

Report from National Consultant on Formation and Selection

Rosemary Walters: April 2018

Having completed the articles for *The Reader* magazine of short reflections with opportunities and challenges based on the May 2014 Draft Criteria for Selection and Formation, I have begun a similar format focusing on the **vision and narrative** section from the **Reform and Renewal** Website. So far, I have focused on challenges and resources for Readers from the following bullet points in this section

- Followers of Jesus are faithful witnesses to the transforming love of God in word and action
- Churches are equipped to make and sustain disciples across all generations
- Churches, chaplaincies and fresh expressions are able to have the ministry and leadership they need
- The whole church can confidently communicate our faith in a digital age

It is crucial that both in formation and among established Readers there is an opportunity and willingness to keep up to date with current national church initiatives so that Reader voices are heard with credibility and Reader contribution to effective mission. *The Reader* magazine is the most effective medium for bringing these issues to as many Readers as possible.

In the last year I have attended three relevant events.

Sarum Reader Training Consultation October 2017

As always, this gathering of Reader trainers was useful for the exchange of ideas regarding the curriculum of Reader training and the opportunity to hear reflections on aspects of this. Rev Dr David Heywood gave a fascinating talk on 'Teaching Preaching' (see his book *Transforming Preaching*) and we continued to explore the opportunities of the *Serving Together* Report focusing on potential types of support and permission-giving for a variety of lay ministries. More information on the questions this raises is in the summary from a previous consultation day in

http://www.ministrydevelopment.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Research_Consult/Serving_Together_Consultation_Write_Up.pdf

Annual Review of Ministerial Education November 2017

In November 2017 I was invited to attend the **Annual Review of Ministerial Education** at Church House to respond to a session on **A Theology of Formation**. This meeting was essentially concerned with the education of ordinands but from a Lay Reader/Minister perspective I tried to emphasise the importance in any theological education of education for listening, liberating and literacy, (the latter in the sense of how do we as preachers and teachers interpret religious words and concepts so that they relate to both the church and the unchurched).

Bishop Martin's Consultation January 2018

This day for wardens and representatives from dioceses in the south-east was one of the extremely valuable regional opportunities to discuss five consultation questions from the CRC document **What is God calling us to be and to do?** The implications for selection and formation will become clearer when the conclusions are brought together, particularly those which clarify the task and therefore equipping of Readers.

Rosemary Walters