



*Pray - grow - serve with joy*

## **MINISTRY REFLECTIONS FOR DISTINCTIVE DEACON CURATES (IME 4-7)**

As a distinctive deacon, you have a clear sense of calling to a go-between ministry which is outward-looking, community-minded, servant-hearted and missional. However, there are very few resources to help you reflect on the diaconal aspects of your ministry, as most are geared towards priesthood.

These reflections are designed to help you review the diaconal nature of your ministry. They are based on the learning outcomes produced by the Church of England Ministry Division, which have been developed to include the distinctively diaconal aspects of ordained ministry. Ministry Division requested the Diocese of Exeter to do this work, which has the full support of the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Rev Robert Atwell, and is in use in the diocese. Ministry Division is currently reviewing all its vocational policy.

*Rev Deacon Gill Kimber, Warden of the College of Deacons, Diocese of Exeter*

[deacon\\_gill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deacon_gill@yahoo.co.uk)

<https://deaconstories.wordpress.com>

### **A Christian tradition, faith and life**

How can I see Scripture connecting with my community? Does it challenge the way things are done? Does it encourage? Does it suggest new ideas or developments?

How do I see this leading into intercession?

Do I make time to be with other distinctive deacons?

### **B Mission evangelism discipleship**

Where do I see God at work in my community or in my workplace?

Are there needs in my community that need my attention?

How do I connect with other community agencies?

How can my ministry encourage my church to become more missional?

What sort of diaconal project can I start or support in my community?

What opportunities arise from my contacts with baptism families, and how can I build on them?

What sort of risks am I taking for the gospel? How supported do I feel?

How can I equip church members to live out their baptismal vocation in their workplaces and communities?

## **C Spirituality and worship**

How am I making connections between my liturgical and my community ministry?

How can I work ecumenically to pray for and serve our communities?

How important is intercession for me? In what ways can I encourage intercession in the church community?

What sort of spirituality am I finding amongst unchurched people? How do I relate this to the Christian faith?

How can I help create the sort of worship that helps unchurched people to feel welcome, relaxed and included?

## **D Personality and character**

How easy is it for me to accept myself as I am?

How does my own faith story influence my ministry?

How do I deal with the expectations of others?

Is there somebody I can trust who will give me honest feedback?

How important is my spiritual director to me?

How am I finding ways that are right for me, of building bridges between the Christian faith and the community?

How am I dealing with the constraints on my time? Do I need to revisit any decisions?

## **E Relationships**

Do I have an effective support network?

How am I dealing with any conflict? Do I need to ask for more training or support?

How do I encourage the diakonia of the church to serve the people of my community or workplace with joy?

How can I develop community relationships?

How can I encourage sharing between community and church?

How relational am I in my thinking and practice?

## **F Leadership collaboration and community**

In what ways am I able to model a collaborative approach to leadership in workplace, church and community?

How possible is it to encourage and enable the gifting of others?

How good am I at implementing missional decisions and tasks?

How does the servant leadership of Christ inspire and enable me?

## **G                    Vocation and ministry**

What affirms my diaconal calling?

Do I find myself under any pressure to change? If so, where is the pressure coming from?

How much support and insight is there from colleagues about my diaconal vocation?

Can I free up other clergy by shouldering some of their diaconal responsibilities?

How do I encourage and support those who are on the fringes of the church?

How do I 'deacon' colleagues in the workplace?

What sort of collaborative relationships do I have?

How am I dealing with the need for change in the church?

How realistic are my expectations of myself? Do these need reassessing?