

① Licensed clergy - role, workload, reduced presence, leadership

Reduced regular presence of a licensed member of clergy will impact on leadership of congregation. It will lead to a lack of consistency in preaching, pastoral care of the worshipping community.

Loss of a licensed member of clergy in each church will lead to an unrealistic and unsustainable workload for the oversight licensed minister.

I think it is just unworkable. ||

There is a big (wrong) assumption that PTOs and volunteer Readers are deployable. ||X||

Leicester Diocese is heading for a huge recruitment and retention problem persuading clergy to come into this. ||X||

HOW WILL VACANT CLERGY POSTS BE FILLED?
IS IT PRACTICABLE FOR 20(?) PCC'S TO TAKE PART.

HOW CAN EXISTING CLERGY BE ALLOCATED TO THE 4 POSTS?

② Volunteers - retired clergy, lay ministers, church officers etc

The increased reliance on volunteers will be an increasing burden on retired clergy and lay ministers. ~~||||~~ ~~||||~~ ~~||||~~ |

There ~~are are~~ is already a significant amount of pressure on people who volunteer as church officers and a shortage of volunteers. " | ~~||||~~ ~~||||~~

Most lay ministers feel called ~~to~~ from a specific community, to serve a specific community. It's difficult to square this with serving an ever widening group of churches... ~~||||~~

How / who will be training new lay ministers / volunteers? ~~||||~~

How will congregations feel a connection with their ministers if it's a different person leading each service? What about urgent need for pastoral support?

~~||||~~
| ~~||||~~

③ Finance

What are the Diocese's plans and timescale to bring income and expenditure into balance? How long can the Diocese survive if it continues to run 7 figure annual deficits? HHH

If the Minster Community is supposed to be financially self supporting who will be responsible for checking this is the case and that there is not a deficit? ||

Most church members give generously to the work of their local church. Will members be disinclined to give similar amounts to a large group of churches? HHH |

THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL MENTIONED TREASURER MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGETS. THAT IS AT ODDS WITH ICE RESPONSIBILITIES. ||

FOLKS I FEEL WILL BE RELUCTANT TO GIVE |

There is NO budget yet!

(4) Buildings - viability, maintenance, churchyards etc.

Will individual churches still be responsible for repairs and maintenance of "their" buildings?
If not how will work and resources be prioritised across the community?

Smaller congregations struggle with their buildings upkeep now... what will happen in future?

The M.C. will not have the skills to take some of the church buildings through the End Of Life process. 1

Too few existing volunteers to cope with old buildings and graveyards 111

(5) Diversity of Theology

How can the 'Community' bridge the significant gaps that exist in terms of Theology, doctrine etc? |||

How to ensure diversity of theology is "supported" by Minster Clergy, particularly in the future when new appointments are made? ~~||||~~ |||

From the outset of the Minster Community formation process, the Diocese has been adamant that churches / parishes will not be allowed to group by theological / churchmanship / traditional factors. But surely for many parishes this is the most important factor? ~~||||~~ |||

(6) Geography + Size of proposed Minister Community Governance

Much too large & spread out. ~~+++~~ |

Area still unknown. ~~+++~~ |

Proposal is UNWORKABLE ~~||~~ |

Size is far too big. ||

Large geographical area means environmental issues through travel for clergy + others. ~~+++~~ ~~+++~~ |

This is self selecting as people may not be able to take a role if they can't ~~travel~~ travel. & ~~||~~ |

How can we foster a real sense of community and belonging? ~~||~~ |

⑦ PCC - legal responsibilities, structures etc.

Would P.C.C. combine? 1

Each PCC is under a legal obligation to act in the interests of the public (beneficiaries) it serves? How can each one be sure it's acting in those best interests in joining a Minister Community? 1 agree IIII IIII 1

It's unrealistic to make such changes without changing the governance. Something is going to fall through the cracks and the consequences could be very serious. 11

⑧ Mission + Vision - Baptisms, weddings, funerals, Civic, Foodbank etc.

Return to lay visitors for baptisms

CONFIRMATIONS - PREPARATION? ETC. |

Pastoral visiting? ||||

Currently the licensed member of clergy can follow up and maintain links within the community after such events. They are a visible and consistent presence in the local community. This cannot be achieved by an oversight minister. ||

⑨ Schools

28 in MINSTER GROUP!

- ~~so~~ how can one oversight minister maintain a relationship with each of those schools. ||| +|||

- WHY USE A CLERGY PERSON FOR THIS ROLE |||

- DISTANCE COVERED + TIME TO VISIT |||
ALL THE SCHOOLS - unrealistic

and expensive and poor use of time for 1 person to cover all the schools. |||

- There are already some very strong and lengthy relationships with local schools developed by existing clergy. This cannot easily be replicated and the work that has been done to develop these relationships will be lost. ||||

Why use ~~priest~~ to even further extend responsibilities when we haven't enough lay people to cover existing work? |

If such priest as we have are doing this sort of job, who is best to fulfil priestly responsibilities? |

HOW MANY SCHOOL HEADS ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. |

⑩ Worship

D.I.Y.?

CHOIRS? REHEARSALS? I.T.?

How many HC services at a nearby church?

Style - and Times?

Evening Services each Sunday?

Communion. Will elements be blessed
so available once a month? |

Readers administer H/C.

House churches s/b considered. |

(11) Anything else?

Minster Churches have been tried elsewhere - and have FAILED - Finance down, congregation down
Ministers heavily to move elsewhere.

After 2 years, we have a Proposal, ie WORDS on PAPER, but you cannot find anyone who Shows any enthusiasm to Switch to the Minster Community Model, in our case A.Z.A. ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPTIONS? ||

Leicester Diocese Costs are excessive in comparison with other diocese. Another 28 clergy posts can be financed with these savings

The Wigan 'experiment' results:- attendance down 30% giving down 30% & promised legacies withdrawn.

Training for non-stipendiary ministries?
Discriminatory proposal - fewer working churches mean the elderly & disabled who have to travel to a church are unable to. |

If we have to manage with fewer priests we should use them more efficiently and not divert them to admin area / discipline managers. Who does the priestly jobs?
If there's no need now for real priests, do we need a bishop? |