

# What is an Oversight Minister?

In Church of England Birmingham, Oversight Ministers will 'host' Oversight Areas, connecting churches and ministries together. They will lead a **community of communities** where, as the Ordinal expresses it, they will 'watch for the signs of God's new creation', and with others, listen to the community of the Oversight Area to develop a vision for mission.

Among the responsibilities of the Oversight Minister will be:

- seeking to enable **growth**,
- helping to recognise and equip all God's people to be **capable** disciples and leaders.
- encouraging parishes to be **fair** and generous in the distribution of resources
- looking to build a **sustainable** future for all the People & Places of Church of England Birmingham.

Oversight Ministry is essentially **relational**, but it will develop within the parochial structure of Church of England Birmingham. We anticipate different models continuing to develop, and our current thinking is that an Oversight Area might, **for example**, be:

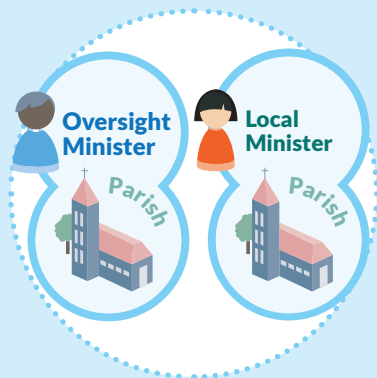
- A large single parish where the incumbent is the Oversight Minister.



- A group of say four parishes, with the Oversight Minister as incumbent of one parish and priest in charge of another which has a Local Minister; and working alongside two stipendiary colleagues in the other parishes.



- A pair of parishes where the Oversight Minister is incumbent of one parish, and priest in charge of the other - where a Local Minister may be serving.



What might it look like in your context?

These models, and others which emerge, might be combined in different ways, depending on local circumstances and contexts.

In all cases, the Parochial Church Council retains its usual responsibilities, and unless the Oversight Minister is also the priest in charge or incumbent, the Oversight Minister has no legal role in a parish. This

means that matters such as safeguarding, finances, building responsibilities and Faculty applications are not the direct concern of the Oversight Minister.

Whatever model is adopted, the relationship between the Oversight Minister and other ministers and incumbents in the Oversight Area needs to be **collaborative**, with prayer at its heart.