

Preparatory Questions for Episcopal Review

A BACKGROUND

1. What is the nature of your present post? The background paper used for working with your reviewer could be used.
2. What are the key features of the stage of ministry you have reached?
3. How far have you fulfilled the objectives agreed at your previous review?
4. What have you learned personally and/or practically through the review process so far?

B EXAMINATION OF PERSON AND WORK

Do not feel constrained by the questions below. They are designed to provide prompts for self-examination and a framework for the conversation with your reviewer. The questions are based on the seven 'disciplines' of the Clergy Leadership Programme, which has been used and valued by many clergy in our region: these disciplines in turn are based on the Rule of St Benedict and on the first chapter of St Mark's Gospel.

1. Obedient Listening (Mark 1:9-11)

- In what ways do you feel yourself affirmed by God and by the Church?
- How far are you at ease with your own personality and role?
- What persons or resources do you draw on to grow in self-understanding?

2. Conversion of Life (Mark 1:12-13)

- How has your sense of vocation developed since ordination?
- What are the tests you undergo or the deserts you inhabit in ministry?
- What elements of your lifestyle are open to change?

3. Stability (Mark 1:14-15)

- What, for you, is the heart of the good news?
- What practices and principles do you call on to order your priorities?
- What causes you stress, and how do you deal with this?

4. Creating Trust (Mark 1:16-20)

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- How does your vision for mission and ministry come alive in your present post?
- What do you draw on to encourage and/or enhance your pastoral and evangelistic work?
- How do you relate to people outside or on the fringe of the church community?

5. Inspiring Community (Mark 1:21-28)

- What elements of priestly ministry most invigorate you or matter most?
- How do you enable learning and growth in holiness within your community?
- What further study or training might support your ministerial role?

6. Leading Teams (Mark 1:29-31)

- What relationships with colleagues (in benefice, chaplaincy, deanery, etc.) are significant for you?
- How would you describe your style of leadership?
- What frustrations are there in your present post, and how might they be quelled?

7. Renewal (Mark 1:35-39)

- What do you look forward to – when you wake up or when you plan your week?
- What is your rhythm of prayer, and what ‘sabbaths’ do you observe or desire?
- What persons, resources or activities do you rely on for direction and sanity?

C VOCATION AND MINISTRY PLANNING

- Are there issues that arise out of your MDR which relate to your vocation or future planning for ministry that you wish to raise?
- How have you implemented the objectives set in your previous MDR?

D FINALLY ...

- *If there is any other matter you would like to discuss with your reviewer, note it here:*