



CENTRAL READERS' COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR READERS' MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

2009

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MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW FOR READERS

INTRODUCTION

The national church is introducing a scheme of Ministry Development Review for all clergy which will be part of their terms of licensing.

It is our aim to suggest the same facility be created for all Readers. So the following guidelines have been informed by the clergy review pattern.

They take into account the varied and voluntary nature of Reader ministry.

Readers are increasingly mobile and there are constant transfers between dioceses, so this scheme is recommended to provide a uniformity of review.

Ministry Development Review is founded on the assumption that all in licensed ministry, ordained or lay, are responsible to God for the ministry entrusted to them and that they are accountable to the Church and to one another for the way in which it is exercised and the opportunities taken.

Ministry is a gift and a trust for which each individual holds account.

The review is about affirmation, celebration and encouragement as well as challenge.

Ministry Development Review provides a structure for accountability to God, to the parish/benefice/ congregation, to the Bishop whose licence we hold, and to the wider Church and society. (See Bishops' Regulations for Reader Ministry, 5.4)

It also reminds us of our shared responsibility with our colleagues in ministry and our responsibility to ourselves.

The Process for the Reader

- Fix appointment with reviewer
- take your own time for reflection and preparation
- assemble relevant supporting papers (eg Working Agreement, Annual Return)
- bring reflection and feedback from colleagues to your review discussion
- review past year and set new objectives
- Reader to return summary form to Diocesan office
- progress relevant Continuing Ministerial Development and training as discussed

Your preparation:

Reflect on the various areas identified in the Review in order to prepare for the discussion.

It is recommended that input from others amongst whom you minister, lay or ordained, is also sought before the review;

(guidance notes and a form is provided for this.)

Roles and Responsibilities:

As you prepare for your Review discussion you may wish to think about your role and responsibilities in the following areas:

- Your responsibility to yourself and the development of your own vocation
- Your responsibility for, and roles within, the church/benefice in which you minister
- Your responsibilities to your colleagues in ministry
- Your roles and responsibilities in employment and the community
- Your responsibilities in the wider church life - deanery, diocese, ecumenically
- Your responsibilities within your family circle

You may also wish to think about the general context that has shaped your ministry since your last review. This may include issues and challenges that have arisen, for example, changing family and domestic circumstances, changes of key people within the church/parish/benefice, a diocesan mission plan, church and society discussions, anything else which may have had an impact on your ministry.

The documentation

Each Readers' ministry has its own features and nuances, and the use of a structured format for discussion and record information, should not imply that there is only one model for meeting our responsibilities. Rather it should ensure that the rich variety of Reader ministry is acknowledged and respected.

The review is intended as a guide and not as a definitive list. The context of your own ministry and your own understanding of your vocation will shape the discussion. It should include reference to the priorities that were established in your previous review and agreed parish plans or diocesan strategies if appropriate.

The discussion:

This should be confidential and honest.

It is designed to be positive, honest, affirming and challenging.

Your future:

As part of the discussion, you and your Reviewer will identify and agree objectives and action. This will include areas you want to prioritise in your ministry, for instance, responsibilities to be fulfilled, skills and disciplines to be developed. Objectives for personal development can also be set.

It would be sensible to keep these to a maximum of three Objectives for your Ministry and three Personal Objectives.

Objectives should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time bound.

When identifying your objectives consider the following:

- What changes would you like to bring about? How will you do this?
- Do you need support, training or development to facilitate this change?
- Will this objective support your church/parish/deanery or diocesan mission strategy?
- Would an action plan be helpful?

Following the Review meeting:

- A summary of the discussion will be written and agreed between the reviewer and the Reader.
- The summary will include outcomes and actions that you have identified.
- The summary will include identified Continuing Ministerial Development needs.
- The summary is sent to the Warden of Readers who will forward a copy to the CMD officer.

To assist you in the review process, the following papers are included at the back of this document.

General Guidelines

Feedback from a colleague

Drawing up a Working Agreement

Annual Return of Ministry Statistics

Sample Annual Statistics form with CMD needs

REFLECTION BASED ON PROMISES MADE AT LICENSING:

1. **Do you believe that God has called you to this ministry?**
 - Am I being true to the vocation that has brought me to this point?
 - Is my ministry flourishing and growing - can I set objectives for the future that will develop my ministry and help me to fulfil my vocation further?
 - Does my ministry include elements of evangelism and mission that seek to further the kingdom of God?

2. **Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the word to them?**
 - Are there areas of public worship in which I need further training?
 - Is the feedback I receive from my colleagues and members of the congregation helpful, constructive, revealing points that need addressing?
 - Do I give enough time and attention to preparation and background reading to preach?

3. **Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith, and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel?**
 - Are my patterns of prayer, personal reflection and study sustaining and challenging me as a minister of Christ?
 - Has the CMD I have undertaken in the last year helped me to grow and contributed towards my development and personal objectives?
 - Have I implemented what I have learned and discovered over the last year?

4. **Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?**
 - As I reflect on my daily life does it honour the pattern I know to be true to the Christian gospel, and take account of the relationships within it.
 - Do I give sufficient opportunity for time and space for myself and my family, with days off, a retreat, holidays?
 - Are there concerns for my own welfare and that of my family or colleagues?

5. **Will you promote unity, peace and love in the church and in the world and especially among those whom you serve?**
 - As I reflect on my daily working life, how do I take my ministry to the people among whom I find myself?
 - Is my ministry effective in environments other than church and public worship and are my relations with the world reflective of the gospel?
 - Is my pastoral ministry in the community adequately resourced?
 - Where are the "scratching places" in my ministry?

6. **Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?**
 - How are my relationship with my ministry colleagues - do we encourage growth in each other?
 - Are there ways in which we could improve our working relationship and methods of working?
 - What gifts can I/do I offer to others in their spiritual journey?

THE REVIEW

LAST REVIEW PERIOD

TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE REVIEW

Date:

Last review date:

1. Were there any major changes in my personal or ministerial circumstances during this time? How should the development of my ministry reflect this?

2. The last objectives. *Summarise achievements* and note objectives still in progress.

Personal Objectives

-
-
-

Ministry Objectives

-
-
-

3. Over this period, what have been the most rewarding and/or satisfying experiences in my ministry?

What factors (in the situation and/or in myself) contributed to these rewarding experiences of ministry?

4. What experiences of ministry in this period gave me frustration or dissatisfaction?

What factors (in the situation and/or in myself) contributed to this dissatisfaction or frustration?

5. Where do I see the activity of God in my experiences during this period, and how might this influence my understanding of what God is asking of me now?

--

8. What do I see as the priorities in my ministerial vocation for the next period?

--

9. Please note any reflections on the input to this process received from others

--

SPECIFIC CONCERNS

The intention is to allow you to suggest specific priorities for attention during your review meeting. These do not limit the scope of discussion, but identifying them ensures that they can be given due time and attention.

1. Particular areas on which I would like to focus in this review.

--

2. I should like to raise these other matters (any concerns, questions or relevant information which does not arise out of the process so far).

--

Pages 7 and 8 can be filled in and sent/given to the reviewer before the Review meeting.

NEXT REVIEW PERIOD

Date: from _____ to: _____

During your review discussion, you will be identifying and agreeing targets for the next phase in your ministry. It may be helpful to reflect and refine your objectives over a few days and return to finalise them with your reviewer. You are encouraged to include a **maximum** of three objectives in ministry and three personal development objectives. Also note some indication of the following;

- key steps to be taken to move towards the objective
- training and other resources required to support this.
- If targets are SMART , it will be easier to identify their completion.
-

PERSONAL TARGETS

<p>Target 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>milestone</i> • <i>resources needed</i> • <i>completion date</i>
<p>Target 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>milestone</i> • <i>resources needed</i> • <i>completion date</i>
<p>Target 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>milestone</i> • <i>resources needed</i> • <i>completion date</i>

NOTES:

YOUR MINISTRY TARGETS

Target 1

- *milestone*
- *resources needed*
- *TRAINING / support required*
- *completion date*

Target 2

- *milestone*
- *resources needed*
- *TRAINING / support required*
- *completion date*

Target 3

- *milestone*
- *resources needed*
- *TRAINING / support required*
- *completion date*

NOTES

SUMMARY OF CONTINUING MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:

From the objectives you have set above what learning and development needs have you identified?

Learning and development needs identified:

How can these learning needs be met?

What action needs to be taken and by whom?

Who will support me in meeting these objectives?

Anticipated timeframe

Name

Reviewer:

Church/parish/benefice/team/other

Deanery

Date

A copy of this page will be sent by the Warden of Readers to the CMD Officer.

This information will assist the diocese in planning the provision of Continuing Ministerial Development in the coming year.

REVIEW SUMMARY RECORD SHEET

Reviewer's comments	
Name & Signature	Date:

Reviewee's comments	
Name & Signature	Date

After you have made your comments **the Reviewer** will send the completed form to the Bishop/Warden for any comment and for filing on your diocesan file. You and your Reviewer should keep copies. You are responsible for following up the objectives and actions agreed in the review.

Bishop's comments

Signed.....

Date.....

END

ANNEXE A

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1.1 **The Review Process: The reviewer** will usually be the Reader's incumbent but there should be diocesan provision in place should a Reader request that their review is carried out by a third party.
- 1.2 **Review Panel:** Diocesan preference may be for a panel of reviewers to be available, properly trained and resourced. However, the Reader's objectives should be set in consultation with the incumbent or supervising minister.
- 1.3 **Feedback:** there is also opportunity in these guidelines for optional ministry feedback from colleagues or "critical friends". This is increasingly good practice in other professions and can be very constructive. The reviewer and the Reader may invite this feedback.
- 1.4 **Confidentiality of review papers:** Pages 7 to 10 of the review papers are confidential between the reviewer and the Reader, as is the feedback from a colleague. Pages 11 should be returned to the Diocesan office for filing on the Reader's personal file and page 12 sent to the diocesan provider of Reader CMD.
- 1.5 **The period between reviews** will depend on diocesan resources and custom, but a term of **three years** is recommended between Ministry Development Reviews. According to diocesan practice this may or may not be linked to relicensing.
- 2.1 **Readers with Bishop's Permission to Officiate** (Readers over 70) are encouraged to participate in MDR but should be given the opportunity to opt out if appropriate.
- 2.2 **An abbreviated return form of annual statistics** is also appropriate for Readers with Permission to Officiate, according to diocesan practice.
- 2.3 **Readers Emeritus** (fully retired) are not required to participate in MDR.
- 3.1 **Training of Reviewers:** it is recommended that there should be diocesan provision in place for the training of reviewers. In most cases the reviewer will be the Reader's incumbent, so those responsible for clergy training should be aware of the significance of the introduction of MDR for Readers. The option of bringing in consultants or trainers from other professions can also be considered.
- 4.1 **Further review:** If the MDR is deemed to have been unhelpful or unsatisfactory by either the reviewer or the Reader, or there are special circumstances, then each should be able to consult with the Warden of Readers with a view to a further consultation with either the Warden or a third party.
- 5.1 **Working Agreement:** All Readers should have a Working Agreement or Ministry Specification mutually agreed with their incumbent. Guidelines for drawing up a Working Agreement are included in this paper.
- 6.1 **The Annual Return of Ministry Statistics** should be completed each year, as required by Bishops' Regulations.
- 6.2 **The statistics form** should be kept as simple as possible, recording only information that is of specific value locally or at the diocesan office. This return should enable the Warden of Readers to identify any pastoral concerns such as under use or over work, and also current CMD needs.
- 7.1 **Ethnic origin:** the CRC is legally bound to prepare figures of the ethnic origin of all Readers nationally and a form is appended included which should be included with the annual statistics form.
- 7.2 **Disability:** a optional question is also included to assist Wardens in providing support for Readers with disabilities.

ANNEXE B

FEEDBACK FROM A COLLEAGUE

GUIDANCE

Receiving feedback on your ministry is an opportunity for a Reader to learn more about what works well and what is not working. You, as a friend, are being asked to give feedback because you have been identified as someone whose views would be valued as part of the Reader's ministry development.

Try to

- act as a 'critical friend', giving feedback that will both encourage and affirm but also identify areas where there are challenges that may need to be faced.
- give feedback based on your own experience, not what others have said.
- be honest, your feedback will help the Reader gain understanding of his or her strengths and development opportunities. The focus of this process is development and improvement.
- express your feedback sensitively.

Try to avoid

- letting any recent, exceptional, events influence your feedback either positively or negatively. Try to reflect typical performance.
- letting a single incident or experience disproportionately affect the feedback you give.
- letting your personal relationship with the person disproportionately affect the feedback you give, try to focus objectively on performance.
- giving bland responses that avoid positive or negative comments.

READER REVIEW: FEEDBACK FROM A COLLEAGUE

Feedback for

offered by:

Please tell me what you think my gifts are as a minister.
Are there ways I could use these gifts more effectively?
Please tell me where you think my ministry needs to grow and change.
Do you think those amongst whom I minister have significant needs I am not currently meeting?
Please tell me if there are any relationships I should try to improve
Have you any other comments which could be helpful in my preparation for my Ministry Review?

There are other models you may wish to use.

ANNEXE C

DRAWING UP A WORKING AGREEMENT

Bishops' Regulations for Reader Ministry state that

5.2: "Readers should have a written **Working Agreement** with their Incumbent or minister" and this should take into account:

1. *The particular expression of the individual's ministry;*
2. *the role of the Reader in the local ministerial team and in relation to the PCC;*
3. *the arrangements for post-admission training and regular attendance at Reader meetings;*
4. *the balance between their commitments as Readers and the requirements of their family, work and leisure;*
5. *the arrangements for reimbursement of expenses incurred through performance of the Reader's duties;*
6. *the arrangements for regular meetings between Reader, clergy and other staff.*

This agreement should be regularly reviewed by Reader and incumbent together, normally, once a year, and at the time of the renewal of licence.

5.4: *Periodically Readers should undergo a formal in-depth review of their ministry; ... it is recommended that such a review take place every three or five years paying attention to areas of fulfilment and satisfaction, noting opportunities for expansion of ministry or re-deployment, and needs for refreshment or retraining. ... Subject to issues of confidentiality, a brief summary should be placed in the Reader's records.*

THIS PAPER, "READER MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW 2009" IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST DIOCESAN READER WARDENS AND READERS FULFIL THIS REQUIREMENT.

ANNEXE D

ANNUAL STATISTICS RETURN

Bishops' Regulations for Reader Ministry state:

5.3 Readers should keep a record of services led, sermons preached, training attended and other ministry exercised, and, when requested, report to the Warden or an appointed delegate. The report should be discussed with the incumbent who should be asked to countersign it and add appropriate comments.

The CRC Executive recommends that Diocesan Reader Wardens should review their annual statistic form, and its constructive use. Statistics forms should be kept as simple as possible, recording only information that is of specific value locally or at the diocesan office.

This return should enable the Warden of Readers to identify any pastoral concerns such as under use or over work, and highlight more specific gifts and skills, such as funeral ministry, bereavement counselling, work with young people, or ministry in the workplace.

The return should also help to identify a pattern of ministry geographically, enabling consideration to be given to deanery patterns of ministry and the sharing of personnel between benefices, teams, parishes or churches.

This is also an opportunity to review the level of CMD attended in the past year, and immediate needs for the coming year. CMD needs should be forwarded to the diocesan office.

Incumbents are encouraged to value the annual opportunity to review their Reader's ministry undertaken during the year. The MDR will go into more depth every three years or as decided at diocesan level.

A sample Annual Statistics Form follows to assist dioceses in drawing up a form that suits your own needs.

SAMPLE - ANNUAL STATISTICS RETURN

Year/Period ending

Please complete and return this form to (Warden of Readers)
by.....

Personal Information:

Name		
Address		
Phone numbers • Home • Work • Mobile • Other		Email address:
		Date of Birth:
Occupation (previous if retired)		
Parish/benefice/team		
Deanery		
Main area of ministry if other than in a parish		
Please tick as appropriate	Licensed Reader	Authorised to take funerals
	Reader with Permission to Officiate	Authorised to lead Public Worship with Communion by Extension

List any skills or abilities you have that you would be willing to share with other people or parishes - <i>professional skills (e.g. legal or administrative); leisure interests (e.g. photography or cooking, ministry skills (e.g.family or pram service).</i>

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES IN PERIOD

In you own church/parish/benefice

How many services have you **led** in your own church:

Morning Service/Matins Evening Worship Family Service/AAW Home Communion

Other services e.g. crib service, residential home.
Please list them and the number you have led.

-
-

How many services have you **preached at** in your own church (including ones you led yourself):

Eucharist Morning Worship/ Matins Evening worship/ Evensong Family Service

Other services e.g. crib service, residential home.
Please list them and the number you have preached at.

-
-

If you are trained to take **funerals** where have they been and how many?

Your own parish church Other parish church

Crematorium

Elsewhere - please specify

If you are trained and authorised to take **Public Worship with Communion by Extension**, how many times have you led this service?

In your own church Elsewhere

In other places/parishes/benefices.

How many services have you <i>led</i> other than at your own church	No of services
Denomination/Parish • •	
Show many services have you preached at other than your own church (including ones you led yourself).	No of services
Denomination/Parish • •	

Other activities

What other leadership roles have you undertaken? <i>E.g. house group; lent group</i>
What chaplaincy work have you undertaken, including the location?
What other ministerial work have you undertaken? <i>E.g. visiting; counselling</i>
What has challenged you this year? What doors have you pushed open?
Are you engaging with the community? Are there "Fresh Expressions" in your ministry?

If you have permission to officiate in any other diocese please state which.

Specialised Ministry: If your ministry is outside conventional parish ministry then please give brief detail of your activities:

Continuing Personal Development

What training related to your ministry have you undertaken during the last year?

What training would you have liked - whether or not it is currently provided?

What resources (books, websites etc) have you come across in the last year that might be of interest to others. *This may be shared anonymously across the Reader network.*

Ministry Development

Do you have a working agreement with your incumbent?	Yes/No
When was your last in depth ministry review (MDR) with your incumbent?	
If you have a work consultant/spiritual director how often do you meet?	
If you do not have a work consultant/spiritual director would you like to find out more about them?	Yes/No
How do you see your ministry developing over the next year? What resources would help?	
Would you be prepared to help with ministerial needs in nearby parishes? <i>This might be on an occasional, regular or short term basis and would be subject to agreement with all parties.</i>	Yes/No

Please discuss the information on these sheets with your incumbent before asking for a counter signature.

If there are any matters you would like to discuss in confidence please contact the Warden of Readers.

Signed (Reader).....

Signed (Incumbent)

Date

Incumbent's comments:

ETHNIC GROUPING		
The ethnic groupings listed below follow the standard established by the 2001 Government census. <i>Please indicate with a tick</i>		
a) White	British	
	Other white background	
b) Mixed	White & Black Caribbean	
	White & Black African	
	White & Asian	
	Any other mixed background	
c) Asian or Asian British	Indian	
	Pakistani	
	Bangladeshi	
	Any other Asian background	
d) Black or Black British	Caribbean	
	African	
	Any other Black background	
e) Chinese or other ethnic group	Chinese	
	Any other	

(Note: once the reply to the question on Ethnic Grouping has been entered in diocesan records, it should not need to be asked in subsequent years.)

<p>Optional question</p> <p>Disability: The following questions regarding deafness and disability are for statistical purposes only and will be collated by the Church of England National Adviser for Ministry of and among Deaf and Disabled people.'</p> <p>Do you consider yourself to be disabled? YES/NO</p> <p>Are you profoundly Deaf (Sign language user)? YES/NO</p> <p>Do you have a qualification in British Sign Language, if so to what level?'</p>

Please return this form to the following address before

Readers' Ministerial Development Review 2008

Members of the sub group of the Central Readers Council Executive Committee:

John Ashwin, Chichester, Chair of CRC Selwyn Committee
Chrysogon Bamber, Salisbury, Co-opted member of CRC
Canon Ron Black, Newcastle, Vice Chairman of CRC
Rev Nick Watson, Derby, Warden Member of CRC

Also contributing:

Sarah Smith - DRACS, (Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service)
Ministry Division, Church House
Julia Hudson, HR Department, Church House
Wendy Sargeant, Reader (Norwich) representative on CMEDAP
Tim Ling, National Continuing Ministerial Development Adviser, Ministry Division
Sue Hart, CRC Executive Committee