

The Diocesan Framework is a series of geographic “Minster Communities”.

**Diocesan Synod voted on the motion:**

**“This Synod approves the Diocesan Framework of Minster Communities”**

**A Minster Community (MC) is:**

- A designated group of parishes, fresh expressions of church, and schools brought together collectively for mission, resourced through the leadership of a diverse ministry team comprised of clergy, licensed lay ministers and headteachers.
- Part of the global, national, and regional Church, rooted in our Anglican tradition and sharing a common life, with the parish central to our life and witness.
- Led by a diverse ministry team, that embodies the mutuality of ministries as a priority value, where team working becomes the norm. The ‘Minster’ characteristic, of gathering for support and sending for mission, is central to the team identity.

**A Minster Community will:**

- Be missionally outward focused and attentive to context, as they ‘seek the kingdom of God’ and live out their Everyday Faith.
- Be responsible for the discernment, engagement, and development of their local mission.
- Be supported in mission by appropriately targeted diocesan provision, primarily focussing on our 5 missional priorities (New, Reconciling, Eco, Intercultural, Intergenerational communities).
- Be a place of mutual discipleship where community vocation nurtures, releases and equips the individual vocation of all.
- Share financial resource realistically and generously.

**A Minster Community has:**

- A shared missional understanding worked out within the distinct elements of that community.
- An appointed minister for every Christian community (ordained/lay, stipendiary/non-stipendiary/volunteer).
- A number of parts, which resource and support the whole community for a particular missional or practical purpose e.g. administration, learning/training, schools engagement. In some Minster Communities these parts will be co-located in a Minster Church. In some communities they will be more dispersed, according to local context.
- A Minster Community ministry team, led by a designated leader (Lay or Ordained), who support and encourage mission and ministry across their area, focussing on missional discernment, discipleship and the vocation of the whole people of God.

**A Minster Community ministry team leadership** consists of a minimum of:

An oversight minister (*Synod passed an amendment that states this role will be an ordained role*)

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)

The Diocesan Framework is intended to be flexible enough to work with both a greater, and fewer number of paid positions, depending on our resources. Within our current likely resources there is provision for 80-90 paid positions (including and allowing for our usual vacancy rate). Not all paid positions will be oversight ministers. Not all paid positions will be ordained ministers. There will be a diversity of oversight, authorised and associate ministers designated through the SBGT discernment process.

**This will result in between 20-25 Minster Communities across the whole diocese.**