

Oversight Minister (OM)

Deanery Synod 27/02/2025

Part One: Interim period - Reflections from benefice meetings

- OM will be in a parish with a school every Sunday for a service that is outward focused
- The OM will work with schools and churches to discern what might work
- Church/Tur Langton already has a pattern on the second Sunday of the month (4.30pm)
- Hallaton is considering a Friday after school service (the equivalent of a Sunday service)
- The OM will be available for one other service in a different benefice each Sunday
- This service will serve as the Benefice service for local churches on that Sunday
- Benefices to choose whether OM lead service stays in one church or migrates each month
- Other services will remain up to each benefice to plan and coordinate

Example:

	9am	4pm	6pm
1st Sunday		Billesdon	Whatborough Benefice
2nd Sunday	Welham Group	Church/Tur Langton	
3rd Sunday	Gaulby Group	Hallaton (Friday pm)	
4th Sunday		Tugby	Coplow Benefice
5th Sunday	Shared 5th Sunday Services		

Notes

- To have one individual as OM, Growing Faith Enabler and Area Dean is unreasonable
- Questions concerning churchyards, governance, finances and buildings will be sent to the relevant team in the Diocese with the OM and Administrator copied in
- The OM will not be expected to answer every query, question or concern
- The OM will prioritise their ministry in support of schools, their networks and the parishes
- Safeguarding is a Parish responsibility
- There are essentially three parish types in our MC
 - Parishes with schools (OM focus)
 - Parishes that meet regularly for worship (at least monthly)
 - Parishes that will become festival churches (or only gather for worship occasionally)

Proposal

The Oversight Minister commits to developing outward focused services in each parish with a school, once a month. The services will be tailored for those connected with our church schools. These services may be Sunday or weekday based and will be driven by opportunity and contextual need.

The Oversight Minister will be available to preside in one other benefice each Sunday. This service will be the Benefice Service for local parishes on that given Sunday. Other services will remain the responsibility of local PCCs and benefices to discern and plan for.

Part two: A sustainable future

A positive and sustainable future will mean facing challenges and every parish committing to one another. What follows is possible and within the will of the MC to decide.

- OM becomes incumbent of Billesdon and Priest in Charge of Church/Tur Langton, Hallaton and Tugby.
- Should there be a new OM, there would be a strong case for housing them in Billesdon Rectory
- OM would focus on these four parishes, their schools and networks
- The Administrator will enable the OM to have broader MC oversight by handling schedules, the organisation of Life events and Occasional Offices and other church practicalities
- The Administrator will be employed by a PCC
- Those parishes who become festival churches form a network of learning and mission practice with support and oversight from licensed ministers
- The parishes of Billesdon, Church/Tur Langton, Hallaton and Tugby begin to work towards a JCC for areas of Mission and Ministry, while retaining separate DCCs for local parish matters. This model might provide a template for the wider Minster Community re-organisation in time
- The MC commits to funding a House for Duty role

External to our control, but being planned for

- The Diocese is seeking to secure funding for a 0.6 Growing Faith Lead based in the MC
- The Growing Faith Lead will focus on the schools, their parishes and networks

If the Diocese is successful in securing funding for a Growing Faith Lead **and** the MC is able to fund a House for Duty post, these two additional leaders would enable the MC to revise the role and scope of the OM.

Proposal

Launde Deanery Minster Community will commit to exploring and developing a sustainable future, based upon the initial thoughts outlined above.

Expenses and Parish Contributions

Deanery Synod 27/02/2025

The following proposal for MC Expenses and Parish Contributions will need to be ratified by PCCs by the next Deanery Synod (16/06)

Parish Contributions

- The Parish Contributions offered by the MC have increased for 2025 (about £84,000)
- Our collective Contributions cover the OM and our Administrator
- Contributions do not cover expenses or fees
- The present burden of our Parish Contributions is inequitable: in 2024 some parishes increased contributions by at least 10%, some have decreased and some have yet to commit
- PCC's have requested a formula to guide our churches in what they should give

It was discussed at the Treasurer's Meeting (07/02/25) that:

- The MC continues to cover the stipend for the OM and costs of our Administrator
- Possibility of House for Duty post for which the Minister Community would need to raise an additional £20,300 annually
- Any suggested formula for parish contributions needs to be created by the parishes of the MC and every PCC would need to voluntarily commit to it
- Such a formula could follow the following principles
 - Those parishes with schools and where the oversight minister prioritises their ministry contribute the greatest proportion of our collective contribution (as much as 60% of total?)
 - Parish churches meeting monthly+ would be asked to contribute less (25% of total?)
 - Festival churches or those that only gather occasionally (15% of total?)
 - Such a formula would need to be weighted against the population size of parishes. This is complex in parishes with schools, as catchments cross multiple parish boundaries. Giving campaigns with the schools would be a possibility.

None of these figures would represent a demand for payment, but contributions should be equitable and ambitious. The collective responsibility we will be ours.

Any formula developed should include the ambition of including a House for Duty post.

Should we be joined by a 0.6 Growing Faith Enabler, this would enable a reshaping of the OM role which would then have a bearing on our agreed formula.

Proposal

The parishes of Launde Minster Community will commit to a voluntary formula which will guide our Parish Contributions. It will consider the oversight being received by parishes, the regularity of worship and population size. The formula will also include our desire to support a House for Duty position for the Minster Community. The formula will be developed by local parish Treasurers and ratified by PCCs.

Expenses

Every parish is asked to commit to contributing £10 a month to cover any costs that concern the whole minister community, to cover the expenses of the Oversight Minister and the expenses of others who perform Minster Community duties.

This will be reviewed annually at the February Synod.

- Every PCC will offer licensed ministers expenses when they lead worship or visit parishioners
- Every PCC will offer a gift to licensed ministers when leading us in Sunday worship (£63.50)
- Ministers may choose not to claim expenses or receive the gift
- If a gift is not accepted, the PCC will record what the minister has provided as a 'gift in kind' as their ministry and generosity still carries a value
- The responsibility of covering expenses and offering a gift assists PCCs in reflecting on the value of worship
- Expenses and service gifts are separate from Parish Contributions
- Benefices may choose to work together to share these costs

Proposal

The parishes of Launde Minster Community commit to a contributing £10 a month to cover central MC costs and expenses. The PCCs also commit to offering expenses and gift for leading services in a timely manner and where these gifts are returned, they will be recorded as 'gifts and kind.'