



Year One Theological Reflection – Some Guidance

As we approach the end of your first year in ordained ministry, you are now asked to submit a theological reflection that engages with some of the ministry that you have been doing. You will be asked to write three theological reflections over the course of your curacy. The details of this can be found in the Curacy Handbook.

At the end of Year 1, we ask for a reflection focussed around **Pastoral Ministry**. This is deliberately broad, so you should find space to engage with something that you have been doing.

The reflection should offer the following:

- An analysis of what has happened, or what the current situation is;
- How you have worked, with others, in this area and the effect of this;
- What leadership you brought to the situation;
- What theological issues are at stake in this situation, and how your actions are seeking to engage with them.

One of the purposes of the reflection is to demonstrate that you have met the relevant sections of the Formation Qualities. In year 1 we are looking at Love for People and Trustworthiness of the qualities. For convenience, I have placed the two sets of qualities at the end of this note. When the qualities seek different evidence between those being formed for Assistant level responsibility or Incumbent level responsibility, a decision has been made as for the most suitable for this particular theological reflection.

Some guidance for this:

1. Please write between 2000 and 3000 words.
2. You are not being assessed on spelling and grammar, nor will you get a percentage or grade for this reflection.
3. There is no particular model of Theological Reflection we are expecting you to use.
4. It may be helpful to talk through the reflection with your Training Incumbent both while you are doing this, and with the end product. Your reflection may even originate with something you discuss in a supervision session!
5. Set the scope of your reflection large enough to meet all of the relevant areas of the qualities and the requirements of the Curacy Handbook. So, for example, reflecting on one pastoral visit may not be enough to demonstrate everything; whereas a reflection on a scheme for pastoral visiting may provide enough material to work with.
6. The deadline for submitting this reflection is **31st July 2026**. Do please ask if you will need an extension.



Key Formation Qualities to consider in your reflection:

LOVE FOR PEOPLE

	At the end of IME Phase 2 the Curate ...
Christ	1. Demonstrates empathy and wisdom in pastoral relationships with a wide range of people so that they may learn from the diversity of God's people
	2. Builds healthy pastoral relationships in their curacy context which respect boundaries and go beyond the superficial
Church	1. Demonstrates good listening skills in relationships with those inside and outside the church, including their own peers
	2. Builds professional and trusting relationships with new colleagues that enable mutual respect, flourishing and learning
World	1. Evidences an ability to put others at their ease in a range of settings demonstrating compassion and curiosity about the life experiences of others
	2. Can demonstrate how their faith is shared in specific acts of missional engagement, and how they have enabled others to engage in thought, prayer and action
Self	1. Is self-aware and able to reflect on their strengths and vulnerabilities with honesty and openness
	2. Shows maturity and resilience in balancing the demands of ministry, family and friends, drawing on supportive and healthy relationships to support them in the joys and challenges of life

TRUSTWORTHINESS

	At the end of IME Phase 2 the Curate ...
Christ	1. Has knowledge of the four texts (Jesus' summary of the Law; Lord's prayer; apostles' creed; Beatitudes) and well-developed pattern of life based on these.
	2. Is able to accept the holy scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ
Church	1. Can show that they are ready to accept and ministers the discipline of the Church and respect authority duly exercised within it.
	3. Demonstrates a concern and the ability to create safe environments in which sensitive issues and concerns can be raised honestly and openly
	4. Demonstrates understanding of the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy



World	1. Demonstrates the ability to communicate Christian faith in a credible way that respects the context in which that witness takes place
	2. Has ability to evaluate risk and know when a risky venture is justified and appropriate
Self	1. Can speak of the joys and challenges of ministry and the way in which ministerial formation promotes flourishing and their developing relationship with Christ
	3. Demonstrates the ability to manage confidentiality