

# PASTORAL SUPERVISION

## HILARY EDGERTON



### Role and Clergy Background

My view through prison bars as a chaplain at HMP Buckley Hall gives me a long view of how God's calling has shifted me since I was a full time volunteer parish worker in South Wales after university. Since that time, working amongst the disadvantaged but warmly committed Christians in socially deprived urban villages, I've been ordained (1993) and travelled through rural and semi-rural multi-parish benefices of York and Derby dioceses, with much greater wealth but many hidden needs as well as joys.

Vicar for 16 years in Hayfield, I moved to Saddleworth six years ago to my joint roles as 'Mission Priest for Discipleship' in the Saddleworth Team and chaplain in the men's prison at Rochdale.

### My Supervision

Mentoring lay leaders, training a part-time curate, various shades of Reader and Parish Assistant, acting as a 'Training Accompanier' for the Diocese of Derby and newly appointed to the Vocations Team here in Manchester, as well as a Spiritual Guide for some years, I've developed certain 'heart desires'. I want to help people to learn to look at themselves, look at God, and look at the people they serve amongst, with courage, hope and love. Pastoral

Supervision is a tool to seeing the wider picture in which people exist as well as the narrow view of the details of our lives.

For myself, this kind of overview and detail have been the ways to look more deeply into what makes me tick. I understand myself better. I look at people differently. I see possibilities where things might have felt like closed doors. Pastoral supervision helps us to care for ourselves and to connect with others so we can care for them better.

## **My Approach**

Pastoral supervision is NOT about marking each other or judging how well we're doing. We will meet as a small group who agree at the outset a way of working together with boundaries of trust (our contract).

We invite an issue to be brought for discussion which relates to an aspect of work. Time is given to focusing on what is at the heart of the issue. It's explored in conversation, question and occasionally using some creative ways of trying to get further. The intention is to bring some new awareness that may also strike a chord with others. Discussion is intended to help redirect the kind of work being done and make us more effective as Christian ministers.

## **Other Interests**

When I'm not learning the complexities of the lives of prisoners or encouraging the disciples of Saddleworth, I'm likely to be performing or producing panto or musicals for my local theatre group, cooking up some new recipes for dinner or taking treks over the hills with my small but ambitious dog, Nutmeg.