



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich**

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Local Ministry Role**

1. Who can take on a Local Ministry Role? Anyone who is baptised and confirmed, a regular communicant member of the Church of England, in good standing with the local church and community and who is able to fulfil the tasks associated with this role.
2. Why is the diocese pushing a new initiative? This is a resource to help you in your local mission and ministry, if it's helpful. It is not mandatory and will not be appropriate in all parish contexts.
3. Where can I read more about the principles of Local Ministry and where it is already working? Please read Grove Booklet L34: Leading one church at a time by Bob Jackson (<https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/l-34-leading-one-church-at-a-time-from-multi-church-ministers-to-focal-ministers> he refers to it as Focal Ministry). We will also be sharing stories of how it is working on the ground in the diocese.
4. How will the information about the Local Ministry Role be disseminated across the diocese? There will be taster sessions in the autumn of 2021 to allow incumbents to bring people from their benefices to explore this together. There is also information on the diocesan website.
5. Will the application paperwork be the same if someone already has a recognised ministry role in the diocese? The application form is the same but when the person is interviewed for the role their prior training will be taken into account.
6. What if the person believes they have a vocation to this role, but the incumbent does not? In order to go forward with this role the person will need the formal backing of the PCC and the incumbent as they will be working with them.
7. How will the person be authorised? They will be commissioned in their local context by a member of the senior staff.
8. How long will this role last? 5 years with annual reviews. It is not expected that the person will continue after this time. Instead someone else will take on the role.
9. Who will help with the extra administration associated with this ministry? We want to support local churches as you seek to equip and release people into their vocation and ministry. We can advise and guide you through the admin required.

10. What happens if it goes wrong? There is a process for handling disaffection should it arise. In the first instance the incumbent or the Local Minister should contact Revd Phil Dykes in the Mission and Ministry department.
11. Will having someone in a Local Ministry Role affect my parish share? No, it does not impact parish share.
12. Is there a lower age limit? The person needs to be considered an adult so the lower age is 17.

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