Vocations
Facilitating an increase in the number of those coming forward for ordained ministry by 50%
Aiming for greater diversity amongst ordinands

Discernment
Discerning candidates for training for ordination by running BAPs (Bishops Advisory Panels)
Supporting DDOs (Diocesan Directors of Ordinands), training Bishops Advisors
Devising new discernment framework and BAP systems

Formation
Overseeing and ensuring training, formation and development in TEIs (Theological Education Institutions)
Setting criteria for completion of training and end of curacy, IME1 and IME2

Lifelong learning
Supporting and strengthening lifelong learning throughout the church
Running events, consulting, research

Resources
Paying grants for the support of ordinands
Supporting the work of the Ministry team

We are here to...
Guide and support the church as we respond to God's gift and call through discerning, equipping, sending and supporting those in ministry.

We work with others on...
Growing Faith, Setting God's People Free, Discipleship, Clergy Wellbeing, Strategic Leadership and Deployment

Lay Ministry
Celebrating and raising the profile of lay ministries
Supporting the growth of new ministries and encouraging vocations to lay ministries
Supporting dioceses & sharing best practice in discernment, formation and lifelong learning
Vocations – there is a national aspiration to increase the number of those entering training for ordained ministry by 50%. This began in 2016 and we are running at a 20% increase to date, by…

- encouraging a culture of vocation across the church through the provision of resources for dioceses, clergy and worshipping communities (including ‘The Great Vocations Conversation’ and ‘The Festival of Calling’);
- promoting greater diversity around age, gender, ethnic heritage and social background;
- running the Ministerial Experience Scheme (a small subsidy to allow young people to live in community and experience the tasks, challenges and joys of ministry for a year)
- implementing a national communication strategy for our range of stakeholders;
- engaging with systemic issues to facilitate the passage of candidates through discernment (e.g. IT systems, transition of key diocesan personnel, parishes in vacancy)
- complying with governance and accountability structures across the NCI's.
Discernment –
Providing advice to Bishops in their task of selecting those to train for ordained ministry through the provision of Bishops Advisory Panels

Training Bishops’ Advisors for their work at a Panel and Diocesan Directors of Ordinands for their work with candidates

Undertaking a major reform of the discernment framework in collaboration with the House of Bishops

Undertaking a major reform of the BAP processes to ensure that they are inclusive and responsive to a wide range of candidates
**Formation** – Business as Usual

Working with the TEI’s (Theological Education Institutions) to ensure the quality of theological education and its fitness for purpose.

Working with dioceses to ensure the quality of curate training in the first three years leading to the assessment of curacy.

Undertaking a renewal of the Formation Framework for those in IME 1 and 2

Delivering the vision to double and double again the numbers of Pioneer Ministers

Being accountable for our work to the Quality and Formation Panel
Formation: RMF and SMF Projects

Resourcing Ministerial Formation (RMF) is a major two year project reviewing the funding and quality of initial ministerial education (IME) for ordained ministers, including the provision of family maintenance. This project will also consider the value and sustainability of our Theological Colleges and Courses (TEIs).

Strategic Ministry Fund (SMF) is a long term project to provide additional funds to support additional curacies in dioceses. Funding will be allocated on the basis of financial need, good deployment planning and quality of training. The funds for this project have been provided by the Church Commissioners and are overseen by the Strategic Ministry Board.
Continuing Ministerial Development

We support Directors of Ministry, Continuing Ministerial Development Officers and others in providing the best quality ongoing development for clergy. This is done primarily through the sharing of good practice and includes monitoring the effectiveness of Ministerial Development Review (MDR).

We research the wellbeing of clergy through the Living Ministry project and anticipate being involved in the ongoing discussion of the Clergy Covenant, especially as this relates to the aspiration for clergy to have lifelong continuing formation and learning.

This work is done in partnership with the Archdeacons Training Officer, the Deaf Ministry Officer, and the Pioneer Ministry Officer.
Lay Ministry

The Lay Ministries Officer works with others to champion, celebrate and raise the profile of lay ministry within the Church of England.

We support the work of dioceses in discernment, training and continuing ministerial development. We facilitate the sharing of best practice and peer support across dioceses.

Working with the Data & Statistics team, we are researching the scope of Lay Ministry; by November 2020 will provide the basis for future planning and target setting for lay vocations.
Resources
We manage the Vote 1 budget for training ordinands of £17.5 million, this is distributed to dioceses through RME (Resourcing Ministerial Education) the grants process whereby dioceses are given funds for the training of ordinands and for their family maintenance.
We administer over 50 Bishops Advisory Panel residential meetings a year, involving 300 volunteer Advisors and as many as 650 candidates.
We collect statistics about the number of candidates recommended for training and beginning training each year to inform projections for future funding.
We also administer various Trusts which provide grants for financial assistance and training.

Communication
We communicate regularly with our many stakeholders, including the House of Bishops, Dioceses (Directors of Ministry, Continuing Ministerial Education Officers, IME Officers and DDO's) and TEI's.
We work with others on…

Growing Faith; in particular in developing clergy to grow faithful children, young people and families (in TEIs and through continuing ministerial education)
Setting God’s People Free; in particular in developing lay leaders for the church and the world
Discipleship; in particular as discipleship leads to a call to serve the church
Clergy Wellbeing; linked to many areas of our work including Ministerial Development Review and Continuing Ministerial Development (and supported by research from the Living Ministry Project)
Strategic Leadership and Deployment, that runs through all our thinking
Key Messages October 2019

- There is funding for the Ministry Experience Scheme and it is growing, enabling more young people to experience the joys and challenges of ministry in diverse settings in the Church of England
- The Strategic Ministry Fund is providing assurance to dioceses to help fund additional curacies as we move towards our target of 50% growth in those training for ordained ministry
- A new discernment framework....