

B2 NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTERS OR MINISTERS IN SECULAR EMPLOYMENT.

The flourishing of ordained local ministry in this diocese means that there are less non-stipendiary ministers than in many dioceses of the Church of England.

The following guidelines are offered for the ordained minister, who has been recommended for stipendiary / non stipendiary ministry, and who feels called to exercise a non-stipendiary ministry in this diocese. This ministry may be parish or community based, or more likely focused in the place of work or institution (e.g. school or college) of which the individual is a part. It may be both – parish based and work focused. It is not local ministry in the sense of the distinctive ordained local ministry, but the collaborative aspects of ministry are encouraged. (See further B1 Introduction to Ministry, and B3 Ordained Local Ministry)

Vocation

Discernment and selection are through the normal vocational channels, working initially with the parish priest, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the sponsoring bishop, and finally a Bishops' Advisory Panel on Selection for training. From September 2005 there will not be a separate NSM selection category but those whose ministerial gifts would be best utilised and developed in God's service by being deployed (within reasonable limits wherever possible) at ordination would fulfil a similar role to recent NSMs.

Training and Title Post

A recommended candidate would expect part - time training normally for three years. In the east of England region we use the Eastern Regional Ministry Course. If the future ministry is to be parish based, the ordinand is normally ordained to a title post in a parish or benefice other than the originating home parish or benefice. The training incumbent and the parish will match the criteria for training incumbents and parishes. The title post is normally for three years, with a review towards the end of the third year. After the third year the non-stipendiary priest is deployable by negotiation, taking regard of home and sensible travel distances, and ministerial need.

Moving On

In the second post, not normally before three years in orders, a non-stipendiary minister may be licensed as assistant priest, or as a priest in charge, but may not become an incumbent.

Episcopal Review

As licensed ministers all NSMs are part of the Episcopal Review Scheme, and Continuing Ministerial Education.

Retirement.

The bishop's licence is granted until the priest reaches the age of 70. After the age of 70 the bishop's **permission to officiate** may be sought which can be renewed on a regular basis.

Responsibilities

Fees and Expenses.

Non stipendiary ministry is a voluntary ministry. The minister is not entitled to any fee income. All statutory fees applicable to the minister (e.g. for funerals or marriages) form part of the stipendiary incumbent's, or priest in charge's, stipend. Out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of performing duty (e.g. travel as mileage allowance) may be claimed from the PCC, if not reimbursed from another source. Local arrangements for the reimbursement of these out of pocket expenses are a matter for the PCC. (see F7 Parochial Working Expenses and Fees)

Child Protection.

The priest-in-charge or incumbent of the benefice carries this responsibility under the diocesan procedures. (See E9 Child Protection)

Support

Support of non stipendiary ministers is offered by the diocesan NSM/OLM Officer.

Change of Status

See B3 for the procedure for clergy wishing to move into a post with stipend