

Shaped By God Together – Minster Communities

Our [proposed Diocesan Framework](#) is designed to establish 20-25 geographic “**Minster Communities**”.

A Minster Community will be a "group of parishes" who work together to collaborate in mission without losing their individual identity, and who work alongside their church schools, fresh expressions of Church, chaplaincies etc.

The intention is to strengthen local churches so they can better serve their own communities. The proposals aim to lift some of the administrative burden and help parishes do more with their local schools, where appropriate. The rights of PCCs and incumbents will continue to be respected.

Diocesan Synod is being asked to vote on this diocesan framework and thereafter, if they vote for it, PCCs will discuss and then vote on how this framework is applied in their own context over the next 2-3 years.

The proposals have been developed following a story-gathering exercise and analysis of extensive local conversations undertaken in parishes and fresh expressions across the diocese. Extended Bishop’s Council has scrutinised the proposals at length and strongly endorsed them.

The Bishop of Leicester has spoken about the proposed new diocesan framework to underline that [parishes are, and will remain, front and centre](#). It is one of the biggest consultative exercises ever undertaken by the diocese and our parishes, church leaders and volunteers have been loud and clear about the need for change in light of the burden on clergy and laity.

There will be an appointed minister for every Christian community (ordained/lay, stipendiary/non-stipendiary/volunteer) and sacramental provision is assured.

It is anticipated that initially most of the expected 80-90 paid positions will be stipendiary clergy, but our aspiration is for increased lay ministry working alongside clergy across the diocese.

The shape of deployment within a Minster Community will be dependent on the outcomes of the **local conversations that will begin in February 2022** as parishes, church schools and our other worshipping communities such as chaplaincies and fresh expressions of Church decide together. There will be encouragement to think widely and creatively, ensuring that local leadership has a diversity of gifts and styles and is right for their local area.

Each Minster Community’s ministry leadership team will consist of a mixture of ordained and lay appointments and will include a minimum of the following locally-based roles:

- An oversight minister (Ordained)
- A Growing Faith (schools, churches and households) focussed minister (Lay or Ordained)
- Operations Director (admin / buildings / finance for the whole MC)
- A locally contextually focussed minister (could be a pioneer)

There will be one or more stipendiary clergy in each MC including the Oversight Minister and there will also be other clergy (self-supporting, retired, NSM, chaplains etc) as well as lay ministers too. Within the framework, it will be up to the local parishes and worshipping communities to work out together, in

discussion with each other, what the best combination is for their own Minster Community but sacramental ministry will, of course, be maintained.