

# MINSTERS

Re-building church today for tomorrow

We are exploring a new ministry style for delivering pastoral care, rooted in the Minster model that existed at the end of the first millennium!

At this time of transition the Minster model is just one strategic device being explored, to focus and develop ministry across rural villages emphatically within the parochial system.

The strategy is to identify churches within coherent communities which can be supportive of, and encouraged by, neighbouring churches. By sharing resources, all can meet the challenges of the Five Marks of Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Diocese believes that the rural area around the mediaeval town of Lavenham in Suffolk may provide the focus of our first Minister model.

The Minister Principle is, "to give ourselves away in order to develop the church in each place". A new generation of Minster priests will embrace the core task of exploring, sharing in and taking forward the mission of God's love. Crucially, their ministry will be to identify, enable and affirming the ministries of the many. New patterns will have to be explored. The lives of each worshipping community will have to be reshaped, so that all become merged into the Minster's wider mission.

The criteria for identifying potential Suffolk Minsters, include a willingness to resource leadership and ability to gift others. Through enthusiastic ministry they will be incarnational with the local and committed to going out and serving surrounding villages.

The challenge remains to rebuild the Church today for tomorrow in every community through enthusiastic ministry.

Building Church

EVERY COMMUNITY  
ENTHUSIASTIC MINISTRY