

ROLE OF THE PARISH AND MINISTER PARISH

The parish is the visible, active outworking of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provided at a local community pace and with a local community character, spreading the word, demonstrating the Gospel's life-changing character through the range of ministries with which it engages and offers to the community for those in need and providing worship ministry, good governance, and servant leadership as an example for all.

The governance of a Parish is established for the care of God's people, to ensure the Gospel is lived and acted upon with integrity, and good stewardship of the assets is in place to facilitate the mission of the Gospel and actively promulgated; and finally, for the carrying out of the various ministries of the Church as an expression of God's love.

The key responsibilities of the Parish Governance are set out in the responsibilities for the Priest-in-Charge, Parish Council, Councillors and Wardens in The Parochial Statute 2017. Good stewardship requires attention to appropriate financial controls and asset management; active and Gospel-led ministries, worship and service to the people.

A parish must establish a parish council and through the parish council, it manages its affairs together with the Priest-in-Charge, and the Diocese.

The Parochial Statute 2017 lays out the key features and required governance of parish life lived in community with shared obligations, responsibilities and accountabilities between the parish leaders, its members, the Bishop and the diocese.

Description of a Parish

Each parish has many of the following marks:

- (i) A full-time or part-time priest-in-charge and a supporting clerical team including assisting clergy (assisting priests and deacons) together with lay leaders
- (ii) One or more public worship centres
- (iii) Sufficient resources to provide a Living or part Living for a priest and other clergy members where agreed
- (iv) A Living Agreement must be in place with the priest-in-charge, and any assisting clergy individually
- (v) A ministry covenant in place between the parish and the priest-in-charge, and similarly between the parish and other assisting clergy when they are working in the parish
- (vi) A full parish council with all the appointments and elected roles filled
- (vii) A parish committee with all the appointments and elected roles filled where there is more than one centre
- (viii) A range of mission activities within the parish and in the wider Anglican communion beyond parish boundaries
- (ix) Active fundraising or tithing
- (x) Engagement in the wider community with outreach mission activities

- (xi) Safe Church compliance maintained and actively promoted
- (xii) Church property properly managed, maintained, insured and resourced
- (xiii) Active participation and engagement with Diocesan life and the Cathedral
- (xiv) Capacity to share in the wider mission work of the Diocese and some capacity to support smaller, more vulnerable communities when needing assistance.

Description of a Minster Parish

- a) Unless otherwise stated, the life of a parish and its obligations, governance and matters pertaining the parish life as laid out in The Parochial Statute 2017 apply equally to the workings of a Minster Parish.
- b) A minster parish is a variation to the standard parish diocesan parochial entity. It may have a ministry team, including a Priest-in-Charge, assisting clergy and other lay personnel.
- c) Each minster parish is required to provide a Living for the priest-in-charge and to provide Living support for the other members of the ministry team as determined by the parish council in agreement with the Bishop; with the appropriate financial support and other resources made available.
- d) A minster parish is required to have sufficient ministry resources to provide ministry support to another parish or parishes and communities on a fee-for-service basis.
- e) Each minster parish will have an agreement between the minster and the different parishes and communities to confirm its establishment. Each minster parish retains its own identity as a parish in its own right and confirms it is in the arrangement with the other parish (minster) through choice and agreement.
- f) Each minster and parish will have many of the following marks and expectations in its parishes:
 - (i) An agreement between a minster parish and a supported parish which shall be valid for three years. The agreement and its review on an annual basis is administered by the Archdeacon.
 - (ii) A priest-in-charge with a complete Living supplied (see the Licencing Statute 2017 Schedule 4) and the capacity to provide a clerical team on part or full time Livings, including assisting priests and vocational deacons.
 - (iii) Wardens
 - (iv) Parish councils, committees (where there is more than one centre in the parish) and all the positions filled
 - (v) An auditor
 - (vi) Parish administration support
 - (vii) Multiple mission outreach activities supporting the life of the parish, the wider community and the Anglican worldwide community

- (viii) Safe church practices and governance comprehensively engaged and in place
- (ix) Strong financial controls and accountability
- (x) Sound property and asset management systems in place
- (xi) Strong accountability, transparent systems and effective communications for the parish, parishioners and the teams
- (xii) Sound relationships and conflict management skills
- (xiii) Strong, clear accountable and transparent links to the Diocese, with the ability to take up diocesan-wide activities as required to support smaller, more vulnerable churches and communities.
- (xiv) Active participation in Synod, Clergy conferences, Bishop's Ministry Advisory Council, and other activities by the lay and clerical church leaders on a regular, consistent basis
- (xv) Average parish attendance and parish rolls will provide the financial, physical resources and sufficient people to provide service and support as required.