civic services? How has it felt to be a representative minister and has that changed over the last 18 months?

**Length of curacy**

By the end of the second year curacies begin to diverge into different pathways.

In general stipendiary curates expect to complete their curacy between the end of the third year and the end of the fourth year. SSMs can have up to five years to complete their curacy.

Pioneers are all in unique circumstances, sometimes staying in context beyond the average length of a curacy, sometimes expecting to apply for a new role.

In your discussions with your training incumbent what are your expectations, if any, for the end point of your curacy?

**Review of Working Agreement**

Please take a look at your working agreement and see if there need to be any changes to reflect the changes in your pattern of ministry. Please send a revised working agreement to your curacy reviewer.

**Finally**

Have you got any insights at this stage about the ministry to which you believe God may be calling you in the future?

What further support and training might you need?

Is there anything else you want to say that isn’t included in the above sections?

**Curate**

Signed Date

(Typed is fine)

**Training Incumbent**

Please sign to say you have seen this report.

You are welcome to add any of your own comments below if you would like.

Signed Date

(Typed is fine)
Report from the Training Incumbent for Assessment in the Training Post – Ordained Pioneer Minister

Name .................................................................

Name of Curate .................................................................

Date .................................................................

The second year of curacy is an important moment to reflect on nearly two years of a curate’s ordained ministry with still a significant time (often the most fruitful time) to learn new skills and take on new experiences and areas of ministry. Therefore this second year assessment is the most in-depth. The time you spend on your reflection and writing your report is greatly valued and important both to the curate and to the Bishop – so thank you in advance.

This report is one of a number that will help the Curacy Reviewer and the Bishop to decide if the curate is suitable to occupy a position of greater responsibility. The curate upon whom you are reporting will have been engaged in training for a permanent assistant post or for an Incumbent status post. You are asked to have the level of training in view as you make your comments. At the end of each section you are invited to make any further comments that you wish in relation to the criteria for that section. Please sign it at the end, give it to your curate to see and add comments if they would like, and then send it to your Curacy Reviewer.

The questions below are for guidance only. Please feel free to comment on anything you think is relevant in each section but please illustrate your comments with evidence from what you have seen or experienced of your curate’s ministry.

‘Community’ is used to refer to church/congregation/parish/workplace or wherever they locate their ministry.

Formation Criteria

Criteria in italics are specific to Ordained Pioneer Ministers. These are national criteria so will need to be adapted to the distinctive nature of each pioneer context.

A Christian Faith, tradition and life

Please comment upon curate’s habit of study and reflection with evidence of how it has informed worship, pastoral/mission strategy and parish decision-making.

Please comment upon the effectiveness of the curate in communicating the gospel in public and personal contexts and on the effectiveness of his or her reflective thinking.
B  Mission, evangelism and discipleship

What evidence is there that the pioneer is developing the ability to plant, lead and mature a fresh expression of church?

How have they been able to articulate the faith to those outside the church in a variety of ways and contexts?

How far does the curate understand the local community and the possibilities for mission and evangelism? How effectively have they engaged in mission and evangelism? (For Incumbency curates) How far have they been able to ‘lead others in faithful witness’.

Has the curate shown the ability to nurture others in faith?

Has the curate shown the ability to articulate gospel truths in a relevant manner within the community?

C  Spirituality and worship

Please comment on the curate’s reliance on grace and how their ministry and spirituality reflect one another.

In what ways has the curate shown him/herself able to devise, lead and reflect upon the leadership of worship? Please comment on this in relation to leading worship from the authorised liturgies of the Church of England and in relation to more innovative worship perhaps designed for a special occasion.

D  Personality and character

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this curate, shown in their ministry and note particularly whether they display any weaknesses that would be incompatible with ministry at the level of responsibility they are training for. In the case of those hoping to move to an Incumbent status post this should particularly include reflection upon leadership ability.

How have they been able and willing to develop sustainable, personal and communal support in a fresh expression context within a mixed economy, including belonging to a peer learning network?

E  Relationships

Please comment upon the curate’s ability to deal with conflict, to further the corporate life of the community (particularly for Incumbency curates), to relate in a professional manner to others and to supervise others.

How have you been able to inspire and nurture the risk-taking of others?

How have you enabled others to develop the capacity to learn from failure and success?

In addition, incumbent pioneers are able to supervise lay and ordained pioneers and leaders of fresh expressions of church in both informal and formal settings of training and practice. What is the evidence of their ability to do this?
F  Leadership, collaboration and community

Please refer particularly to the assessment criteria in this section. There are some major differences in the criteria for those who are moving to an assistant ministry and those who are moving to an Incumbent status ministry.

How far has the pioneer been able to identify, train, develop and use leaders within fresh expressions of church and release them to develop ecclesial communities in other contexts? A title post may not give sufficient time to follow this process from beginning to end, so what bit of the process has the pioneer curate been engaged with?

In what ways has the ministry of the curate empowered and enabled you?

Please comment upon the ability of the curate to discern group dynamics and to understand the use and abuse of power in a variety of situations.

G  Vocation and ministry within the Church of England

What experience has the pioneer had of contextualising the Church of England’s tradition and practices for a fresh expression of church. If they are engaged in more than one context, how have they adapted their model for the different contexts.

Does the curate demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the basic tasks of ministry e.g. leading worship, pastoral care, communicating faith.

Does the curate show evidence of reflection upon their ministry that is borne out in changed actions?

Has the curate shown themselves aware of the traditions and practices of the C of E and an ability to work within them?

Length of curacy

By the end of the second year curacies begin to diverge into different pathways.

In general stipendiary curates expect to complete their curacy between the end of the third year and the end of the fourth year. SSMs can have up to five years to complete their curacy.

Pioneers are all in unique circumstances, sometimes staying in context beyond the average length of a curacy, sometimes expecting to apply for a new role.

In your discussions with your curate what are your expectations, if any, for the end point of the curacy?

Review of Working Agreement

Please take a look at the working agreement and see if there need to be any changes to reflect the changes in your curates pattern of ministry. Please send a revised working agreement to your curacy reviewer.
Finally
Have you any insights at this stage about the ministry to which you believe God may be calling your curate in the future?

Incumbent
Signed Date
(Typed is fine)

Curate
Please sign to say you have seen this report.
You are welcome to add any of your own comments below if you would like.
Signed Date
(Typed is fine)
Second Year Assessment of Curacy - Church Member’s Feedback

Name  ........................................................................................................

Name of Curate  ............................................................................................

Date  ............................................................................................................

At the end of curacy the Bishop has to be sure that each curate is properly prepared for the new responsibilities that he or she will face when they are no longer in a training role. To help the Bishop in this you have been asked to comment upon the curate’s ministry. Please do this with as much accuracy as you can. Knowledge of strengths and areas for development help the curate and the Bishop in the discernment of the curate’s future post and ministry.

*We are not asking you to assess the whole of the curate’s ministry, but only what you have seen and how it appears to you.* The more information the curate has the better.

The curate is training either for an Incumbent role (and therefore in charge of a church or several churches) or an assistant role. As you give your feedback please take into consideration the particular role the curate is training for and the qualities you would expect them to develop.

Please don’t worry that the curate’s future might depend on this one piece of feedback! This is an important part of a wide ranging process in order to assess what the curate may need to focus on in the final stage of their training.

Please return this to the Training Incumbent who will discuss it with the curate.

1. What do you appreciate in the curate?
2. What would you appreciate more of/less of?
3. How would you like to affirm or encourage the curate?
4. Where might you encourage the curate to take a risk?
5. What challenge would you like to suggest to your curate?
6. Is there anything else you would like the curate or the bishop to know?
7. Is there an important question that we haven’t asked?
Training incumbent feedback form

Incumbent - please give this to your curate at the annual review for them to fill in to give you feedback on your practice as a training incumbent. Curate – this will provide your incumbent with valuable feedback which you can follow up in discussion. **This will remain confidential to curate and incumbent.**

For each question please circle the number which most accurately reflects your opinion on the question. At the end of the questionnaire, please choose the three most significant questions for you and write a sentence to enlarge a little on your answer.

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<th>Question</th>
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<td>I always look forward to my supervision sessions</td>
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<td>The feedback I receive is constructive and helpful</td>
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<td>I am being helped to find my own style of ministry</td>
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<td>I am clear about when I have discretion to act independently and when I must consult with my incumbent</td>
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<td>I am clear about what I am allowed to do and what I am not</td>
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<td>I feel free to develop the things I am given responsibility for</td>
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<td>Risks and mistakes are encouraged as important for learning</td>
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<td>The level of challenge and support I have received have been well balanced</td>
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<td>I am helped to manage the expectations of the parish</td>
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<td>I know when I have done a good job</td>
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<td>My previous life experience is understood and valued</td>
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<td>My incumbent models a good balance of work and rest</td>
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Please comment below on your responses to the three most significant questions for you.

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you!