

SOUTH WEST MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE

RDM III Assignment Package

2010-2011

RDM III Assignment hand-in dates 2010-2011

20th November – Adult Learning Pt 1&2

6th February – Pastoral assignment ‘Theological Reflection

19th March – Adult Learning Pt 3

14th May – Grief and Loss assignment

14th May – Journal & Self-assessment

**SWMTC Reader Training
Reader Development Module III**

Adult Learning

**1,200 words (parts 1 and 2) + 500 words (part 3) –
hand in Part 1 – 20th November 2010
Part 2 – 19th March 2011**

Adult Learning: Devise a course e.g.

- for local lay worship leaders to enable them to take a simple non-eucharistic service
- for interested parishioners to learn to lead intercessions
- to introduce interested parishioners to listening skills or pastoral visiting etc.

(The above are examples only – if you and your parish/mission community have an idea of your own, related to your gifts and the needs of the community, then you are free to submit that as your assignment.)

PART 1 & 2

1. A brief introduction, i.e. what type of course you have chosen, and how you think it will contribute to the growth, nurture and learning of your home congregation etc. (100-200 words)
2. Presentation of the material used in the course (1000 words)

PART 3

3. A brief conclusion and reflection: i.e.

EITHER

- a) If you have actually been able to use your explorations in a parish context:
 - how the delivery went and any feedback
 - any important insights into what you learned about devising/leading a course, about yourself as a leader and teacher, about people's willingness and ability to learn and grow etc. (500 words)

OR

- b) If you have not actually been able to use your explorations (yet):
 - How would you propose delivering the course?
 - What would be particularly challenging, illuminating and helpful for the congregation and for you yourself?
 - What have you learned about yourself devising/preparing to lead a course? (500 words)

For literature refer to the hand-outs both on Adult Learning & How groups work

Reminders of some general points for essay writing:

For every RDM essay you write, i.e. essays which are set through the Reader Training Team, please produce a **coversheet** including the following information.

Please could you also include **page numbers** in your piece of work and use the font **Arial 12** and **double line spacing**.

Every essay/assignment/report needs a **bibliography**, i.e. the **books** from which you might want to quote or from which you might want to paraphrase an idea or thought, books you have consulted in wider reading of the subject matter, **websites** or **newspaper articles** you have used.

Please do not forget to reference '**The Bible**' (and the **version** you have used) and **your journal**, where appropriate.

JT September 2010

Pastoral placement

October 2010 – January 2011

Assignment due – 5th February 2011

The third year module will focus on introducing students to a series of areas in Pastoral Ministry where they may expect to find themselves to be ministering, or where they may already discover themselves to be ministering. Both the teaching sessions and the pastoral placement will be concerned with developing good and reflective practice for licensed ministers.

The pastoral placement consists of four pre-arranged pastoral contacts, which will ordinarily occur in the parish context. The visits are to be organised in conversation between you and your incumbent. The expectation is that these visits are accompanied visits with your incumbent or any other agreed licensed minister.

The contacts could include areas like, for example, funeral visiting with attendance at funeral and follow-up, school assemblies and visit(s) to the school staff room, baptism preparations with attendance at baptism(s), house communions and services in residential care homes, general pastoral visiting at home or in hospital or other areas of pastoral involvement in the parish context. It is advisable to focus on one area of pastoral work.

The contacts should be agreed and arranged with the supervising minister beforehand and debriefed afterwards.

One of these four contacts could, with the agreement of the Director of Reader Training, occur in another (sector) context. It is also possible to spend the entire pastoral placement in a sector context. For example, a drop-in centre, hospital, hospice, prison or school chaplaincy. Again, this needs to be agreed with the Director of Reader Training.

You should journal these encounters, especially as you will then be able to refer to your notes for the assignment 'Theological Reflection', which is based on one or more of your pastoral contacts or placement experiences.

JWFT 2010

4 Pastoral contacts – October 2010 – January 2011

Theological Reflection. 1.500 words – hand-in 5th February 2011

This theological reflection is an opportunity for you to reflect upon the 4 pastoral contacts which you will have undertaken and recorded in your journal during the first few months of your third year of training. This work will be concerned with developing good and reflective practice as licensed ministers of God's Church. It is hoped that you have been able to engage in areas of ministry where you may expect to find yourself in the future, or indeed where you are already ministering.

It is important to reflect upon WHY you have become pastorally engaged rather than simply HOW.

Choose one of the following settings for a pastoral visit:

Baptism; school; funeral; hospital; home; work-place; prison

How might a theological understanding of either

Baptism; education; death; illness; loneliness; ministry-at-work; prison environment;

add to your sense of God's activity in the world and affect your pastoral practice? Illustrate with examples from your notes.

This essay serves as a reflection and integration exercise. In short, it is to show your ability to engage with a situation pastorally, work with and within it, reflect on it and draw conclusions and patterns of ministry from it. **You are expected to use the pastoral cycle of EXPERIENCE – EXPLORATION – REFLECTION – ACTION.** You may choose to demonstrate how you used the process in a situation, or how an encounter has led you retrospectively to apply it.

Possible Structure:

1. Introduction to the situation under discussion (200 words)
2. Apply the Pastoral Cycle (1.000 words): *Describe* the situation and circumstance of the pastoral 'experience'/encounter (visit/funeral/baptism/school/etc) and a first reaction. *Explore* the situation further by analysing 'What is going on?' What has to be taken into account? What may be reasons for the situation and what is the background? Which part of the situation is the result of the environment (i.e. hospital/school/baptism and new life/death etc.)? *Reflect* now upon the situation and your experience, taking into account personal and communal belief (i.e. perceptions, shared Christian faith?, values, purpose). Form a plan of 'action', i.e. how to be alongside a person/how to share and help in their situation/how to witness and teach/what not to do or say again.

3. Conclusion (300 words) which reflects on the 'learning experience', your own reactions (What has been affirming? What has been challenging? Where are you able to discern God in the fullness of your experience?)

Please remember your pastoral encounters are personal and confidential. As you reflect on them, change names and situations as necessary to retain that confidentiality.

Literature:

Paul Ballard and John Pritchard: Practical Theology in Action. Christian Thinking in the Service of Church and Society. London: SPCK 1996.

Laurie Green: Let's do Theology. A Pastoral Cycle Resource Book. London: Mowbray 1990.

Derek Tidball: Skilful Shepherds. Explorations in pastoral theology. Ebbw Vale: Apollos 1997 (Second Edition)

James Woodward and Stephen Pattison (Ed.) The Blackwell Reader in Pastoral and Practical Theology. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd 2000.

A reminder of some general points for essay writing:

For every RDM essay you write, i.e. essays which are set through the Reader Training Team, please produce a **coversheet** including the following information:

SWMTC Reader Training

RDM year 1/2/3

title of the essay/assignment/report

hand-in date

total word count

name and address.

Please could you also include **page numbers** in your piece of work and use the font **Arial 12** and **double line spacing**.

Every essay/assignment/report needs a **bibliography**, i.e. the **books** from which you might want to quote or from which you might want to paraphrase an idea or thought, books you have consulted in wider reading of the subject matter, **websites** or **newspaper articles** you have used.

Please do not forget to reference '**The Bible**' (and the **version** you have used) and **your journal**, where appropriate.

JT 2010

**RDM III
Grief and Loss Assignment.**

2,500 words
Deadline: 14th May 2011

Scenario:

It has come to your attention over a period of time that there are a significant number of people in your parish/mission community who are suffering from a sense of grief and loss as a result of having either put their loved ones into a nursing or residential home or, as the primary carer of a terminally ill relative at home, feeling they have 'lost' their loved one in all but body. Without imposing upon them and having picked up that it would be appropriate, you have decided to work this through and to actively engage with these people through pastoral encounter, prayer and worship.

Assignment:

Devise a service which would be appropriate in meeting the needs of these people providing, alongside the service sheet, a detailed pastorally engaged analysis of the choices you have made in its construction.

Some practical things to consider:

- *length; place/and time/and space; wording; liturgical resources; prayer; readings; silence; activity; music*

You will need:

- **To introduce the structure and direction of your essay noting the key points. (200 words)**
- **To give background details and convey the pastoral scene perhaps indicating how you envisage the work and pastoral encounters surrounding the service playing a role and function in the worship. (600 words)**
- **To give an account of why you have constructed the service in the way you have. (800 words)**

- **To conclude by giving an indication of how you would follow up the service including some of the expected results and/or effects of the event and some of the ongoing needs. (500 words)**
- **To include the service sheet that would be used, having thought carefully about the design and presentation with regard to the pastoral needs of the congregation. (400 words)**

(Suggested apportioning of the word count is a guide rather than a rule)

Some helpful resources:

Common Worship: Pastoral Services, (Church House Publishing, 2005)

Herbert, Russell, *Living Hope: A Practical Theology of Hope for the Dying* (Peterborough: Epworth, 2006)

Lake, Tony, *Living with Grief* (London: Sheldon Press, 1985)

Knox, Ian, *Older People and the Church* (London: T&T Clark, 2002)

Cassidy, Sheila, *Light from the Dark Valley* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1994)

Speigel, Yorick. *The Grief Process* (London: SCM Press, 1978)

Lewis, C.S., *A Grief Observed* (London: Faber & Faber, 1985)

Reminders of some general points for essay writing:

For every RDM essay you write, i.e. essays which are set through the Reader Training Team, please produce a **coversheet** including the following information.

Please could you also include **page numbers** in your piece of work and use the font **Arial 12** and **double line spacing**.

Every essay/assignment/report needs a **bibliography**, i.e. the **books** from which you might want to quote or from which you might want to paraphrase an idea or thought, books you have consulted in wider reading of the subject matter, **websites** or **newspaper articles** you have used. Please do not forget to reference **'The Bible'** (and the **version** you have used) and **your journal**, where appropriate.