**Three Spheres of Vocation to the Distinctive Diaconate.**

Think about your answers to these three questions and write a short paragraph for each, drawing on the resources listed below. Candidates for ordination to the diaconate in the Church of England need to be able to articulate how their three answers overlap, quoting from the Ordinal, wider literature and your own experience.

Assessors will be looking for how you explain the overlap between these three spheres in your life.

How do I see my own vocation?

What do I believe a Deacon is?

How does the Church of England understand the Diaconate?

**How do I see my own vocation?**

Draw on your own sense of internal call, the affirmation of those who know you well, your passions, gifts, skills and experiences. You may wish to use a metaphor drawn from the image or object you presented in the first session of the Discernment Cohort Programme.

**How does the Church of England understand The Distinctive Diaconate?**

Draw on the Ordination services for Deacons and Priests[[1]](#footnote-1), especially the ‘liturgy of ordination’ sections. Which words and phrases particularly resonate with you?

**What do I believe a Deacon is?**

Draw on your reading for month three of the Cohort Discernment Process to describe some of the ways of exercising diaconal ministry which particularly resonate with you. This can include books on our general (Priests & Deacons) reading list[[2]](#footnote-2) and also more specific resources.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**What would my ministry look like if I were to be ordained as a Distinctive Deacon?**

Where do the three questions above overlap in your life and future ministry? Quote from your first three answers to show that your calling is *obedient, realistic and informed.*

1. <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/ministry/common-worship-ordination-services> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Download the book list here: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!ApZwCT8Wd9xRhJRdBfc74R9cdYgbcA?e=Yy1pNX> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For example: <https://deaconstories.wordpress.com/resources/some-useful-books-and-papers/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)