

SOUTH WEST MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE

RDM I Journal & Self-assessment

2010-2011

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RDM I Journal

The completed Journal and Self-Assessment form should be submitted no later than **14th May 2011**

In your first year of Reader training you will be required to complete 4 journal entries of 450 words each. This is an opportunity for you to reflect upon how the different aspects of your training, ministerial and life experiences are forming, challenging and impacting upon you. With the help of your Journal Tutor (who you will see 4 times during the year corresponding with the journal entries), you will be guided and challenged to reflect deeply upon the process of formation.

Comment [JT1]:

You will be asked to reflect upon the following 4 areas:

- 1. The Residential weekend (October/November)**
- 2. Listening Skills (December/January)**
- 3. Spirituality (February/March)**
- 4. The Year just gone (April/May)**

(The given months are suggested to help you organize your time to coincide with the course content and to help space out the meetings with your Journal Tutor)

In each case you should seek to reflect upon and answer the 3 questions below:

- 1. What have you found affirming about your experiences?**
- 2. What have you found challenging?**
- 3. What connections can you make between these experiences and other areas of your training (for example your evening classes, and your work in your home/placement church) and your life in general? And importantly,**
- 4. Where (if at all) do you see God at work in the connections you are making?**

In order to set about writing up your reflections you will probably need to give a *brief* description of the events/experiences/learning that you are concentrating upon. But do not use up the word-count on description – it is your reflection that is important. So, for example, when reflecting upon the Residential weekend it will be impossible to go through the whole experience detailing every aspect

of it, rather you should look to focus in upon something that was particularly affirming and something that was challenging and then look to develop your thoughts and feelings concerning these things through your experiences in other aspects of your training and life, looking to discover where and how God is discovered in your explorations. Such a 'seeking' often develops and reveals its treasures over a long period of time which is why you will be continuing this process of journaling throughout your training and hopefully the gift of reflection throughout your ministry.

- **You should allow space in each journal entry to come back to it later in the year in order to annotate any further reflections and developing thoughts and changes. The easiest way to do this is to use a different font for your annotations. Every such annotating comment should be dated, so you and we can track the development of your thinking.**

Of course, the opportunity to reflect with your Journal Tutor will allow you to go beyond the limits of the written journal and the different assignments will also allow you to make further connections.

During the course of the year there will be opportunities to reflect with your peers upon the journaling experience and the topics you have been asked to write upon as well as other aspects of the course and training. RDMD 3,4,5 & 6 will all have 'Group Session' times which will be a chance to share and deepen the process of formation in collaboration with others. Linking in with these sessions will be an annual Reader Reflection Day which this academic year will take place on **Sunday 16th January**. This is not compulsory, but is a good opportunity for us all to share, pray and worship together without the pressure of formal teaching.

SOUTH WEST MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE: READER TRAINING
Self-assessment

Training is a complex process which involves many areas of learning, development, growth, challenge and change. The course you are undertaking integrates your theological learning and development, your spiritual and ministerial formation and your practical preparation for Reader Ministry

- to develop your own sense of vocation further
- to grow through a process of 'formation' into the person God calls you to be
- to learn to reflect theologically on your experiences
- to commit to integrating your studies into your own faith journey and future ministry.

The questions below should help you reflect on some areas in which you should have a growing awareness and understanding of this process, including a growing ability to recognise, interpret and work with your growth, strengths and weaknesses. In some questions you may feel you have little to say, or that you believe little or no growth has taken place: it is important to recognise this and to try and give the reasons for it.

This is not an easy exercise, and will take some thought and prayer, but it is another step on the journey to which God has called you.

Hand-in for complete journal and self-assessment *pro forma*: May 14, 2011.

Theological learning and development

Are you growing in your own knowledge of Scripture and Christian tradition? For example, you might want to consider the following: How have you found the university modules and the RDM days? What have you found stimulating or challenging? How have you responded to stimulation or challenge?

Spiritual and Ministerial formation

Are you deepening your personal commitment to Christ and your pattern of prayer and worship? Does this find a reflection in your own attitudes and dispositions towards God, the world and others?

Is your understanding growing of the church in your own particular context and tradition and of the diversity of other contexts and traditions within the Church of England? You might want to comment how conversations with others and, if applicable, placement experiences have shaped you and your thinking about difference, diversity and our call to unity in Christ?

Practical preparation for Reader ministry

Are you growing in skill and confidence in your preaching and leading of worship? What opportunities have you had? What feed-back/support do you get?

Are there any other comments you would like to make?

This self assessment is confidential to the individual Reader in Training and the members of the Reader Training Team. The self assessment will help in the writing of the end of year report and to assist the Reader Training Team in testing out their observations and perceptions, but it will not be quoted directly and forms only one part of the evidence that goes to make up the end of year report.

J.T. Sept. 2010