

Sector Ministry in Liverpool Diocese Annual Report 2020

In this strange year, in many respects Sector Ministry has continued to function and flourish. Not confined to any specific building, Chaplains have continued to minister and care, albeit in altered ways. At the start of the lockdown the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote to us that ministry would be more defined by pastoral care and prayer and less by Sunday worship. That sums up chaplaincy.

In spite of people being laid off temporarily through this year our list of current Sector Ministers stands at 96 people still operating in some capacity. We have sadly seen at least one Chaplaincy post disappear as it could no longer be funded. On the positive side we have seen several additions to the ordained cohort as we have seen Jeanette Griffiths, Caroline Tracey, Steve Clarke, Stephen Bridge and Tracie Dunsby become Deacons this year. We have at least one Chaplain who has been accepted by BAP this year and a couple of others who are in training. The percentages of each type of Chaplain remains roughly the same, only reflecting the move to ordination from training. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of our Sector Ministers by type.

Figure 2 summarises some of the activities that have occurred this year. As far as possible we have continued to operate in all the same areas as previously. It was encouraging to see Rev Steve Clarke licensed as a Waterways Chaplain early in this year. We have also licensed Rev Gill Reeves at the University of Chester based in Warrington. It is to be hoped that in 2021 we will be able to systematise licensing further so that all Chaplains working for considerable hours are recognised.

Before lockdown it was fortunate that I had been able to visit quite a few Chaplaincies in person before movement became restricted. I had a very enjoyable morning with John Wilson from the Liverpool Seafarers and prayed with some Malaysian sailors on board their ship. I managed to visit a hospital, enjoyed a Lent lunch in a school and ventured into the Wigan area to visit some of the Chaplains there. In the last few days, I went to St John's Market in Liverpool and the last service I attended was in HMP Altcourse where I had been asked to preach and preside. On the training and recruitment side, I have had useful discussions with a Theological Colleges. In between lockdowns I was able to meet the Ven James Ridge, Chaplain General for Prisons and other Prison Chaplains from HMP Liverpool.

Many Chaplains were sad that we missed out Commissioning service which had been planned for June but instead had a very good attendance on Zoom with both Bishops and all the Archdeacons and the Dean of the Cathedral which was really affirming and encouraging. We repeated the Zoom a few weeks later for those finding a midday time slot difficult to accommodate in their busy lives.

We Zoomed again in such a way in November and will continue to do so in the new year until things become a little easier. I also met with individuals by request on Zoom which was a good replacement for meeting them in person. Just recently we have been able to join in a virtual prayer walk with the Universities in Liverpool, conducted Evening Prayers for Hope, join in and contributed to the Chaplaincy 'interest' course organised by Emma Howarth and MITE, and made connections via Zoom with other Diocesan Advisors.

As far as each Chaplaincy is concerned, Figure 3 summarises some of the situations as they have been worked out in this year. The amount of 'hands on' activity has varied tremendously depending on possibilities but all the Chaplains have continued to connect with people wherever they are. Many Chaplains have continued in places of high risk such as in hospitals, hospices, in prison and the police force, and many others have been operating remotely by electronic means and phone calls to maintain personal contact. Above all they have been there with the sick and bereaved, the hungry and lonely. They have prayed and cared and lived out their faith with compassion.

Next year we look to resuming physical interaction as soon as possible and a Commissioning Service would be our highest priority. We look to continue forging links with training and recruitment. We are also looking to update the webpage on the Diocesan website so it reflects more effectively the scope and skill of our diverse Chaplaincy ministry.

Figure 1 **Sector Ministers 2020**

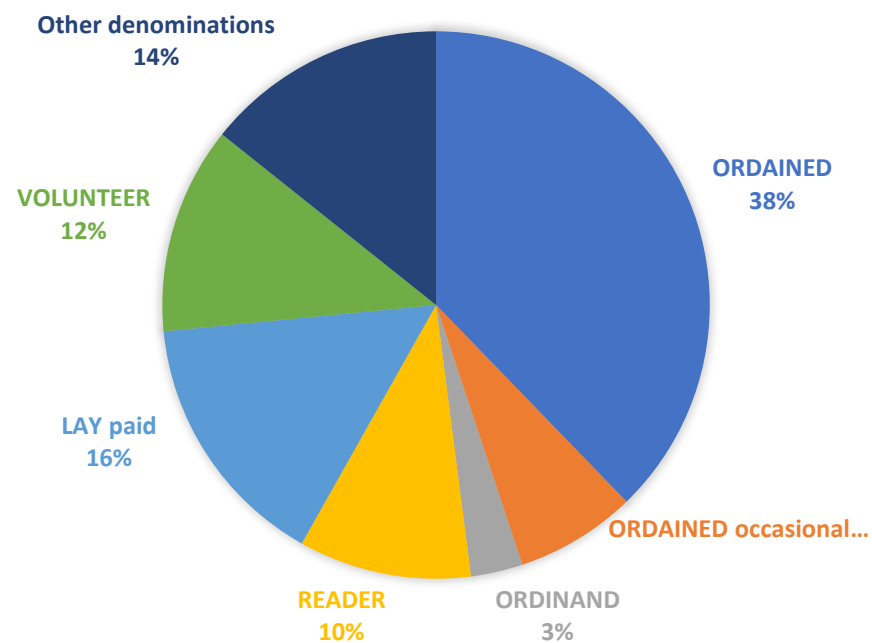


Figure 2 **Sector Ministry 2020**



Figure 3 **Ministry in Sectors 2020**

