

Stage 1: Carousel Conversations

Guidance Notes for Candidates

(Version: October 2021)



We look forward to meeting you at your *Stage 1: Carousel Conversations*.

These Notes explain what will happen at each of the six one-to-one Conversations you will have with a Bishops' Adviser at the online Carousel.

Each Conversation will last for 15 to 20 minutes and they can take place in any order. Please see the individual timetable that will be given to you in advance; this will contain details of the order and time of each of your Conversations, the Zoom link you will need to access each Conversation, and information about the Bishops' Advisers you will be meeting.

The Carousel begins with a meeting for all Candidates and Advisers, led by the Panel Secretary who will be facilitating the Carousel, and will include a short act of worship. Additionally, there is a short final meeting for all. The link to these meetings is also included on the timetable. Please join both meetings at least *3 minutes* beforehand. Likewise, please join each Conversation *at least 3 minutes* before it is due to start. Initially you will enter a 'waiting room' and you will be let in and welcomed when each meeting and Conversation is due to begin.

In the descriptions in this Guide, the topic of each Conversation is outlined, along with details about the 'conversation starter' that will be used to get the Conversation underway. Then is explained what the Adviser will be looking for, in terms of evidence of capacity, as the Conversation unfolds. This is what they will summarise afterwards, as they offer feedback to your Bishop and DDO.

Please note that for several of the Conversations you are asked to do some preparation:

- For ***Conversation 1: Priesthood/Diaconate*** you are invited to consider some images or passages of scripture, made available a few days in advance online by the Panel Secretary, which you can refer to – if you choose - in the Conversation.
- For ***Conversation 3: Communicating Christian Faith*** you are invited to choose in advance and bring with you an object or image, or the words of a song or hymn, or a piece of music that you can describe, as a starting point for the Conversation.
- For ***Conversation 5: Living as a Disciple*** you are asked to prepare in advance a short timed talk of *up to 4 minutes* that you will give to the Adviser at the start of the Conversation.
- For ***Conversation 6: Engaging with the World*** you have the option to choose in advance and bring with you a news story, or a film or TV programme that you can describe, as the starting point.

Conversation 4: Practical and Pastoral Care involves you watching a short video clip, shortly before the Conversation. How you can access this will be explained by the Panel Secretary a few days in advance of the Carousel.

For the Conversations where you are invited to share or show an object or image, the easiest approach will probably be to hold this in front of your computer/tablet/phone camera and briefly describe it. Any text you wish to share with the Adviser could be read out by you. It is possible, though, for you to share your screen with the Adviser – if you wish to do this, please let the Adviser know. (Please note that Powerpoint Presentations should not be used at the Carousel Conversations).

If you have any queries in advance about the Carousel Conversations, please contact your DDO in the first instance. If the query remains unresolved please feel free to contact your Panel Secretary. If you need to be in touch with the Panel Secretary during the Carousel, they will be available throughout at the link for the initial meeting of Candidates and Advisers.

We look forward to meeting you.

The National Discernment Team

Conversation 1: Priesthood/Diaconate

This Carousel Conversation invites you to describe what attracts you to ordained ministry and reflect with the Adviser on how your vocational exploration and experiences have helped clarify this calling.

Conversation Starter: Image

As a starting point for the Conversation, you are invited to talk about an **image** (or **images**) related to priesthood and diaconate, chosen by you before the Conversation starts from the link that will be sent to you in advance by the Panel Secretary. Some passages of scripture will also be available, which you are welcome to use instead of an image, if you prefer. The images and passages of scripture will be numbered; please mention the number to the Adviser, who will also have seen them in advance.

If you don't find any of the images or passages of scripture helpful, don't worry. It is not essential to use them in your Conversation. Please note that you will not be assessed on your choice of image or scripture.

What is being looked for

In this Conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Show what it is about the ordained ministry to which you are drawn that excites you
- Reflect on images of priesthood or diaconate contained in the Ordinal that resonate with you
- Talk about the ways in which you have explored and tested your vocation and how this has deepened your understanding of your calling

Conversation 2: The Church of England

This Carousel Conversation invites you to reflect on the Church of England’s mission and ministry within an ever-changing world, and to discuss the role your church or fresh expression plays in your locality, through its activities and distinctive character.

Conversation Starter: News story about the Church of England

As a starting point for the Conversation, a **recent story** will be shared with you by the Adviser from the local or national media that relates to the Church of England, or is from the Church’s daily news feed. The Adviser will ensure you have time to read it before the Conversation begins. As part of the Conversation the Adviser will invite you to reflect on any ways in which the story is relevant to the life of your own church. If you have experience in the wider Anglican Communion you are welcome to draw on this in the Conversation.

What is being looked for

In this Conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Talk about the role of the Church of England within the life of the nation
- Reflect on the way the Church needs to change and adapt as it speaks of Christ afresh to the world
- Show that you understand what is distinctive about your own church tradition and how it enriches the broader life of the Church
- Show that you have some understanding of at least one other tradition within the Church of England, and that you are willing to work within the Church’s diversity
- Show some understanding of how your church or fresh expression relates to your local context

Conversation 3: Communicating Christian Faith

This Carousel Conversation invites you to show your ability to express and articulate the Christian faith and your understanding of basic themes in scripture and the creeds. You are also asked to show how you can communicate your personal faith in a way that is understandable and attractive to others.

Conversation Starter: An object, image or hymn/worship song

As a starting point for the Conversation, you are invited to use **either**:

- An **object** or **image** that you have chosen in advance and can share with the Adviser, that would help you speak about your faith to another person.

or:

- The **words of a hymn** or **worship song**, or other piece of **music** you can describe (no need to play it), chosen in advance and that you can share with the Adviser, that would help you speak about your faith to another person.

It will probably be easiest to hold the object or image in front of your computer/tablet/phone camera and briefly describe it to the Adviser. If the object or image is large, showing a photo of it will be fine. If you choose the words of a hymn or worship song, you could read them out to the Adviser. It is possible, though, for you to share your screen with the Adviser – if you wish to do this, please let the Adviser know.

What is being looked for

In this Conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Show that you have an understanding of some key Biblical and theological themes, including those relating to creation, salvation and God's activity in the world
- Draw upon Biblical imagery and theological ideas in giving an account of your Christian faith
- Communicate the Christian faith, and your personal faith, in a way that is understandable, engaging and attractive for others

Conversation 4: Practical and Pastoral Care

This Carousel Conversation invites you to show how you exercise pastoral wisdom and compassion in real-life human situations, and that you understand the importance of appropriate boundaries.

Conversation Starter: Short video scenario and email

As a starting point for the Conversation, you will be invited to discuss with the Adviser a short **video clip** involving a pastoral situation that you will have watched in advance.

In the course of the discussion **an email** will be shared with you, that represents a development in the situation.

What is being looked for

In this Conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Understand with insight and sensitivity a complex and developing human situation
- Show good listening skills and empathy
- Show compassion, or exercise pastoral care, in appropriate and sensitive ways

Conversation 5: Living as a Disciple

This Carousel Conversation invites you to describe how you resource and develop yourself, and others, as a Christian disciple.

Conversation Starter: Short talk

As a starting point for the Conversation you are invited to give a **short talk of up to 4 minutes** about ***either*** how you have enabled yourself to grow as a disciple, ***or*** how you have encouraged growth in others. The Adviser will then explore with you aspects of the talk, and your life as a disciple.

- You are welcome to show a single object or picture to illustrate your talk, but don't worry if you would rather not. It is not essential to do so.

What is being looked for

In this Conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Explain how you seek to live out your discipleship day to day
- Reflect on how participation in worship (including sacramental worship) and engagement with scripture has shaped and changed you
- Explain how you have enabled others to grow as disciples and what you have learnt through this

Conversation 6: Engaging with the World

This Carousel Conversation invites you to relate your Christian faith to the life of the world and to reflect on what mission means in your context.

Conversation Starter: news story, book, film, or TV programme that is relevant to one (or more) of the Five Marks of Mission.

As a starting point for the Conversation, you are invited to **either**:

- Discuss a **news story** you have chosen in advance and can share with the Adviser that is relevant to one of the Five Marks of Mission. This could be from any newspaper, magazine or website but *should be less than 6 months old*.
- **or** discuss a **film** or **TV programme** you have seen, or a book you have read, *within the last 6 months*, that is relevant to one of the Five Marks of Mission. It could be any type or style of film, TV programme or book.

or:

- Discuss a short and current (*within the last 6 months*) **news story** or **headline** from a newspaper, magazine or website that is relevant to one of the Five Marks of Mission, shared with you by the Adviser.

If you choose to share a news story with the Adviser, you could summarise it, and/or read out parts of it to the Adviser. It is possible, though, for you to share your screen with the Adviser – if you wish to do this, please let the Adviser know.

What is being looked for

In this Conversation the Adviser will be looking for evidence of your capacity to:

- Make connections between the Gospel and the life of the world around you
- Draw on Biblical and theological ideas to engage with the questions people ask about life and faith
- Reflect on your own faith
- Show some understanding of the principles of mission, as expressed through the *Five Marks of Mission*

The Five Marks of Mission are:

1. *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*
2. *To teach, baptise and nurture new believers*
3. *To respond to human need by loving service*

4. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*
5. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

