



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

Ministry Consultants

Trained Ministry Consultants are available to work with individuals and ministry teams, to assist them as they reflect on their ministry and consider how it might grow and develop. Consultancy is designed to support healthy ministry rather than provide therapy or resolve crises.

Ministry consultants work with individuals:

- who are new in post
- who want to reflect on their ministry at any stage
- whose ministry is undergoing transition
- who want to work at the management of their roles and tasks
- who face challenging situations;

and work also with ministry teams:

- that are in process of formation or re-formation
- that are in transition
- that are seeking review of their practice
- that are asking for specific training.

These are the main features of ministry consultancy:

- Ministry consultancy is complementary to other aspects of the support and encouragement provided by the diocese (e.g. the ministry of Bishops, Archdeacons and Rural Deans, professional development groups, episcopal review and MDR, spiritual accompaniment). Consultancy is, however, completely separate from these other systems – no information will be passed on to others by the consultant.
- Ministry consultants offer a critical friendship: working with the minister to provide support, but also to offer apposite questions and suggestions about the person's ministry. The aim is to offer focused active listening which creates a safe environment in which a minister can consider the direction of their ministry.
- The scheme is based on consent: the request for a ministry consultant comes from the minister (although perhaps at the suggestion of others). There will need to be mutual agreement between ministry consultant and minister that they can work together.
- Ministry consultancy is confidential: what is discussed between minister and consultant will not be shared with anyone else (except in the rare instance of someone being at risk of harm).
- Ministry consultancy is not time-limited, though a working agreement should be regularly reviewed, and it can be ended at any time.
- Ministry consultancy is a peer process: ministry consultants are recruited from among the clergy, LLMs and lay people of the Diocese.
- Ministry consultants are given appropriate training, ongoing support and supervision in order to develop their listening and consultancy skills.

Ministry Consultancy is overseen by the CMD Adviser, the Revd Canon Dr John Parr (john.parr@cofesuffolk.org or telephone 01473 298553), to whom all initial enquiries or requests should be addressed.